



Minutes

General Meeting Wed 19th April 2023

Item		Action
1	<p><u>Welcome from the Chair</u> (Marilyn Banister). 13 people attending Apologies from Tommy Knowland.</p>	
2	<p>“Waterproofing – Natural Flood Management and Sustainable Urban Drainage and the roles they play in slowing the flow of water” Charlotte Simons - Catchment Partnership Manager, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust</p> <p>Aims -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conserve current supply, community, wildlife, water courses in better condition. ● Dales to Vales rivers - local Wharfe now 1 of 104 catchment areas to improve Yorkshire. ● Work with Govt bodies & Local Authorities, Yorkshire Water, National Forest, businesses & community groups. <p>Water Cycle -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Precipitation, surface runoff, infiltration, lakes, leads to evaporation, transpiration and then condensation. <p>Climate Change & Water -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate is changing and impacts on the water system. Less rain overall and must adapt to extreme weather events: warmer wetter winters & drier hotter summers (by 2040 at least 2 degrees hotter than now). ● Flood defences overtopped more often. ● More winter storms, summer droughts & wildfires. ● Changing timing of natural events are out of sync. ● Water courses are less resilient and impact of pollution. ● Health & economic impacts. <p>Natural Flood Management NFM (farmland) & Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems SUDS (cities) to extend the time and height of peak runoff and so reduce flood risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nature inspired for holding back water run off. ● Aim to retain nature where rain lands, shown as hydrograph - try to reduce amount coming down courses at higher volume for less time. ● Hard engineering but lower structures and keep visibility of river banks etc. ● NFM & SUDS help reduce need for hard engineering but are new so needs modelling of the impact. ● Make resilience for extreme events and mitigate climate change, increase habitats, water storage, carbon capture, improvements in water quality together with community engagement. <p>Examples of NFM are:-</p>	

Leaky barriers - replicate tree fall to slow the flow and reduce the peak and allow a slow drain, ponding, holding sediment back & dispersing water onto floodplains.

Woodlands - collect & disperse water, soak up & stabilise banks & sediment.

If soil has more organic matter it can hold more water and so is more resilient to fluctuations of flood and drought. It improves the soil structure so there is less runoff and infiltration.

Hedges - laid across fields reduce runoff, increase infiltration & divert/dissipate & trap sediment.

Buffer strips - rough vegetation slows runoff and increases infiltration, traps sediment along watercourses and makes them more stable and the vegetation attracts birds and bees.

Reprofiling ditches - hold excess water and can be broad to hold flow slow down, filter & hold agricultural pollution if 5m wide.

Storage ponds - on or offline, off for storage and online to hold & regulate floodwater, trap sediment and be controlled via sluice gates.

Scrapes - very shallow that rise & fall, muddy edges for waders, hold water, infiltration/evaporation, sediment filter e.g. 'Ings' are managed scrapes.

Charlotte then went on to talk about-

Addingham 4 Becks

Following Boxing Day floods of 2015, a scheme was set up to intercept and hold water. Assessed SUDS & NFM around the area and this led to local action in a garden making use of roof gutters into garden butts, pond, soakaway, bog.

Examples of what Addingham have done:

- Water butts from downpipes for use or into ponds etc as above.
- Green roofs - sedum slows runoff rates and stores water.
- Permeable surfaces - e.g. unmortared bricks which allow water to soak in.
- Rain gardens - water from roof drain pipes, raised bed with in & out flow extends.
- Leaky water butts - leave tap open slightly or install 2nd higher tap left open for slow seepage and can link a series. Rain garden water butts now available to buy.

Note June 10th Addingham Green Event.

What can we do? -

- Value water - 140 litres per person per day average use
- Use wisely - is precious
- Retrofit SUDS
- Improve your soil structure
- Reduce hard standing
- Raise awareness of issue
- Pressurise MPs
- Only 3 things to go down the loo - paper, pee & pool!
- Pour no fat down drains - this sticks to wet wipes which workers must dig out.

- Business - task force for climate-related financial disclosure required as part of statutory accounts and investors can ask about emissions/flood risk, carbon targets.
- Pensions move from fossil fuels to ethical, peatlands fund to preserve.
- Councils declaring climate emergencies.
- Govt - National Flood & Coastal Risk Management Strategy now exists.
- Environment Act: species recovery target, water demand reduction, storms etc.
- Net Zero goal
- Tree planting always helps!

CBMDC have installed leaky dams at Backstone Beck on Ilkley Moor with Environment Agency (EA) funding.

Questions:

CS asked about beavers reintroduction plans - proposed at Pickering, some interest but not yet got permission. Need to manage & dispel myths. One of the solutions considered.

AGW queried Addingham clean water campaign update/pressurises - bathing water designation at Ilkley so monitored during bathing season but definition of clean depends on water designation and framework looking at nitrates & phosphates, not sewage bacteria. 'IWharfe' project did health checks in '20-21 and pushed for bathing status & tackle sewage. Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) release valve in system now in Environment Act but not being adhered to with licensing and lax use. Have one of highest no. of CSOs in country. Surface water and sewage should be kept separate but currently not so needs tackled to divert tarn from sewer system. Bathing designation has helped but need to assess sewer design as still high level of bacteria. Need to consider contamination access if bathing. Based on waters on coast not country centre so out of date. In better state now re: pollution & habitat e.g. weirs at Burley stopping salmon so looking at installing lamprey passes. Fish analysis not done.

