

Item 7d. Meeting with Todmorden Flood Group

The Climate Officer took the opportunity to engage with [REDACTED] Chair of Todmorden Flood Group. The discussion centred mainly around public engagement, information and communications, with considerations of group-led activities that seek to diminish flood-causing factors. The main areas that the meeting addressed are as follows:

The problem of invasive plant species and the impact it has

- Balsam and Japanese weeds – how it affects soil quality and the impact this has on flood risk and biodiversity/ecosystems.
- Information/awareness raising about the problem of invasive plant species and simple steps an individual can take to tackle this problem, and legal requirements for business land owners regarding this issue.
- Start building the basic framework plan for this, including a map that identifies areas where this is a particular issue, and ideally set wheels in motion from April onwards for group action (if possible). Possibility of tying-in with Keep Tod Tidy/Todmorden in Bloom activities, with possible coinciding of the Great British Spring Clean event 25/03/22 – 10/04/22.

Centre Vale Park

- Centre Vale Park – CMBC -deal with surface issues. Yorkshire Water deal with below-surface level and sewage concerns.
- Awareness of infected water as a serious health and safety issue -. The park play area a highways issue.
- Environment Agency -operate and manage systems for TFG, such as flood gates. They provide updates and a news feed.

Communications ideas

- First-hand observations -for anyone to post their observations in a concerted effort to keep people aware of what is happening in different flood-prone areas.
- ‘Flooding affects everyone’ feature -links to articles on the long-term estimated scenario of flooding worldwide (but bring it back to local scale).

- History of flooding in the Upper Calder Valley -how this can be used to provide a time-scale context to inform a town-wide Flood Plan.
- Mary, Queen of Floods -Facebook link to her page -feature on 'know your flood risk.'
- Information on Flood Plans –'...in the event of.' -use the information on 'what you can do if flooding happens in your area.'-provide links to this feature on the TFG website.
- The implications of floods -to paint a realistic picture of the reality of flooding, from those who have lived experience of this (such as case studies), to convey the trauma suffered and the economic ramifications of post-flood clear-ups, disposal, rebuilding etc.
- Promotional events: use of video footage as a social media feature, showing people who have signed up to the Pledge, their reasons/thoughts/hopes on this.
- Use the word 'Volunteers' instead of 'Flood Wardens.'