

Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Panel

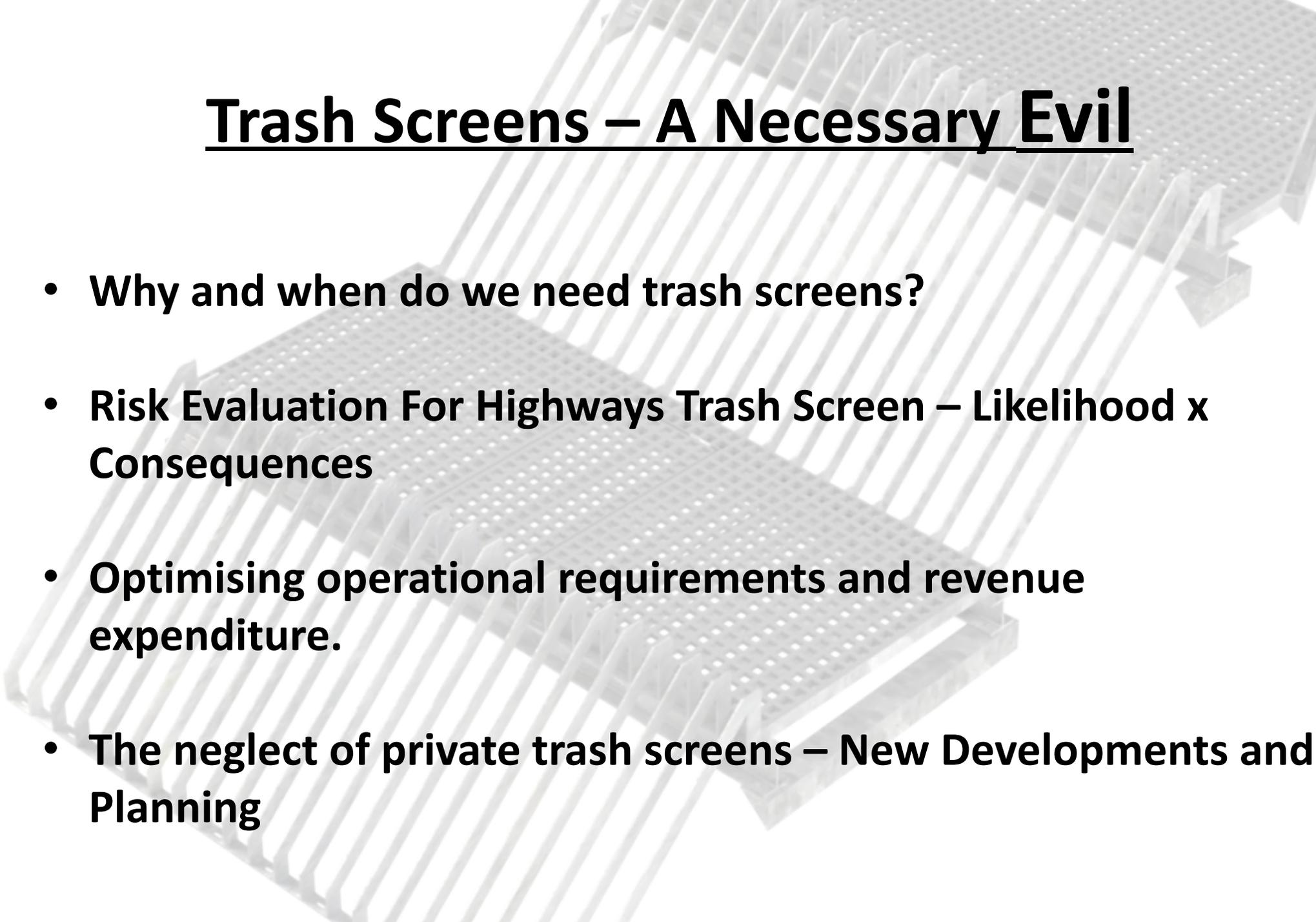
Flood Management & Drainage Annual Review

