

Eamont Bridge

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.

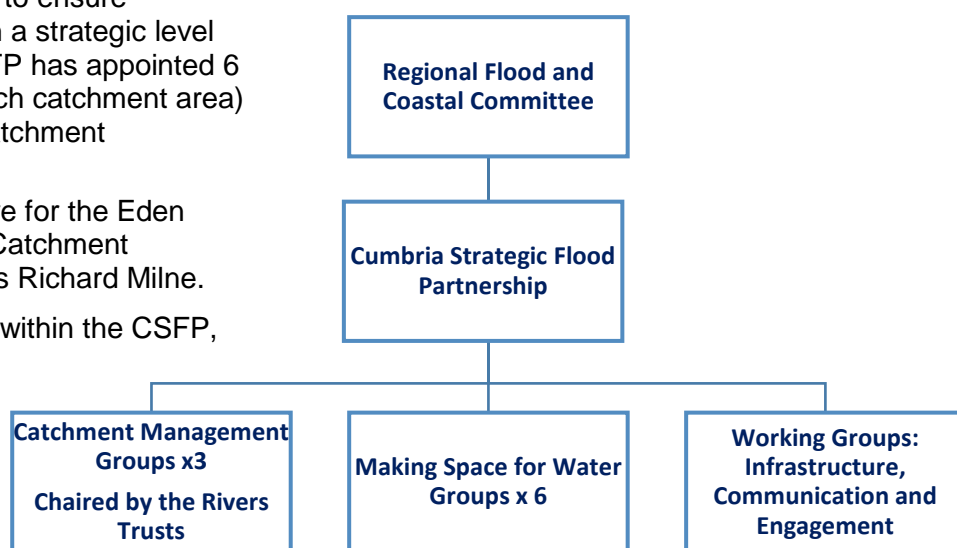
If you have any queries on their role within the CSFP, you can contact them on:

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

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

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Work undertaken in Eamont Bridge

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

- Contributed to the reinstatement of sections of the river embankment near the Fire Fighters Charity and removal of the roadside wall (due to take place early in 2018).
- Supported Eden Rivers Trust to remove Carleton Weir. Whilst this does not have a direct flood risk benefit for Eamont Bridge, it does increase the environmental justification (and therefore access to funding) for removing Low Mill Weir by improving fish passage in the downstream reach.
- Refurbished our river telemetry station on the River Eamont to raise our monitoring equipment and make the station more resilient during periods of high river flow. This will ensure we can continue to monitor, forecast and warn for flooding at peak levels.

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 have a refined “short list” of options for Eamont Bridge and want to share these with the local community. These options currently represent a sufficiently good return on government investment to allow us to continue to develop the business case.

The next stage of the business case will see us progress with detailed design and optimisation of the scheme as well as liaising with landowners, applying for the planning applications and permits required to deliver a scheme.

Options which are most likely to move forward in Eamont Bridge include: flood walls and embankments around clusters of properties on both sides of the river. This might include work to existing boundaries, and new walls and gates as required. Improved flood routing around the southern side of Eamont Bridge on the A6 via removal of the boundary wall between the Fire Fighters Charity land and the A6 which will help water move around the bridge.

Low Mill Weir removal as part of a River Restoration Strategy is being progressed collectively and led by Eden Rivers Trust. The removal of this structure has the potential both to improve the environmental characteristics of the river as well as locally reducing flood risk. However, following the identification of service crossings upstream of the weir, we are working in partnership with a number of stakeholders to shortlist a suitable solution for its removal.

In addition to this we are also;

- Investigating the potential of using temporary defences in Eamont Bridge (this is not in place of permanent measures).
- Providing funding and modelling support to the Fire Fighters Charity to remove the old wall.
- Undertaking hydraulic modelling which is being used to inform changes to the flood risk areas at Eamont Bridge and is being used to inform the flood risk management options.
- Planning to replace the river telemetry station at Eamont Bridge (on the River Lowther) to improve monitoring and flood warning.

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We are organising a community drop-in which will take place in Eamont Bridge Village Hall on Tuesday 30th January. Drop-in anytime 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.

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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Eamont Bridge Flood Action Group

Residents within your village are working together to produce a community plan to ensure 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 Chris Battersby on 01768 866 670 or email aysgartharcher@gmail.com.

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 Warnings Direct to receive free flood warnings

Over 15% of properties within Eamont Bridge 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



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