

Lune Valley Flood Forum
Inaugural Meeting

4 th December 2017 7pm The Friends Meeting House

1. Lune Valley Flood Forum Welcome from Janet Taylor standing chair.
 - Thanks for all those for attending.
 - JT explained LVFF was started as a response to the increased flooding she has seen in the Lune Valley over the years and its impact on the towns and villages surrounding the River Lune.
 - JT explained the reasons for starting the group was the need to start a dialogue between different groups/ organisations,
 - The Lune Valley Flood Forum could serve as a platform for Council, County Council, the Environment Agency, Charities and Community groups.
 - It will bring in expert speakers and aim to provide knowledge exchange and dialogue on this area. This is something that will benefit both the Residents and Council bringing new ideas to the table on flood prevention, sustainability, environmental protection and resilience.

2. Speaker: Mark Bartlett Lancaster City Council's Civil Contingencies Officer
 - MB stressed the cost & impact of flooding
 - have seen the staff of various agencies working long hours overnight to respond to the flooding
 - his role was planning the response to flooding, they have been tested and revised several times and will be revised in view of latest flooding.
 - MB stressed it is better to prevent flooding than to respond to it
 - hopes that this forum will bring together the agencies and communities to either prevent flooding or improve the response if it does happen.
 - MB stressed his hope that promoting flooding resilience and identifying areas where a joined up response could make improvements.

Speaker Councillor Caroline Jackson:

- Stressed the vulnerable nature of our existence as demonstrated by the floods in December 2015.
- Talked to the Chief Exec of the Council about the serious nature of the situation and wanted 3 things addressed Community, Communications and the Catchment.
- Formed the Flood Resilience Commission
- Stressed the careful balance between our activities and nature.
- Since 2015 Councils response to events is different due to the way we think about events.
- We also have to ask questions about who cleans out the gullies.
- The landscape in this area is perfect for large amounts of water to come down the valley rapidly, we should now be treated differently due to climate change issues than in other parts of the country.

3. Speaker: What is the National Flood Forum? – Sarah Parkington The National Flood Forum

- Independent, Started in 2002 with help of EA
- Flood Re (<https://www.floodre.co.uk/>)
- Blue Pages (<http://bluepages.org.uk/>) don't endorse products
- Helpline for people who have been flooded.
- About Recovery and resilience
- Bulletin what other groups are doing
- Training and affiliation of groups

4. Apologies from Ed Maxwell and Kidd's Transport.

Speaker: Jenny Atkinson - Proprietor Fabrix, Lancaster.

- Entrance lower level flooded with about 4" water in storm desmond Dec 2015
- Closed for three days, which was pretty good going in relation to many businesses
- Made aware of the flood resilience fund/grant by other local business owner. Then contacted council and was able to use fund to redecorate. At this point was made aware of things that could claim on insurance for.
- Applied for Flood Resilience Grant through Sadler and Allen, who were placed on North Road Car Park, on behalf of landlady. They did a survey and recommended a flood door, pump and

pointing. JA sourced own flood door and no other work was done.

- On November 22nd the cellar filled with water but the shop is over the Mill Race.

5. Break for tea and biscuits – Standing Chair Janet Taylor asked people to get into small groups to briefly chat about what they feel is most important for the area going forward.

6. JT (standing chair) then asked people to contribute what they got out of the session as ideas going forward for the group.

