**COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN MEETING**

**21 JANUARY 2025, 6.30pm**

**SANDYCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Present:** Councillors: Mrs. C. Jones, Mrs. D. Milner, Ms. K. Perry, Mrs. S. Salisbury, Mrs. P. Titley, Mr. D. Wisinger, Clerk: Mrs. C. Hughes. Representatives from: Natural Resources Wales and the Community Flood Action Group.

**Apologies:** Councillors Mr. B. Connah, Mrs. P. Connah, Mrs. L. Povey, Regional Emergency Planning Service

Email correspondence provided from Network Rail and Flintshire County Council due to issues joining virtually on Teams.

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Cllr. Mrs. D. Milner Chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

1. **Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Update**

NRW provided an update on the detailed investigative works undertaken to date.

**Phase 1**

Good progress has been made to date. The section from the Bridge Inn down to the Sandycroft out pour has been completed. Excavators have gone into the culverts and debris has been disposed off-site.

From the Bridge Inn to Wood Street the chambers have brick arches before moving into sections of more modern concrete. Lots of silt and debris has been in the culverts during the investigative works carried out to date.

There is a divergence in the system along Chester Road. The chamber doglegs from number 30 to 31 and then clears.

One main structural defect has been found to date.

**Phase 2**

The next stage will involve cleaning of the Phoenix culvert. All manholes have been located from the Glendale Avenue to the Bridge Inn; some are accessible man entry and others are not.

The works will continue from Gallaghers car garage towards Glendale Avenue.

A damaged structural defect has been located between the Bridge Inn and Philip Street, likely caused by the amount of traffic on the road above. A comprehensive survey and design will need to be drawn up. It is anticipated that there will be sufficient funding to address this.

The area from Leaches Lane to the white house opposite the chicken factory is classed as ordinary watercourse and this is Flintshire Couty Council’s responsibility. However, there is a partnership agreement in place between FCC and NRW. NRW will be jetting and clearing the pipe out to explore that section.

The first chamber in the Rectors culvert is in Budgens car park. This will be checked using CCTV. No issues are anticipated due to work being carried out in 2022. Cllr. D Milner advised that she has asked Welsh Water to survey the combined sewerage.

Hawarden Estates – any formal issues need to be addressed by Flintshire County Council due to the legalities involved.

Pumping over the tidal when it is closed - NRW advised that the water is flowing but will maintain an even level due to the lack of gradient in the area and restrictions in terms of the amount of water flowing through the system between tide cycles. Putting a pump in is not going to solve the problem due to existing infrastructure.

Discussions are taking place with Airbus regarding assistance to pump the water out.

NRW are populating their asset database with the evidence collected so far.

NRW advised that the sluice gate is functioning and has never presented any issues. NRW have committed to design work on the outfall with newer assets and a more modern design, however due to the lack of gradient in the area, this would not solve all issues or push excessive amounts of flood water away from the community. NRW explained that there is a slightly different system on the opposite side in Sealand, which is why more water gushes out at that location.

The griddle will be taken out and sluice gate and pumps will be installed. NRW emphasised that they are for contingency and emergencies only. It is not a pump station. Metal trash screens will be put in place to prevent debris from entering culverts.

**Future Years**

Options for the future are being investigated to throttle the water and hold it back from reaching the community (e.g. tree planting).

1. **Network Rail Update**

Litter / minor fly tipping around Chemistry Lane bridge is planned for removal by the end of January.

A Network Rail Project Team is scoping up ditching work between Broughton Brook (outfall end of the ditch at Station Road) to the Welsh Water discharge point on the access road at Glendale Avenue (approx. 580 yards). A site visit is being arranged, and costs are being drawn up for financial year 2025-26. It is anticipated that it would be late Spring/ early Summer before any works commence on site.

1. **Consultation – River Dee Bridge Replacement Scheme**

NRW encouraged everyone to take part in the Welsh Government consultation regarding the A494 River Dee Bridge replacement. The consultation ends on 4 March 2025.

[A494 River Dee Bridge replacement scheme | GOV.WALES](https://www.gov.wales/a494-river-dee-bridge-replacement-scheme)

1. **Hynet**

NRW are keeping in touch with developments in relation to the Hynet project from a flood risk perspective, however there have been no major developments in this respect.

1. **Next steps**

A Flood Warden meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 28th January 2025, 7pm at Sandycroft Community Centre.

Cllr. Mrs D. Milner will arrange a further meeting with NRW on site (date tbc).

The meeting closed and the Chair thanked everyone for their input.

Meeting opened at 6.30pm and closed at 8.55pm.