

West Wolds Slow the Flow

www.WestWoldsSlowTheFlow.org.uk

September-October Update

The most recent (Zoom) meeting of the WWSTF steering group (17 September) was mainly concerned with three matters: Planning; Terms of Reference and a Funding bid.

Planning: an ERYC Forward Planner kindly attended our meeting and explained to us what ERYC understands about the government's proposed radical changes to the planning system set out in a recent White Paper. Essentially this will result in permission being 'approved in principle', based on zones for development, densification and protection.

This is a *very* brief summary, but what is important is the quality of the zoning plan and any design principles that go with it. Asked if Neighbourhood Planning was a significant part of the new proposals, the ERYC Officer replied "well, it is mentioned 29 times in the White Paper". As a flood group, we want to influence future development so that it does not compromise flood mitigation opportunities and does not make flooding worse. Again, the ERYC planner suggested that whilst they would be happy to hear our concerns as a group, the statutory role of a neighbourhood plan would have more strength.

So, despite the last attempt at a neighbourhood plan failing, if we want a say in the government's bold new future, this may be the only way to go. Get in touch if you have any thoughts.

Terms of Reference: these have been drawn up, based on other partnerships working in association with ERYC, and were agreed by the steering group. They are available on the home page of the WWSTF website (link above). They set out our aims and objectives and how the

partnership will run. Incidentally, we are now looking for a Vice Chair (duties listed in ToR) but ideally are looking for someone from another parish to make sure the attention of the group is fairly spread across the area. If you know of anyone suitable, let us know.

Funding Bid: with very little notice, WWSTF has put in a bid to Yorkshire Water's Community Benefit Fund. We need the money to pay (we can't do everything on a voluntary basis) for the time required to talk to parish councils, residents, landowners and farmers, to find out where the issues are, not just in our parish, but in the other four parishes which form part of WWSTF. Working with these groups, we can then draw up suggestions as to how the problems can be reduced, professionally map them on the website, and produce an extensive brief which can be taken forward by the flood agencies for detailed costing and feasibility.

We will know if we have been successful in the bid on Friday 2nd October, which is after this edition has gone to the printer. However, do have a look on the website as we are sure to make a statement, whichever way it goes. If we are not successful this time, there are other possibilities through partnership with the agencies we work with, but winning this bid would allow us to get on with the legwork that is needed to create WWSTF's vision for natural flood management.

If you, as resident, landowner etc, have any thoughts about flooding, please get in touch with us. We can only make this work with you.

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