

Giggleswick Parish Council

Facilitating Channel Management for Tems Beck December 2023

The Parish Council's Role

Tems Beck is a significant and attractive feature of our village and is probably the most interesting and diverse watercourse flowing into the River Ribble in terms of its broad range of ecosystems and the neighbouring landscape.

Passionate community views of how the Beck should be managed vary and while the parish council is very often the recipient of these views, its role is to remain neutral.

Community views

The views expressed from the community come from various stakeholder sources including:

- Riparian owners in need of guidance and support;
- Those with a keen interest in the needs of ecology and wildlife;
- Concerns for the potential of flooding and flood risk management;
- Landowners;
- Volunteers;
- Concerns with respect to general maintenance and restoration;
- The Environment Agency;
- NYC Flood Risk Management.

Facilitating a way forward

The parish council recognises the passion and concerns expressed by a huge range of stakeholders on this matter and is now seeking to engage the services and expertise of the Ribble Rivers Trust in co-ordinating a way forward.

This will ultimately lead them to engage with all stakeholders and develop a plan for moving forward. They will then become a main co-ordinator and point of reference for matters pertaining to the conservation of the Beck.

Initial Meetings and Site Visits

Two site visits and one meeting with the Ribble Rivers Trust have already taken place.

The initial site visit aimed to explore the catchment area within the village, Giggleswick School and the lower part of the golf course.

The second site visit explored the catchment area leading to the source of the Beck.

After these two visits a meeting was held at the offices of the Ribble Rivers Trust to discuss a potential way forward.

Next Steps

Phase 1

Further develop a positive relationship with Ribble Rivers Trust which leads to support and the 'expert lead' and 'point of reference' for all stakeholders with respect to all channel management matters concerning Tems Beck including: -

- Guidance and support for the community in terms of non cost interventions;
- Guidance and support for community enquiries and concerns;
- Support on volunteer days. (This may lead to training opportunities for volunteers in citizen science and could potentially include monitoring of invertebrates, water quality, invasive species or otters);
- Fish surveys across various points within the catchment area;
- Gauging the level of support from landowners for intervention measures that ultimately are funding dependent. This is critical for moving forward with phase 2 and phase 3.

Phase 2 (running parallel with phase 1)

Bids for funding from various sources will be undertaken by the Ribble Rivers Trust, as appropriate funding sources become available.

Phase 3

Successful bidding for grants could potentially lead to interventions including:

- Scoping out natural flood management opportunities in the upper catchment area. Possibilities include re-naturalising areas to reduce speed and flow towards the village and improve habitat quality, creating buffer strips next to the watercourse, planting riparian trees, setting back embankments, installing leaky dams, bunds for temporary storage and slow release of water and pond or wetland creation.
- A focus on endangered species such as the white clawed crayfish and Atlantic Salmon.

The precise details of this phase will be for the Ribble Rivers Trust to negotiate and once a potential strategy is formulated members of the community could be invited to a public meeting facilitated by the parish council and led by the Ribble Rivers Trust.

Phase 4

Once elements of phase 2 and phase 3 are in place a further strategy could be put in place to inform and educate the wider community with respect to the watercourse in the form of information boards at key points along the Beck. This is perhaps something the parish council could consider funding.