

Appleby

Future Flood Risk Management

December 2017

Background

Following Storm Desmond, flood risk management authorities were commissioned by Government to reduce flood risk not only at community level, but to look for options to reduce flood risk across the County from Source to Sea. This means we have taken a new approach, working at a catchment scale to integrate land management, development and resilience from the tops of the fells down to the coast. In order for us to deliver flood risk benefits across the County in this way we are now part of an established partnership called Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership (CSFP).

What does Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership do?

The CSFP aims to lead, coordinate and monitor the management of flood risk across the County. This Partnership brings together Flood Risk Management Authorities including the Environment Agency, Cumbria County Council, District Councils, United Utilities and representation from other organisations including land managers and community groups who have an interest in, or responsibility for, flood risk management.

The CSFP is structured over two levels – the Board (strategic level) and Catchment Management Groups (operational/delivery level). The Board takes an overview of the whole Partnership, setting the direction and ensuring the three Catchment Management Groups deliver their objectives. The Board is currently chaired by Cumbria County Council and the Eden Catchment Management Group is chaired by Eden Rivers Trust.

Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership Community representation

A key objective of this Partnership is to ensure communities are represented at both a strategic level and at an operational level. The CSFP has appointed 6 community representatives (2 for each catchment area) to be a member of the Board and Catchment Management Group.

Your community Board representative for the Eden catchment is John Kelsall and your Catchment Management Group representative is Richard Milne.

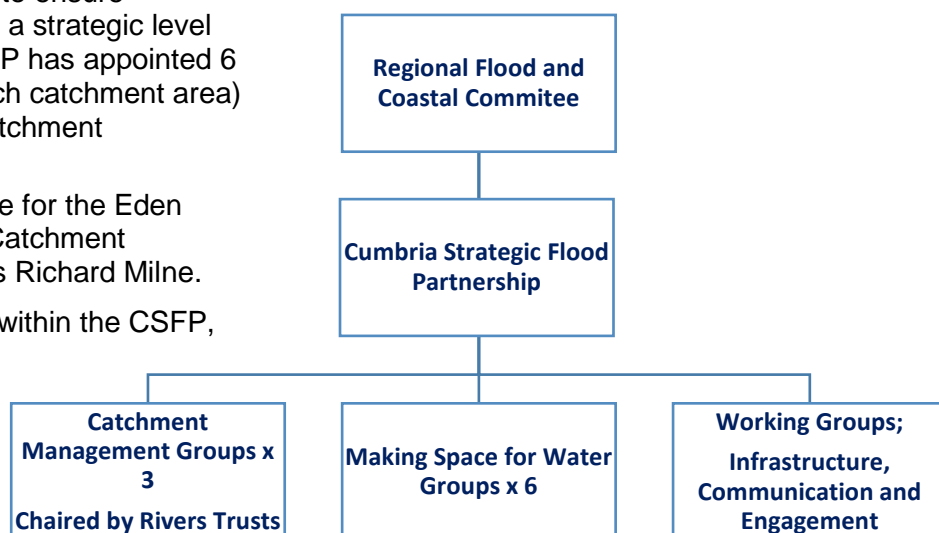
If you have any queries on their role within the CSFP, you can contact them on:

John Kelsall

john@phoenixarchitects.co.uk

Richard Milne

richardmilne_uk@btopenworld.com



For more information on the CSFP visit www.cumbriastrategicfloodpartnership.org

or email CSFP@cumbria.gov.uk

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Work undertaken in Appleby

Following the flood event in December 2015, the Environment Agency has:

- Completed a number of recovery works including the replacement of a wall at Holme Farm Bridge, channel clearing and replacement of the care home wall.
- Completed the flood defence downstream of the Swimming Pool by replacing the manual demountable defences with a permanent wall.
- Carried out gravel removal near the swimming pool in October 2017.
- Undertook tree and debris clearing last Summer
- Refurbished the pumping station to make it more resilient to power loss.

What next?

In Summer 2017 we published the “long list” of options and since then we have been refining each option, measuring their viability against the following four tests;

1. Technical feasibility
2. Economic viability
3. Environmental sustainability
4. Community support

We are now at a stage where we are refining the “short list” options for Appleby to flood risk in 3 locations.