12th February 2026



- **Avoiding the bullet – No time for complacency.**
- **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment & the Local Plan Progress – Avoiding Risk.**
- **Asset Management – Trash screens – a necessary evil?**
- **Natural Flood Management – Working with delivery partners.**
- **Community Resilience– Kirklees and University of Huddersfield, developing best practice for mental health support.**

Trash Screens – A Necessary Evil



- **Why and when do we need trash screens?**
- **Risk Evaluation For Highways Trash Screen – Likelihood x Consequences**
- **Optimising operational requirements and revenue expenditure.**
- **The neglect of private trash screens – New Developments and Planning**

Trash Screens – Upgrading Design

Grant in Aid Funding Bid (upto 670k) + Kirklees Funded Schemes

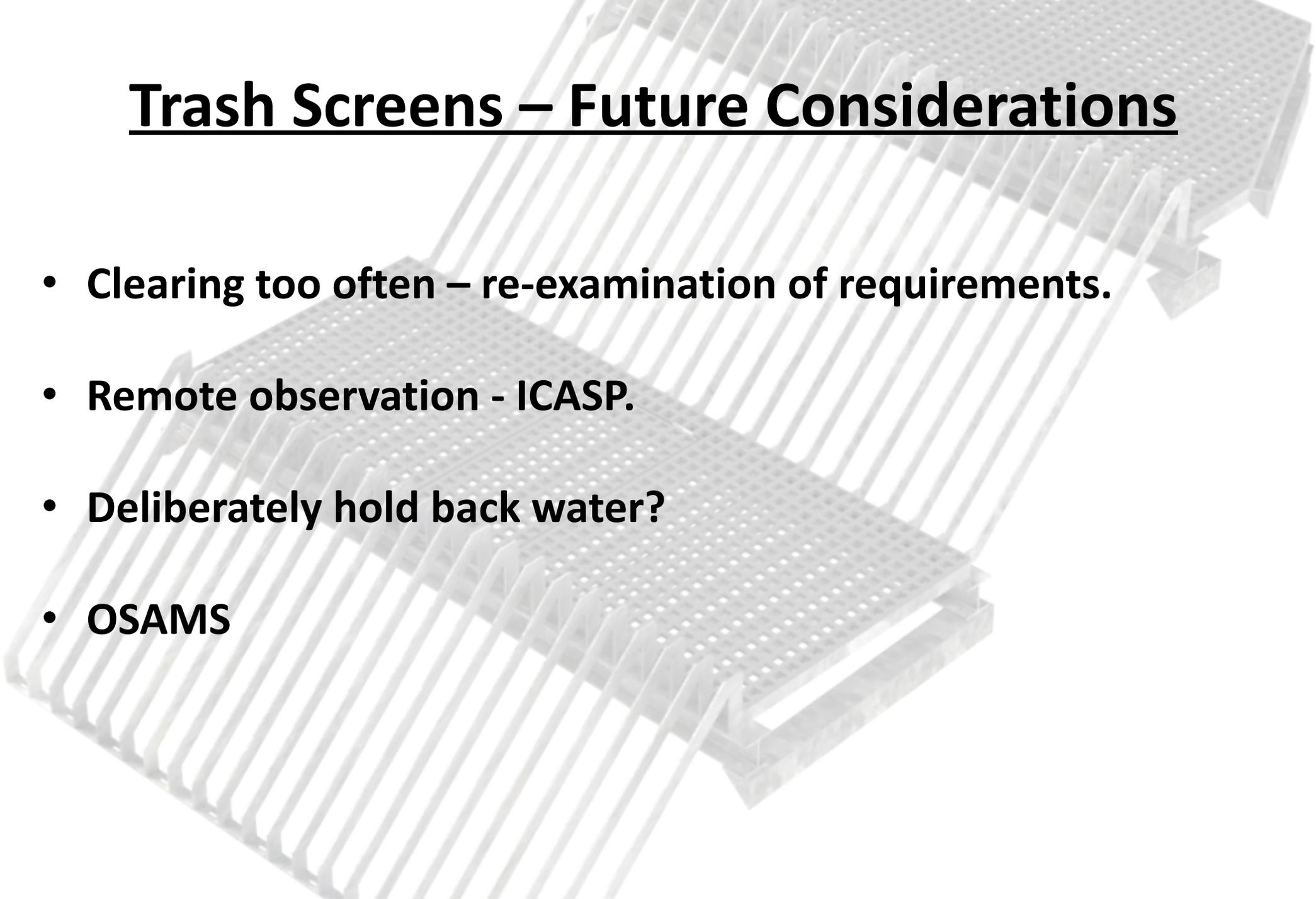


**Horizontal Bars with
Narrow Spacings**



Access Issues

Trash Screens – Future Considerations



- **Clearing too often – re-examination of requirements.**
- **Remote observation - ICASP.**
- **Deliberately hold back water?**
- **OSAMS**

Natural Flood Management (NFM) in Kirklees (Slow the Flow)

Ludhill Dike, Honley – design & landowner engagement

NFM Cluster - design & landowner engagement

NFM Schemes on Kirklees Council owned land

Ludhill Dike: (ongoing project – Local Levy funded)

Working with River Holme Connections (RHC) within the dike catchment.

RHC has successfully engaged with 9 landowners who would like to have NFM interventions with their land.

Total area: 67 hectares (165 acres).

Types of interventions considered: Tree planting, hedgerows, attenuation basins, leaky dams, fascines, etc.

Next phase: to produce design drawings suitable for contractor tendering for the agreed interventions

~~NFM Cluster (Local Levy funded)~~

KC in the process of producing tender documents to issue to local organisations for design and landowner engagement services. These projects will try to achieve the same outcomes as Ludhill Dike.

Catchments included:

Crimble Clough, Slaithwaite (165ha); Dean Bottom Dike, Kirkburton (254ha) & Stubs Beck , Cleckheaton (172ha)

NFM schemes within KC land (ongoing projects – KC funded initially, further funding to be sought)

