

Patterdale Parish Integrated Flood Management Pilot Project Overview

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The objective of this project is to use all the available tools and techniques in the Parish to minimise flood risk in the future. We are pioneering the use of the "Integrated Flood Management Toolkit" idea to make this accessible and understandable for everyone in the community so they can appreciate what is being done and why, and what the potential benefits will be. This has to include the full range of options from "natural" techniques to more engineered "hard" solutions, and includes individual flood plans for individual households. It is only by fully implementing this complete integrated "package" that we stand a chance of protecting ourselves as best as we can from future severe weather events.

Our Project plan recognises the importance of a catchment approach, and within the parish the plan is built upon an individual beck sub-catchment approach. Some of the measures will have an immediate benefit, some may take years to reach their full potential and some we might try and realise that they simply don't work. Most importantly though everything that's done has to be done in the context of protecting the whole Parish and that is why it's important everyone understands the "big picture" and we're able to measure and monitor the effects of what has been done and all being well we will then see the benefits growing over time, and the risks reducing. This will benefit not just our own catchment area but have huge benefit in the wider Eden catchment.

The Patterdale Parish Integrated Flood Management Pilot Project is the first project of its kind to use a fully integrated approach to Flood Risk Management and to put in place both a comprehensive set of flood management schemes but also to monitor the effects of these schemes over a prolonged period of time. The project is a truly collaborative venture driven by the local community with input from a range of agencies, public bodies, charities and institutions. We are moving from the end of the "Recovery" phase to the "Resilience" part of the project, and will be building on some of the work done in our own "mini" pilot within the Grisedale Valley in 2016. Work done in 2016 gives us a head start to deliver the project plan. In many areas part of the work is already well underway. What has been achieved in 2016 demonstrates the drive and commitment within the community to work with partners to deliver such a plan.

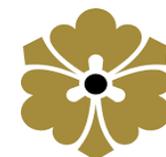
In terms of the cost benefit case for the project the compelling desire to avoid a repeat of the devastating consequences of Storm Desmond in December 2015 are clear. Conservative estimates of the total cost of the recovery from this event are put at at least £5 million. The investment proposed as part of this project is a fraction of this "reactive" spend and as above will also benefit the wider catchment.

The next steps are for all stakeholders to confirm the tasks and estimates in this plan, to gain the necessary additional funding over and above that which is already in place, to communicate the plan and approach to landowners and the community and to get on with making it happen. Following the successful completion of this pilot project the process can then be repeated in other catchments.

Patterdale Parish
Community Flood Group



Lake District
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