- Doomgate – flood storage in Rampkin Pastures (upstream of Doomgate Culvert) and a pump on Holme Street.
- The Sands – enhanced property level resilience measures (subject to further investigation)
- The Town Centre – local improvements to the existing defences.

At present the business case indicates that there are flood mitigation options which represent a sufficiently good return on government investment to allow us to continue investing in their detailed design. However, the number and complexity of flood risk problems affecting Appleby means the cost of a scheme remains high which will make developing a viable business case more challenging. This may mean that we have to develop different options to help reduce flood risk that are economically viable as well as technically feasible. For example, whilst it would be preferable to defend the Sands area with a series of permanent flood defences, it is looking increasingly likely that enhanced property level resilience measures will be the only viable option. Similarly, if we are unable to make a successful business case for a permanent pump (the preferred option) on the Doomgate culvert then a temporary pump may provide an affordable and effective alternative.

We will continue to develop options and optimise the way in which these can be combined in order to promote a successful business case to best reduce flood risk in Appleby. Following this, we will need to identify the scale of any shortfall between the funding we can secure, and the cost of the options we would like to deliver. This will allow us to approach others for contributions to help deliver the best possible level of protection for the residents and businesses in Appleby.

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In addition to this we are also;

- Investigating the potential of using temporary defences in Appleby along The Sands (this is not in place of permanent measures).
- Working on an interim plan (until there is a permanent scheme) to provide over-pumping capability for the Doomgate culvert, with an enhanced arrangement over the Christmas 2017 holiday period.
- Upgrading local telemetry stations to increase data resilience and assist with forecasting and warning.
- Continuing to maintain the River Eden through Appleby as part of our ongoing maintenance regime. Further details on the maintenance program can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-and-coastal-maintenance-programme>

We are organising a community drop-in which will take place in the Public Hall in Appleby on Thursday 1st February. Drop-in at any time between 2pm and 7pm.

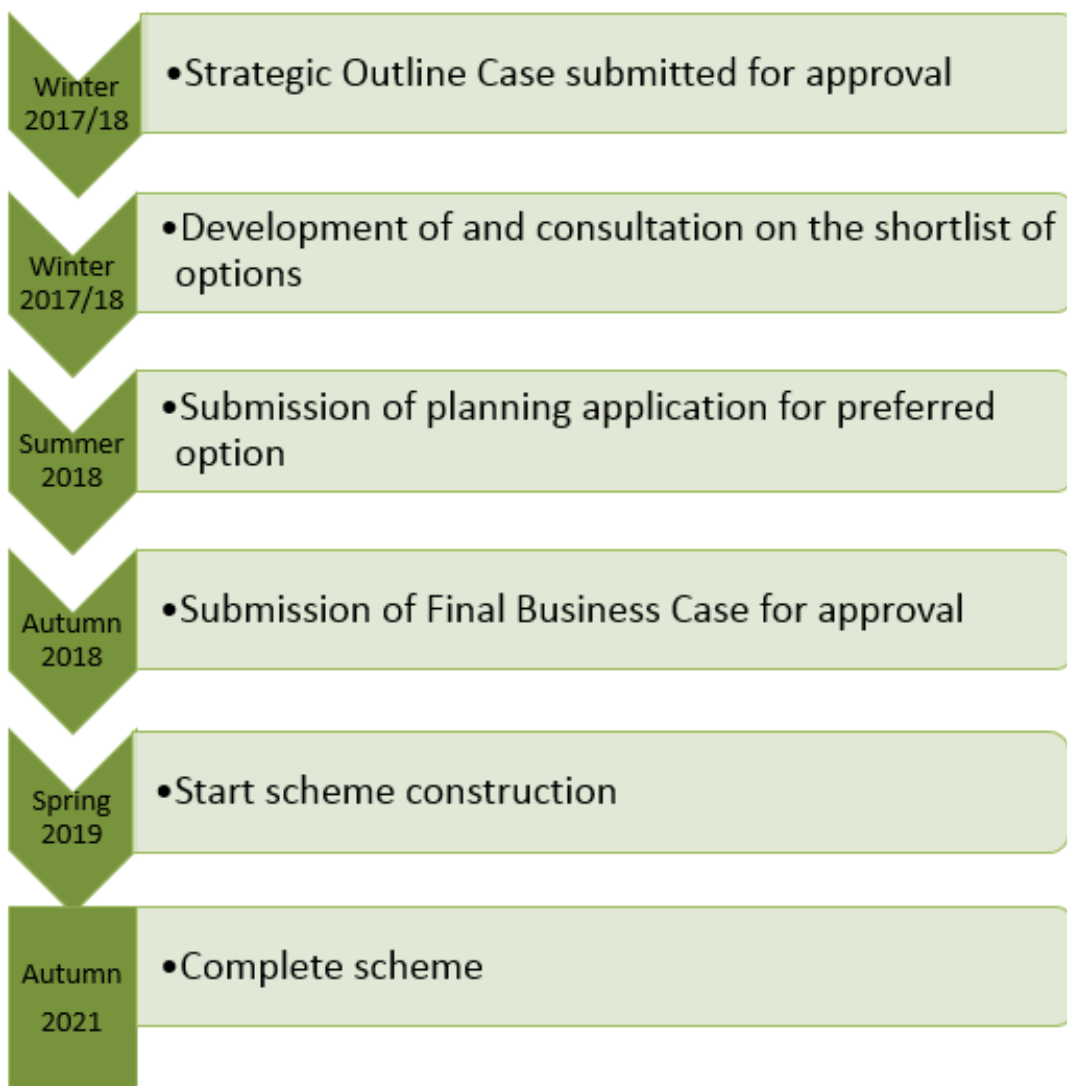
We will formally share the “short list” of options with you and will have plans showing where each option could be located. We will provide an update on the next steps.