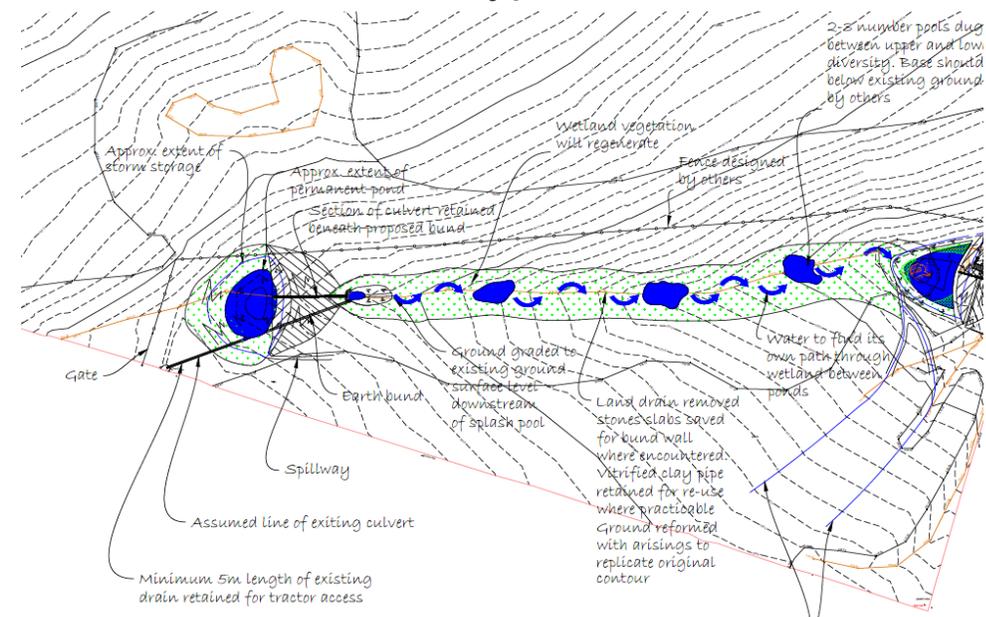
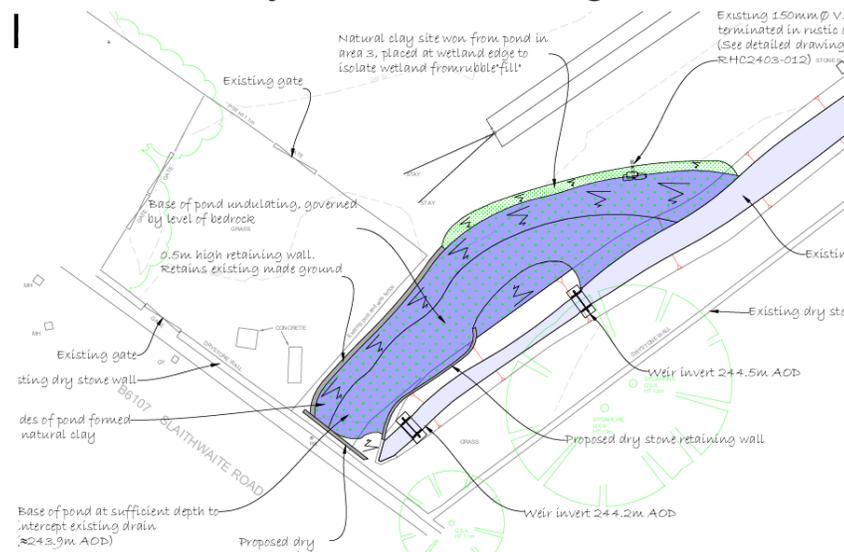
Woods Mount , Marsden : design of bunding to store and divert overground flows away from houses that have been flooded. Once the design is completed, tenders will be issued for the construction of the bund.

Mellor Woods, Almondbury: Working with KC Woodland Development, an NFM scheme to introduce leaky dams and attenuation scrapes to an area of former farmland where trees are proposed to be planted.

Rectory Park, Thornhill: Also working with KC Woodland Development, to compliment a tree planting scheme in the park, several NFM measures will be considered to help reduce flooding to areas of the park.