- Paul Bond EA: Wyre Flood Forum - risk management and community groups attend. Single point of contact within organisations. Helps give people understanding about roles of organisations. Opportunities to work together.
- Councillor Nick Wilkinson: Strategic level down to local level, who has responsibility, who is coordinating. Making it clear to residents if they have responsibilities.
- Nick Cotton: County Councillor for Sedbergh and Kirby Lonsdale responds – Each County has LLFA Cumbria looks at Lune catchment in their area, however, cumbria/yorkshire/lancashire need to have dialogue across the agencies.
- Councillor Kevin Frea Halton with Aughton: planning maintenance and drainage is a problem, legislation is not there.
- Education – on individual level, booklet on flooding where to go. JT putting emergency plans into practice is difficult because North Quernmore and Caton emergency group found when it came to the practice communication in an emergency was an issue.
- Peter Leeson Woodland Trust: Responsibility to biodiversity, not flood group however, involved in the story around flooding, nfm trees part of the drive to reduce flooding. LVFF perspective there are also catchment management groups in South Cumbria and Lune Rivers Trust who are also about biodiversity. Concentrate on uplands, woodland trust think nfm could make 20% difference to flooding this needs policy changes needed around NFM. Funding and research needed talk to Cat Smith, Gove. Nick Chappell doing work at Lancaster Uni around NFM. WT doing work on water flows retaining sediment soils/peat bogs on uplands. Education about how land is managed, 300 years of modification of water courses. Put houses in wrong places. Climate change

has affected flooding. Understand issues, motivate change and engage the community. Issues around drainage on land are complex.

- JT Chair: Weirs are they good or bad for flooding?: PL WT: Holding water back as high as possible, we have constrained rivers too much, longer curves in rivers better. PB EA: Weirs often problematic to remove how will it affect flood risk down stream and if there are retaining walls how will it affect those. Has there been landownership issues so weirs can't be removed. PB to look into weir removal reports.
- Gordon Campbell Envirofloods uk: Hold water in the highlands believe to be the solution. Reservoirs, trees and water capture. Protecting individual properties important in the short term. PL WT: Short term solutions for homes and businesses important. Long term funding needed for flood projects, protection of the landscape.
- JT: Flood Action Groups could help with culverts and NFM in the landscape.
- Councillor Kevin Frea Halton with Aughton: Council spend 5 million pounds on defences lower down River but we won't spend that on planting trees in the highland. Paul Blakely LLFA: Funding driven by research and not enough evidence currently for tree planting and NFM. Working with National flood management groups, forestry commission and land owners.
- Councillor Caroline Jackson: Oversight catchment group to make things happen in flood management. Take responsibility and lobby for change. Forestry Commission funded tree planting Claver Hill.
- MB Civil Contingencies Officer: Is there dialogue between Lancashire and Cumbria? PB LLFA: 5 partnerships come together regional flooding nw Lancashire, Merseyside, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Cumbria. Also talk to water and EA, Yorkshire.
- JT Chair: What constructively could JT do? PB/PB/MB: JT could get hold of minutes from catchment groups to see what is going on in other organisations so we are not overlapping.
- PL WT challenge Lancaster Uni to put a practical application, community application on their research. JBA modelling of catchment for Rivers Trust can it be made public. Education on where Lune water comes from, connect with upper reaches.

- Contact between general public and flood bodies is not fit for purpose. When reporting problems the flood authorities cannot deal with blockages and reports properly because of this.

7. Way forward with group:

- Constituted group – form committee for future funding
- Area flood action groups – check that people are not overlapping other catchment groups. KF May not have much control

Objectives:

- District platform for dialogue between council, agencies, residents groups and charities - agreed
- To bring forward new ideas on flooding/risk/prevention - agreed
- To foster/initiate/provide force for change - agreed
- To provide support for funding applications – agreed

8. Next Meeting: Feb/March

Tasks:

Education - who has responsibilities for which watercourses PB?	JT
Try to engage Cumbria County/LLFA in dialogue	JT
More comprehensive document for the public on flooding follow up Lancashire Council/EA. Educate about Blue Pages.	JT
Approach MPs to make SUDS guidance Statutory and more funding/research into NFM	JT/CJ/SH
Contact Dr Nick Chappell about research into NFM/practical application	JT
Weir removal reports share?	PB: EA
Keep trying to encourage Flood Action Groups in different parts of catchment.	All
Coordinate with other catchment groups to make sure we are not replicating work.	JT
JBA catchment modelling can it be made public – Rivers Trust.	JT

Education on where river comes from. Schools/Public	JT/CJ
Communication between flood bodies/highways/county when reporting issues is difficult can this process be improved?	JT