

Flooding Working Group
Thursday 20th November 2025
Barbour Institute.

Present:

Parish Council – John Bailey, Iain Keeping, Jonny Kershaw (Chairman), Neil Matthews, Ann Wright (Clerk).

Bolesworth Estate – Frances Steer.

CW&C - Cllr Mike Jones.

Environment Agency (EA) – David Brown.

Transition Tattenhall – Nick Benefield.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Notes of Meeting 2nd September 2025

The meeting agreed the notes of the meeting held on the 2nd September 2025.

Flooding Updates

Environment Agency

Keys Brook

David Brown reported that works have been undertaken on the Keysbrook to prevent flooding of properties on Castlefields. It was confirmed the Brook as a main river and is maintained by EA, the culvert under Tattenhall Road is the responsibility of CW&C. Debris has been cleared and a further inspection is scheduled for December.

He confirmed that the main flood risk to the properties had been the attenuation pond which had not been built in accordance with the approved plans. It was understood that corrective works have now been completed.

It was noted the culvert under Tattenhall Road is about 300m from the properties which flooded and that the road level is 1m lower than the properties as such any blockage at the culvert will result in overflow onto the road rather than flooding of the properties.

It was noted that EA prioritises protection of the highest value assets as such they will work to prevent flooding of homes over flooding of roads.

Mill Brook

David Brown confirmed that EA have been involved in discussions with the Bolesworth Estate to increase attenuation of the Mill Brook upstream enhancing works which have already taken place.

It was stated the bunds as passive structures will throttle flow and allow it to gradually drain away.

It was reported that there had been concerns that the existing bunds had been activating too early which had a knock on impact on the Brook's flow. As such works are taking place to improve this.

It was noted the gauge is now monitoring the Brook's flow.

It was confirmed that more water storage is required.

It was confirmed that the current scheme is not forcing water around the back of the BT Exchange.

Stone Drain

It was reported that there is a large stone built drain in the hedge on land at the rear of Tattenhall Centre. It was discussed that this could be drain from Bolesworth Lake past Wood Lake Farm.

Francis Steer reported that the Estate is currently assessing the Lake and where it drains to.

Action – To identify this drain and where it flows from and to.

Ditch Clearance

It was reported that the Duke of Westminster is undertaking ditch clearance works on his Estate and was asked if Bolesworth are planning the same. It was reported that a section of the Millbrook near Gatesheath had around 9 foot of silt in it.

It was discussed that historically EA undertook a lot of ditch clearance works but no longer has the resources to do this and has to prioritise what works it undertakes. However it was noted that silt does not necessarily stop flow and during heavy rain and high flows scour the ditch. Vegetation is more likely to reduce flow.

It was confirmed tenants are responsible for keeping their ditches cleared. Given the number of ditches on the Estate it is impossible to monitor them all as such any concerns about blocked ditches should be reported to the Estate to investigate.

It was noted the Land Drainage Tribunal will investigate cases where land is being flooded.

Bolesworth Estate

Keys Brook

It was reported the Estate has carried out a large amount of work clearing the bank along the Keys Brook. They are also working with EA to install a drain including a non-return valve along Keys Brook and Castlefield's to take any runoff away from properties.

Rocky Lane

It was confirmed a large grass margin has been planted on land adjacent to the road.

Bolesworth Road

More works taking place with CW&C Highways to resolve issues.

Mitigation Scheme

It was reported discussions are taking place with Welsh Water about the mitigation scheme being developed also removing surface water from the combined sewer reducing pressure on that.

It was confirmed the next stage is a detailed modelling of the scheme to re-meander the Brook and install bunds. It was noted this is a significant investment costing £25k.

David Brown confirmed the project could make a real difference.

It was noted the scheme will require planning permission.

It was reported the modelling will take around 8 months to complete and is very detailed.

Frog Lane

Concerns had been raised that flooding on Frog Lane was coming from the adjacent land however CW&C Highways have identified a culvert under the road which was blocked and also one nearer Gifford Lea which have now been cleared.

Water Quality Checks

Nick Benefield reported that water quality checks are taking place in various locations around the village, the checks are for phosphates and solids, see attached notes. The dry summer has made it difficult to undertake tests and the 12 month testing period might be extended to next year.

It was noted that clear water had been identified flowing during the summer dry period in the Spinney.

