

West Wolds Slow the Flow

www.WestWoldsSlowTheFlow.org.uk

June Update

Now we are accountable!

East Yorkshire Rivers Trust (EYRT www.eastyorkshireriverstrust.org.uk) has agreed to work with WWSTF. EYRT is a charity whose agenda is very close to ours, but they have done limited work to date in our (Mill Beck) catchment, having focused mostly on the River Hull to the east of us and the River Derwent to the west. Consequently, they are keen to work with us in this area. As a charity and a member of the Hull and East Riding Catchment Partnership (<https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/get-involved/hull-east-riding/>), they are able to act as our 'accountable body' – which provides a potential route for funding. In addition, they have a lot of experience of river/water management and working with landowners, so we can learn a great deal from them.

...and we are (part) funded

Our colleagues in the Environment Agency have successfully bid for funding (Water Environment Improvement Framework 'WEIF') to help pay towards the time and costs of the engagement and feasibility work we set out in the WWSTF Position Statement. So, pending final approval, we are developing our work plan in more detail. The money will be paid through EYRT, who will take an appropriate management fee.

This means that, over the this financial year, we will be working more closely with parish councils, residents and landowners, to identify the issues and opportunities around flood management. The aim will be to record the main issues, develop ideas for various projects across the catchment, which will then be the subject of further funding bids. These which will also support work that is being commissioned by Yorkshire Water. There are many strands attached to this, including ideas like citizen science, and weather and river monitoring, potentially involving University of

Hull. All issues and proposals will be mapped.

Next steps

We have asked all of the Parish Councils (Newbald / North Cave / South Cave / Ellerker / Brantingham) to come back to us with their thoughts on what and where the flooding issues are. We will be talking to Hotham PC on 6 July at their first post-lockdown meeting. The idea is to capture thoughts, from across the catchment, as to what the main issues are. North Cave has a slightly easier time of it because we have already created a map of 'our patch'. This is based on responses to the questions raised in Village Link after the winter 2019-2020 flooding, and upon subsequent discussions with residents, flood risk agencies etc. You can find a copy of it on the West Wolds website under Documents> 1_WWSTF_Strategy_etc > NorthCave

Please have a look and let us know whether you agree that this covers the main issues or whether there is anything else you think should be taken into account. In many of these cases, we already have some ideas about what could be done to improve matters, but we would really welcome your thoughts.

Thank you for your continuing support. Having started with good local support, it seems that we are gaining traction and credibility with the Flood Risk Agencies and politicians. Obviously, the critical challenge will be building landowner support, but we are starting to establish the issues and possible solutions, so that we know what we are hoping to achieve. All ideas and contacts are welcome so please get in touch.

