**Community Flood Plan Meeting**

**7th July 2025**

**7pm**

**Sandycroft Community Centre**

Present: Cllr Mrs. D. Milner (Chair), Cllr. Mrs K Perry, Cllr Mrs S. Salisbury, Cllr. P. Titley, 2 x representatives from Natural Resources Wales (NRW), 1 x representative from Flintshire County Council (FCC), 1 x representative from North Wales Councils- Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-Reps)

Apologies: Cllr. B. Connah, Cllr. P. Connah, Cllr. C. Jones, Cllr. L. Povey, Cllr. D. Wisinger, Network Rail Representative (email update received prior to the meeting from Network Rail)

**Natural Resources Wales Update**

Representatives from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) advised that all on-site works for this tranche of funding are almost complete. There is a small budget left (£150k) to undertake further improvements before finalising the works to completion stage.

The following points were noted:

* The major culvert from the Bridge Inn Public House to Glendale Avenue has been cleared and surveyed. The culvert has changed over many years, morphing into several different shapes due to housing developments, tree growth etc.
* There is substantial damage to the culvert by Gallaghers Garage which is now for sale; the owners have been informed.
* Six new trash screens have been installed on some culvert openings to prevent debris from entering. Industry guidance on where and when to install the screens has been followed. NRW will maintain the screens initially before handing over responsibility to Flintshire County Council (FCC).
* The bridges along Phoenix Street do not warrant a screen, due to their size.
* Surveys uncovered extensive urban debris within the culverts, (for example, construction waste, traffic cones, traffic signs, fence panels, bottles) all of which has been cleared as part of the works undertaken. The ditches are now flowing well.
* Tidal doors are being investigated. NRW are currently monitoring the tidal doors with the intention of making improvements, to ensure that they are more hydraulically efficient and able to flush water out more effectively.
* NRW will provide the Community Council with a CAD drawing for information. NRW advised that they need to liaise with Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water) to obtain agreement as to whether they want their assets shown. Cllr D. Milner advised that they have previously provided some information in relation to their assets.

**Q&A Session**

Q. The Community Council are working with FCC and Keep Flintshire Tidy to address fly tipping in the area. Community engagement is a key factor on both issues. What else can be done?

A. NRW advised that they can enforce on certain activities as they have regulatory powers e.g. fly tipping into the rivers.

Q. Cllr K. Perry queried whether NRW need evidence of a person engaged in an act.

A. NRW confirmed that evidence is needed. In the first instance, advice and guidance would be the approach, before moving onto enforcement stage.

Q. Cllr P. Titley referred to vegetation, trees and hedges growing high, raising concern about this type of debris falling into waterways and causing blockages.

A. NRW advised that they only cut hedges directly adjacent to the 2 Sisters Food Group (the chicken factory). Hedges along footpaths are likely to be the responsibility of FCC. Cllr D. Milner advised that the hedge had been thinned out today. FCC will also check this.

Q. Cllr D. Milner raised concern that every grid is blocked with silt and grass which has been reported to FCC since November 2024, and no action has been taken. Cllr P. Titley added that the grids are also blocked in Hawarden, which impacts on Sandycroft and Manor Lane.

A. The FCC representative in attendance confirmed that he will raise this with Streetscene as a matter of urgency.

Q. Cllr P. Titley queried what the pipes are for going down to the river.

A. NRW advised that this is a contingency measure to assist in pumping water out due to high flow rates.

Q. Cllr. K. Perry queried whether there will there be any further funding available.

A. FCC advised that they have successfully bid to secure funding from a Natural Flood Management (NFM) fund. A meeting has been scheduled on 17th July 2025 to identify which schemes could be delivered out of the NFM funding during this financial year. The funding covers Broughton Brook and the wider catchment area. FCC advised that they will inform Queensferry Community Council (QCC) of outcomes from the meeting.

**Community Flood Action Group (CFAG)**

Members at the meeting were unsure as to whether the local Community Flood Action Group is still meeting.

**Broughton and Bretton**

FCC met with Broughton and Bretton and are due to meet with them again in September to check on progress against actions. Queensferry Community Councillors will also liaise with Broughton and Bretton.

**Network Rail**

The following email update (received on 3rd July 2025) had been provided by Network Rail prior to the meeting:

*Work has started to clean the ditch between Factory Road / Station Road to the access road off Glendale Road (at Alan Morris Transport). The Network Rail works team have removed multiple trees growing in the ditch and facilitated access for a 5-tonne excavator, which has been used to clean out the ditch. They have had nearly two weeks on it already. A further week of work has been authorised to complete the section. Work is due to reconvene next week to complete this section of ditch and planned to be completed by the end of the week. It has been reported that just the work so far has made a positive impact on the flow rate of water between the Welsh Water outfall on Glendale Avenue, and the outfall into Broughton Brook. When complete, an inspection will take place with a works team representative to evaluate the effectiveness of the work. It has taken some time to get this arranged but hopefully it will make a difference with improving the flow of water during any further flood events.*

**Welsh Water**

Partners are continuing to engage with Welsh Water.

**2 Sisters Food Group**

It was noted that there are ongoing issues with waste from the 2 Sisters Food Group entering the sewer. Welsh Water are considering installing flow rate meters and putting permits in place. NRW will raise the above points with the Industry Regulation Team.

**HyNet Project**

FCC have had recent discussions with the Hynet project team responsible for the water courses. Hynet representatives are aware of several crossings that need to be investigated. NRW will continue to liaise with the Hynet project team.

**Next Steps**

* NRW will maintain the culverts but are not ultimately responsible as this lies with landowners. NRW now have a clear baseline to work from.
* Community Councillors will liaise with Broughton and Bretton.
* Flood Warden Training will take place on Saturday 23rd August 2025. The Community Flood Plan / ordering of equipment will be progressed thereafter.
* NRW and FCC will meet with Airbus during week commencing 14th July 2025.
* O/open maintenance is due to take place from the Bridge Inn Public House down to Chemistry Lane on 15th, 16th, 17th August 2025. Contractors will be working over the weekend to alleviate traffic issues.
* A copy of the maintenance plan, based on CCTV evidence, will be shared with QCC.

The meeting opened at 7.02pm and closed at 7.50pm.