Old Mill Place Borehole

It was noted that this borehole had been capped however water can be seen seeping up through the car park. It was reported that CW&C are looking to see if this can be resolved.

Action – CW&C provide an update on Borehole.

Hazard Log

The meeting reviewed the hazard log which had been circulated.

The flooding noted had been reported at meetings and drop-in by residents.

It was agreed to update the Log including a key for the colours used and pictorial evidence and then post on the Council's website.

It was agreed to focus on the floods which are highest risk and consider what further mitigation is required.

It was noted that post incident reporting is very important so that the risks can be reassessed.

Mitigation Scheme – Future Discussion

It was raised that there a number of questions which need to be considered when the flood mitigation modelling has taken place particularly around its long-term maintenance and whose responsibility it will be and how it will be funded.

It was discussed that there needs to be a clear understanding of what the scheme is for and how it works to protect it in the future.

Recent Wet Weather

It was noted that despite recent wet weather some of the usual flooding particularly on Rocky Lane had not occurred. It was stated that the ground is only now reaching its saturation point and that further wet weather will prove if works to prevent flooding have been successful.

Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold a meeting if there is an incident of severe flooding.

Thursday 16th April 2026.

Ann Wright
22/11/2025

Water Quality Monitoring in Tattenhall

Transition Tattenhall has a new project initiative we have begun in partnership with the Welsh Dee Trust.

As we are sure you will agree we are all concerned to ensure that the cleanliness and biodiversity our rivers and streams in the UK are brought to and maintained at the highest level of health.

As water is such vital requirement in our lives we believe that whatever action we can take to support this objective is all our best interests. We have on this basis begun a year long citizen science programme where trained volunteers will monitor the streams and ditch flows that cover water flows from the different micro catchments in the Tattenhall locality.

Project Context

Healthy streams and rivers are an essential part of nature, providing a huge number of benefits including water for people, industry and farming, habitats for wildlife, flood and drought resilience, and opportunities for recreation and wellbeing.

An important element of stream and river health is water quality, but on many sites this is compromised by human activity, due to sewage discharges, agricultural pollution, soil erosion, poorly functioning septic tanks and runoff from roads and developments. Water quality is particularly poor in the streams flowing through Tattenhall. The Welsh Dee Trust have been undertaking citizen science monitoring on sites on Golborne Brook and Mill Brook for several years, feeding data into the Wildfish Smart River Monitoring Project [SmartRivers | Scientifically Robust Citizen Science | Wildfish](#). Based on 2022 data, Golborne Brook has the worst water quality of all 55 rivers included in this national project, with Mill Brook 53rd.

The Project Proposal

A 12-month citizen science water quality monitoring project on the watercourses flowing through the parish towards the River Dee. This will provide a finer resolution of monitoring data than currently available and enable better targeting of interventions to improve water quality.

It is proposed to establish a group of volunteers, who commit to at least monthly field testing of phosphates and turbidity at agreed accessible points on watercourses within the parish. Sampling will follow the Welsh Dee Trust methodology, using rapid La Motte testing strips to test phosphate levels and turbidity using a Secchi tube to gauge turbidity. Equipment and training has been provided by the Welsh Dee Trust, and results will be uploaded into their monitoring system so it can inform national data.

Outputs

The dataset produced through the project will provide information on water quality at several locations on streams within the parish. This can then be used to:

- Raise awareness within the community of water quality issues

- Inform conversations with residents and land managers on measures to improve water quality
- Target incentives and advice by organisations such as the Welsh Dee Trust
- Provide intelligence for regulatory bodies such as Environment Agency
- Identify further investigations and/or actions required

In the process of carrying out this monitoring programme we will of course ensure that permission is granted by tenants and landowners where monitoring would involve entry to their land. Almost all sites are currently on footpaths and public roads so this will generally be a straight forward matter.

On each waterway we are interested to include the flow from the lake at Bolesworth and the flows that pass from Brown Knoll through the fishing lake and through the Coombs. Bolesworth Estate have kindly agreed to allow us access and are keen to be involved in the outcome of the project and any subsequent changes we might need to make. Francis Steer will be the link person between the Project and the Estate.

Rob Arden (Project Lead)
Nick Benefield (Chair)

Transition Tattenhall

Testing Sites

