

Item 6b -Natural Flood Management Open Evening Coverage
Natural Flood Management Open Evening Event

On Monday 1st November, Todmorden Town Hall proudly hosted the Natural Flood Management open evening event, where representatives from various organisations, primarily local, gave talks and presentations on the role they play in natural flood management (NFM) in Calderdale.

The event was attended by over 80 members of the public and facilitated by Todmorden Town Council. The talks mainly focused on why flooding occurs in the Upper Calder Valley, how local conservation methods help mitigate flood risk and what we, as individuals and communities, can do to play our own part in this.

There are a wide range of issues and factors that affect the chances of flood occurrence and the severity of the flooding itself, as demonstrated by the varied subject matter that the talks themselves touched upon, such as soil quality, tree planting, land management and geographical factors.

The event closed with an introduction to Todmorden Town Council's Climate Emergency Pledge, as launched by our town mayor Cllr Pat Taylor, who signed the first pledge. Further pledges were then distributed amongst attendees who wished to commit to their own pledges to play their personal part in combatting climate change. The timing of the pledge launch reflects just how much climate change plays a significant part in flood risk, flood frequency and flood severity.

The following lists all the guest speakers of the event, the speeches they made and their contact information:

Adrian Horton, Slow the Flow

'How Slow the Flow Helps to Reduce the Risk of Flooding in Todmorden'

adrian@slowtheflow.net

<https://slowtheflow.net/>

Ben Fenton, Natural Flood Management Project Officer, Calderdale Council

benjamin.fenton@calderdale.gov.uk

<https://eyeoncalderdale.com/nfm-in-calderdale>

'Natural Flood Management Land Owner Grants'

Dr Jane Rowling, Farm and Rural Liaison Officer, Calder Rivers Trust

jane.rowling@calderandcolneriverstrust.org

<https://calderandcolneriverstrust.org/site/>

'The Multiple Benefits of Healthy Soils'

Sally Kelling, Flood Resilience Officer, Environment Agency

Sally.Kelling@environment-agency.gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

'Natural Flood Management in Calderdale – part of the big picture'

Sarah-Jayne Robins, Lead Flood Warden

todmordenfloodgroup@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TodmordenFloodGroup/>

'Why Todmorden Floods & the Role of the Todmorden Flood Group'

Christina Hooley

treeresponsibility@yahoo.co.uk

<http://www.treeresponsibility.com/>

'Five ways that trees can help mitigate flood risk'