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Flood Management Working Party

Held virtually on Tuesday 26 April 2022

Present

Councillors Paul Andrews (Substitute), Cussons MBE, Di Keal (Chair) and Potter

In Attendance

Beckie Bennett, John Cave, Lily Hamilton Andrew McLachlan, and Margaret Wallace

Minutes

43 **Apologies for Absence**

Councillor P J Andrews attended as substitute for Councillor Burr.

44 **Minutes from the previous FMWP meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Flood Management Working Party on 8 February 2022 were approved.

Voting record

Agreed by general affirmation

45 **Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Partnership Update**

John Cave, *River Derwent Partnership Officer*, updated the Working Party on:

- The 5 Strategic aims of the catchment partnership, which include:
 - The need to engage with people and the community to deliver resilient and prosperous catchment.
 - Improving water level management, and using nature based solutions where possible to manage flood risk.
 - Improving soil health and water quality and gaining a better understanding of how the two link together.
 - Understanding the importance of habitat connectivity in delivering resilient ecosystems and recognise that rivers are natural wildlife corridors and provide lots of opportunities to connect important habitats and species.
 - Ensure good partnership governance and develop a robust evidence base.
- Natural Flood Management (NFM) study at Wath beck, Fryton, with funding for this received from the RFCC. Feasibility will determine what measures will be suitable in reducing flood risk, with floodplain storage upstream on Hovingham Estate looking likely. Some opportunities which will be looked at this year include, Bransdale – Hodge beck, Raincliffe woods – Derwent, and Appleton Mill Farm – Seven.
- A second NFM study is taking place at the River Dove in Kirkbymoorside, as both Kirkby Mills and Kirkbymoorside both suffer from surface water flooding. Typical flood defences have not worked out economically and so the Town

Council, Environment Agency, and North Yorkshire County Council have been considering different opportunities to help limit Flood impact for the villages.

- Derwent Upland Streams, a 2 year Environment Agency Funded Project aimed at reducing sediment input into watercourses to improve water quality.
- Doing more for Derwent partnership project with Environment Agency. Aimed at introducing small interventions which will have a larger accumulative effect on water quality.
- Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) management, INNS are thought to be the second biggest threat to global biodiversity loss, with certain species also increasing flood risk by outcompeting native species in the summer but dying in the winter leaving riverbanks bare of vegetation, which can increase surface run-off and sedimentation into rivers.
- Derwent Lowland Waders focuses on habitat and wetland creation, with floodplain storage, which is taking place in Low Carr farm, Kirby Misperton in Ryedale and other in the lower Derwent Valley. Which is a Yorkshire Water funded project.

The Working Party asked a range of questions including: a possible connection with the Castle Howard Estate; pond identifying, which has been done similarly in the Calder Valley; East Yorkshire report on excess water, and whether this report is now outdated.

The Working Party thanked Mr Cave for his presentation and answers to the questions.

46 **Vale of Pickering Internal Draining Board**

Andrew McLachlan, *Chief Executive, Yorkshire and Humber Drainage Boards*, updated the Working Party on:

- Work which has taken place on Flooding in Fryton, and the positive feedback which has been received from this.
- Concern around the sustainability of Natural Flood Management schemes, including government policies. Though highlighted the benefit of this on flat lands.
- The importance of the Vale of Pickering drainage systems, without which the area would become unsustainable. This was previously 3 drainage boards which amalgamated in 2014, and work has been ongoing to interlink these projects.
- Work on trimming banks which is ongoing and important to continue, this takes place every year and without which banks would become overrun with invasive tree species.
- Investments in new equipment have meant increased efficiency.
- Work in Hartford on controlling weed growth and neglect, has received positive feedback not only from the community but fishermen as well.

The Working Party asked a range of questions including: whether the drainage board is continuing to follow the Vale of Pickering Drainage Board Assessment by Chris Bowels; and the implications of a lack of responsibility for NFM maintenance.

The Working Party thanked Mr McLachlan for his presentation and answers to the questions.

47 **Yorkshire Water update**

The Head of Waste and Environment provided a brief update to the Working Party on progress with Yorkshire Water live actions for Ryedale:

Malton and Norton Drainage Study

The Malton and Norton Drainage Study phase 1 which will investigate and define the problem, is expected to be completed by the end of May. The work will include stakeholder meeting with Yorkshire Water and local community groups Phase 2 will then look at notional solution planning.

Permanent Solution for Norton

Investigating a permanent solution for Norton is still work in progress with scheme costs and timescales currently unknown.

Brawby Scheme

This scheme cannot be progress as still waiting for Environment Agency permits.

Other Updates:

Historical investment by YW in Ryedale is being collated and will only cover the past 2 years.

A funding contribution of £52,000 from Yorkshire Water in 2021/22 had been secured by the Head of Waste and Environment towards investment in replacement portable pumps which will be procured as part of the Malton, Norton and Old Malton Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Gary Collins from Yorkshire Water will attend the next meeting to provide a more detailed update on the YW schemes and apologised that he was unable to attend the meeting tonight due to unforeseen circumstances.

48 **Action Plan 2021/22 Review**

Beckie Bennett, Head of Waste and Environment provided a verbal update on next steps with the flood management action plan. Two reports will be produced and circulated, one detailing the completed actions for 2021/22 and a new action plan detailing all live actions for 2022/23.

A briefing paper is also being produced with input from partners to provide an update on the position following the completion of the 2008 Vale of Pickering

Channel Management Report. It is expected that this briefing paper will be completed by the end of May.

The reports and briefing paper will be circulated ahead of the next Flood Management Working Party.

49 **Dates of future meetings**

The next meeting date for the Flood Management Working Party was agreed as Thursday 30 June to be held virtually, with representatives from Yorkshire Water invited to attend.

50 **Any other business**

Mr McLachlin raised the possibility of arranging a site visit for members at one of the projects the Vale of Pickering Drainage Board is currently working on which was welcomed by the working party. Further details will be shared in due course.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7:45pm.