

West Wolds Slow the Flow

www.WestWoldsSlowTheFlow.org.uk

November-December Update

In the last issue, we mentioned our bid to the Yorkshire Water Community Benefit Fund. The hope was to be able to fund the time required to work with parish councils, communities and landowners/farmers, to identify and map the flooding issues and opportunities across the whole catchment, from Newbald to Brantingham. Unfortunately, our bid was unsuccessful. The YW bid team said that the proposal was fine, but there was a high degree of competition for the funding and a limited amount to go around.

Obviously, we are not going to let one setback stop us! Our partners at the Environment Agency have included WWSTF in their Medium Term Plan for the Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF). This puts us in a position to potentially pick up funding in the New Year but, again, this is a competitive process.

Meanwhile Yorkshire Water are willing to work with us to identify issues and contribute funding where it helps them meet their regulatory requirements (e.g. avoiding sewer and property flooding!).

It has come as a surprise that some of the people and organisations we are working with seem to struggle with the concept of partnership working. We find it very odd that the benefits of a partnership approach are not self-evident and completely persuasive to everyone we have sought to engage with. Surely everyone can achieve more in partnership than working in isolation? Even at a practical, financial level, monies that achieve multiple objectives clearly generate more value than those that do not. Working in silos still seems to have an unaccountable attraction for some - perhaps it is the comfort of doing things the way they have always been done, even when it is not as effective as it could be. Or perhaps it is commitment phobia - who knows?

We have had excellent cooperation from most parish councils, with Newbald and Ellerker being particularly vocal in suggesting ideas and discussing how we can make the partnership stronger and more effective. Locally, Hotham PC appears to be non-functional due to C19, whilst North Cave PC states that it fully supports WWSTF, but does not wish to agree to its Terms of Reference or be considered partners of WWSTF, because they are not 'legally obliged to do so'.

Upcoming plans include:

- Setting up a series of Zoom 'public meetings', probably in early spring, with each Parish and their residents, to review flooding issues and planning allocations/bids. We will put a notice in Village Link and through social media, but if you would like to be involved, just confirm back to us by email. We can host up to 100 people - that's more than we could fit into North Cave Village Hall back room in February! The more who are involved, the more representative it will be. We will be doing this with each parish council area, but probably looking at Hotham, North Cave and Everthorpe together in one session.
- Creating a WWSTF 'Position Statement' to explain, in one document "What-Why-Where-Who-How-When?". This is currently being drafted and will be shared with the partnership and wider community for comment/update. This will be used to engage with residents, businesses, parish councils, politicians, officers - maybe even funders!

In the meantime, if you have any thoughts or suggestions about funding, flooding, working in partnership, planning issues, or any thing else you think is relevant - do get in touch. You will be very welcome.

info@westwoldsslowtheflow.org.uk