Menston watercourses - Brooklands must have brook and cricket pitch drainage work etc. **If water is grimey please report to EA hotline to investigate.** Their Environment Team look at water pollution and can add to Local Improvement Plan. Catchment Management Plan has questionnaire for catchment wishes.

Mapping of invasive species - [Invasive Non-Native Species \(INNS\) mapper](#) YWT website maps balsam, hogweeds etc and arrange to bash upstream where seeds enter river.

Suggestion that local people could map the water courses around Menston and look to de-culvert areas of some of them.

Suggestion made of setting up rain gardens or SUDS outside the Co-op site.

Planning for non-tarmac or porous surfaces needed early in housing developments but are not being enforced. SUDS now being recognised by OFWAT so can raise opportunities to put in place but long slog to get change. Past work has caused river over-channeling making them flow faster and can then generate sufficient force to move cobbles etc. Then dredging is needed.

	Contact welcome and all thanked Charlotte for her informative presentation.	
2	<u>Minutes of the last meeting</u> 22.02.2023 General meeting No matters arising.	
3	<u>Publicity/Comms</u> - no update.	
4	<u>Membership</u> - 25 members.	
5	<u>Finance report & Funding applications</u> £700 in bank - web hosting needs renewal.	
6	Updates from Groups:	Lead
6.1	<u>Health and Happiness</u> - no update	-
6.2	<u>Equity and local economy</u> Sustainable business scheme. GW noted slow progress but good badge publicity scheme.	AGW
6.3	<u>Culture and Community</u> Climate Pledges. Ongoing, 2 part form suggested - 1 to leave with MB and 2nd keep as reminder.	MB
6.4	<u>Land and Nature (incl. MANT news)</u> St John's Church Eco group activities of veg plot & bug hotel for youngsters noted. AGW raised Ellar Ghyll land sale potential for allotments etc. CS noted it could be designated for housing. Potential to apply for MPC funding. AGW noted MANT and others purchase of Otley East Wood - fundraising still needed. AGW noted 200 residents responded to unmowed verges suggestion on Facebook as positive so good news and to be fed back to MPC/ CBMDC.	MB
6.5	<u>Sustainable Water</u> - no update	-
6.6	<u>Local and sustainable food</u> - no update	-
6.7	<u>Travel and Transport</u> Main Street school crossing - likely to proceed soon. ACTION: MB to set up meeting for T and T group. Airport - Doncaster's closure means more flights. Night flight breaches admitted informally but still with LCC for action and outcome not known. Query: could enforcement fines be used for water mitigation measures? Airspace change consultation: straight line departures now been added to the consultation .	MB MB
6.8	<u>Materials and Products</u> - no update	-
6.9	<u>Zero waste</u>	

	<p>Community Fridge - great response on food waste and community involvement.</p> <p>Recycling at Kirklands - Nicola Dunn noted soft plastics now collected in supermarkets. Blister packs have no local pharmacy but nationally Cohens may be developing a scheme.</p> <p>Leeds Recycling & Energy Recovery Facility (RERF) visit 4/4/23 - MB reported back. No landfill waste as recycle or burn for electricity, hot water channelled into local district heating scheme; ash used in road aggregate & the 'smoke' is monitored by the EA.</p> <p>ACTION: Adele to investigate BMBC's waste process. <i>The following information received from AF after the meeting:</i> <i>Waste in Bradford - the green waste from gardens will go to a composting plant;</i> <i>The recycling goes to a MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) and good quality recycling with a high price will be recycled domestically and some lower quality will go overseas as RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel).</i> <i>General waste goes to a MRF before residual waste gets exported to a regional incinerator (Ferrybridge Energy from Waste) as Bradford doesn't have one and the rest go to landfill.</i></p>	
6.10	<p><u>Zero Carbon Energy</u> Solar Panels and battery installations - Peter Cochrane spoke of his experience that this is a minefield to research so suggested CAM find vetted providers and seek crowd discount. MB reminded the meeting that Leeds Solar has been offering 5% discounts to Menston and some people had taken this up - unclear whether they have capacity to take on more work at present.</p> <p>MB agreed worth exploring and PC suggested creating a poll for buy-in. Adele mentioned group buying power for discounts on PV & battery so potential for 'open house' demo viewings. CS cited own installation data available and battery storage essential now given drop in FIT. Also suggested info covers living with air source heat pumps too.</p> <p>Maxico plug-in energy monitor - with Sue Jeffrey. Possible loan scheme via the library. Publicity needed too.</p> <p>ACTION: Zero Carbon Energy group to meet and invite Peter, Adele and others to look into this.</p>	CS/MB
7.	<p>AOB Great Big Green Week - "Letters to tomorrow" project possibly based at the library for the week of 10th - 18th June. ACTION: Interested parties to contact MB.</p>	MB
8	<p>Next General meetings 2023: Wednesdays 7.30 at Kirklands 21st June CAM AGM incl. Elections for Executive positions. 20th September 15th November.</p>	