

Understanding & Reducing Flood Risk in Lympstone

*Lessons learned from the first year of a
community-led partnership project*



**Presentation to Devon Community Resilience Forum
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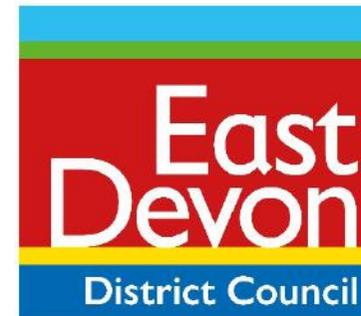
Lympstone Village & Wotton Brook Catchment



Lympstone Flood Risk Management Project



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY



Woodbury
Parish Council



Key lessons learned (big picture)

- Flood risk management is complex
- Working in partnership is essential
- Community-led approach brings significant benefits (in efficiency & effectiveness)
- Important to build relationships and trust
- Vital to keep focused on objectives
- It needs commitment and perseverance.

History of flooding in Lympstone

**Major
floods in
1960**



First flood defences built in 1963 (*Wotton Brook flood scheme*)



Tidal defence scheme developed in 2006 *(and strengthened in 2015)*



More recently, frequent localised flooding



Uncertainty about the combined risk of tidal, fluvial (brook) & surface water flooding

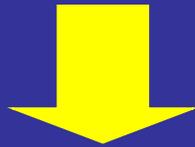




Lympstone

Project Objectives

Gain a more accurate understanding
of the flood risk in Lympstone



Ensure that appropriate and effective
action is taken to minimise the risk
(Prevention, Protection, Preparedness)

Our approach

- Held several discussions with EA, and the EA secured funding for hydraulic modelling
- Got ourselves organised (Lympstone Flood Resilience Group)
- Established Project Steering Group, and held first meeting in March 2018
- Started building relationships
- Developed project plan and communication plan.

Progress to date

- Hydraulic modelling



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- Hydraulic modelling
- Upper catchment study



Westcountry
Rivers Trust

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- Upper catchment study (rural runoff)
- Review of existing flood defences



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- **Review of flood preparedness & response procedures.**

Time to reflect



The Good

(What's worked well so far)

- Community group leading the project (with a mix of skills & experience)
- EA encouragement and support
- Strong focus on objectives and strategy
- Project Steering Group
- Building good relationships
- Regular progress reviews.

The Bad

(Challenges / obstacles)

- A lot of work for volunteers
- Limited monitoring data and records of historic flood events
- Some embedded views & negative attitudes
- Complexity of the planning system
- Long timescale
- Uncertainty of future funding.

The Ugly

(Risk of major flooding)



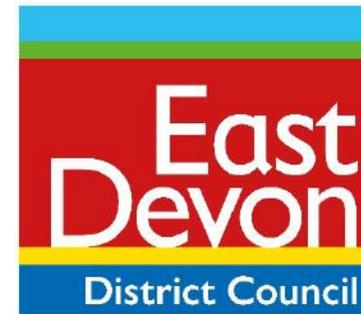
Our conclusions

- The community-led partnership approach is working
- Good progress has been made, and there's a clear path ahead
- It takes time to change embedded views (the greatest challenge)
- Success benefits everyone (in reducing flood risk and increasing efficiency).

Thanks to all our partners



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South West
Water

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Lympstone Flood Resilience Group

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