(Continued on the following page)

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Outline Delivery Programme



The Strategic Outline Business Case provides a high level understanding of the flood risk and demonstrates the need to continue working on a scheme and complete the Final Business Case.

The Final Business Case provides all the detailed technical, economic and environmental information to justify a compelling case to invest the money to build a scheme.

This process can take some time. As we are spending Government's money in providing flood risk management we must follow their rules and procedures. For further information on the funding process and the rules we must follow, read the "guide on how the Environment Agency fund and deliver flood risk management schemes" under the 'Funding' section of the Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership website <http://www.cumbriastrategicfloodpartnership.org>

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Appleby Emergency Response Group

Appleby Emergency Response Group (AERG) has been formed by local residents. AERG is producing a community plan to ensure that the local response is coordinated and comprehensive in an emergency situation. If you would like to speak to your local flood action group about this work or another local issue, you can contact Mandy Morland on mandymorland.aerg@gmail.com or 07467 589238.

AERG have taken on responsibility of the Siren in Appleby and have issued the below message -
"The siren in Appleby is a 'back-up' flood warning and must not be relied upon as the only method of alert for residents. It is very important that properties at risk of flooding register for their own flood warning messages through the Environment Agency Flood warning system.

The siren will only be sounded once. If the siren is sounded it will be following discussion between the EA and the Appleby Emergency Response Group and will coincide with/signal the flood warning. At this point people need to start taking action. It will not be sounded again."

Contacting the Environment Agency

If you would like to contact the Environment Agency about future flood risk management you can email CMBLNC-PSO@environment-agency.gov.uk. If your query relates to community or personal resilience please contact clfloodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Be flood ready

We will never be able to guarantee a completely flood-free future, and so we encourage anyone living or working in a flood risk area to be aware and to be prepared. We can support you by; signing you up to receive free **flood warnings**, helping you to produce a **personal flood plan**, offering **property resistance and resilience** information and supporting the formation and ongoing work of a **community flood action group**.

It is important that you are prepared for flooding and we encourage you to take 4 simple steps:-

1. Sign up to Floodline to receive free flood warnings

Nearly 15% of properties within Appleby have not yet registered to receive flood warnings. The Flood Warning Service is a free system which is used to warn you of imminent flooding to land and property.

2. Know what to do when a flood warning is issued. Have a personal flood plan for you and your family.

3. Keep an eye on the situation. You can view a 5 day weather forecast and monitor the river levels online.

4. Keep up to date with early warnings of heavy rain which could lead to flooding by registering for Cumbria Community Messaging. This is a free e-mail service and is complementary to our Flood Warning Service.

To register visit www.cumbriacommunitymessaging.co.uk

For information on the above, visit
<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>
or ring Floodline on 0345 988 1188