Further projects

Working with River Holme Connections to seek WYCA funding (£250k) for 4 “spade ready” NFM schemes in the Honley area where agreement with landowners has been obtained – typical schemes are shown



The West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme

Mental Health and Wellbeing for Flood Risk Communities



Supported by



Background Review

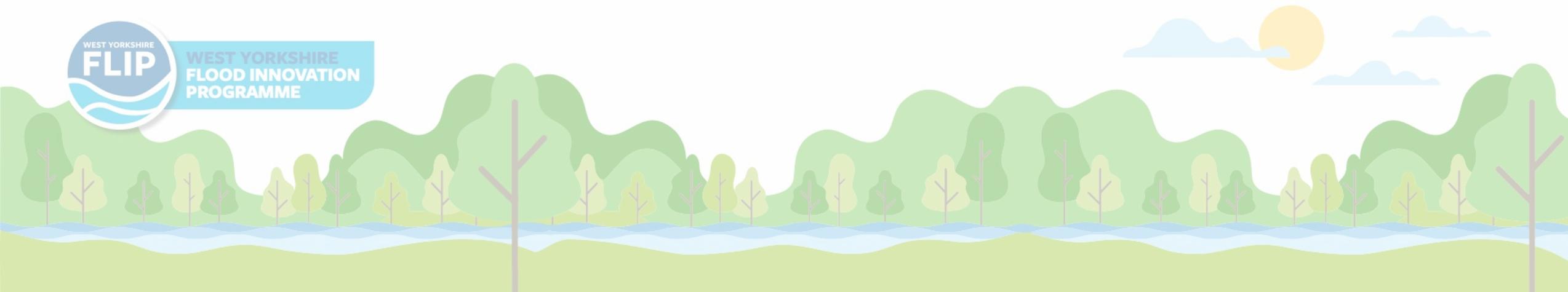
‘Poor mental health is already an important health problem in many communities and flooding is likely to exacerbate this’

‘The odds of having these mental health issues was approximately 6 times higher in this group than in those who were unaffected by flooding’

The English National Study of Flooding and Health – Public Health England 2020

Aim of the Project

Increase Flood Resilience by Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing in Flood risk Communities



Where we were last year

Early development stage – Aiming to paint a picture of what is happening in flood risk communities now and how we can help

Funding Secured

Searching for partners to help develop the project

Mental Health First Aid Training Announced and was about to begin

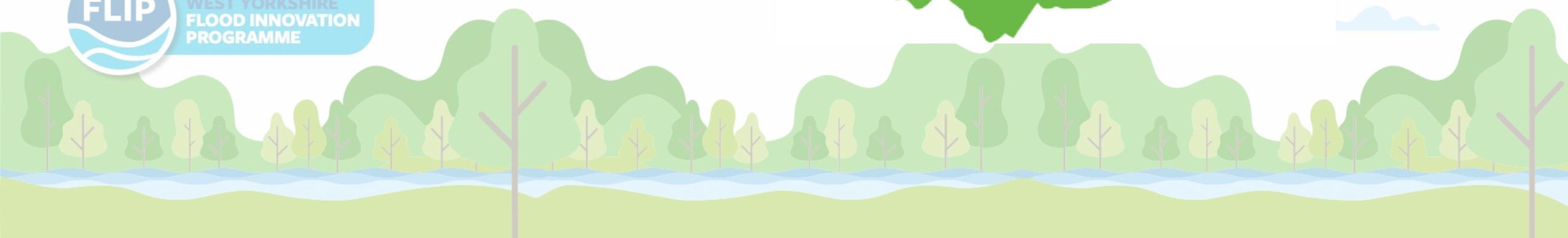


Mental Health First Aid Training ✓

- Developed in partnership with Emergency planning and severe weather plan
- 100 frontline staff members now trained
- Improved awareness for staff
- Improved wellbeing support not just in severe weather, but also on a day-to-day basis



WEST YORKSHIRE
FLOOD INNOVATION
PROGRAMME



Academic Research Partnership

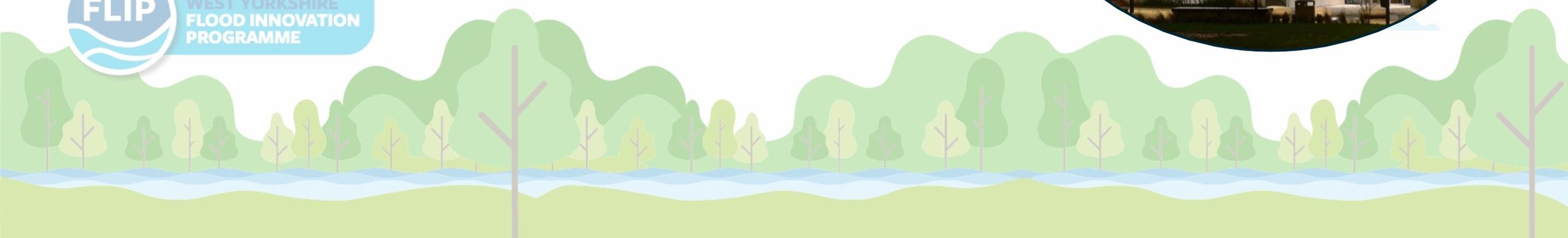


Partnership with Huddersfield University formalised

To help develop the research phase of the project, develop and analyse data gathering

COLIF Funding Secured – Allowing additional academic resources

Large-scale online survey amongst people who have been flooded is currently underway. Gather evidence which can be used to develop what is needed to improve mental health services for people affected by flooding. Conducting 50 in-depth interviews with some of the respondents



Early Findings

1. Chronic anxiety and trauma linked to rain and repeated flooding

Flooding is experienced not as isolated events but as an ongoing cycle of threat, fear and anticipation. Heavy rain alone was enough to trigger heightened tension: ***“The tension rises when we get all those near misses, not just for me but for everybody around the town”*** and ***“Even the window cleaner sets me off, it’s the water straight on the window that’s triggering for me”***

2. Long-term loss, disruption and financial strain deepen emotional distress

The emotional impact is compounded by repeated property damage, slow recovery and lack of financial capacity to rebuild. The cycle of loss and repair creates exhaustion and a sense of being worn down over time: ***“Trying to juggle a full-time job, insurance, builders, gas, electric, water... there was just too much to do for one person to do it on their own”***

3. Preparedness becomes an exhausting personal burden

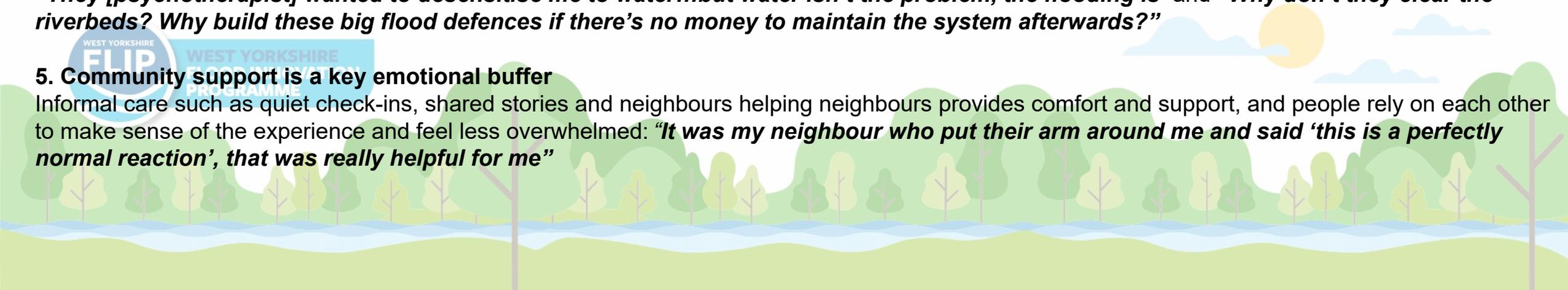
Participants described taking extensive steps to protect their homes. Preparedness becomes a form of hypervigilance that’s emotionally and financially draining: ***“I’ve done everything I can to stop my house being ripped out again...underfloor heating, a coal fire, all of it. I’ve had to do it myself and its exhausting”***

4. Weak or mismatched services and perceived poor infrastructure add to stress

Mental health support often feels ill-suited to the realities of flooding, while perceived local underinvestment in infrastructure amplify risk and frustration: ***“They [psychotherapist] wanted to desensitise me to water...but water isn’t the problem, the flooding is”*** and ***“Why don’t they clear the riverbeds? Why build these big flood defences if there’s no money to maintain the system afterwards?”***

5. Community support is a key emotional buffer

Informal care such as quiet check-ins, shared stories and neighbours helping neighbours provides comfort and support, and people rely on each other to make sense of the experience and feel less overwhelmed: ***“It was my neighbour who put their arm around me and said ‘this is a perfectly normal reaction’, that was really helpful for me”***



Academic Research Partnership

Outputs

- Concise report on the mental health needs assessment and workshop findings.
- Policy briefing/good-practice guide
- Establishing a new academic–policy network on climate-related mental health and resilience

• Future funding bid.

