

Looking at flood risk *differently* in Hebden Bridge

e-Bulletin #1

I have had a think about the best way to keep everyone up-to-date with the latest developments from the research group, before we get started with the modelling workshops. The result of that is this short e-Bulletin, which I will send out every fortnight, updating you all on how the project is going.



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The research group

The research group currently consists of:

1. Jenny Shepherd (local resident)
2. Sally Naylor (local businesswoman)
3. Dongria Kondh (treesresponsibility)
4. Jon Walker (The Moorland Centre)
5. Robin Gray (Pennine Prospects)
6. Andrew Coen or colleague (Environment Agency)
7. Mary Seaton or colleague (Calderdale Council)

I am still trying to encourage members from Yorkshire Water, the National Trust and a local Councillor. If you have any suggestions they are very welcome.

Always a challenge to academics, is the task of explaining our research in as few words as possible in as understandable a way as possible. Here is my attempt:

The project in 200 words

First a few obvious things, flood risk is important to people living in Hebden Bridge. It is something that affects them, and in very recent memory. Quite often flood schemes are large capitol schemes that are carefully modelled by academic staff and implemented by engineers. The role of local people is often limited to consultation, and whilst this is important it falls short of the *active involvement* of local people that really adds value to flood risk management.

This project aims to get local people involved at all stages in the process of understanding flood risk, and coming up with some suggestions about how we might start to reduce it. Through a novel technique we will have a look at how the different elements of the environment interact in a small sub-catchment of the Calder (Hebden Water), to better understand the effect that different interventions might have. We will try to come up with recommendations (based on our local experiences and knowledge) that we can provide to the Environment Agency and other organisations to support their projects and planning.

Visit to Hebden Bridge

I am visiting Hebden Bridge and the Environment Agency offices from Sunday 5th – Tuesday 7th May to try and see as many of you as possible. If you are free, and we haven't yet set a time to have an informal chat about the project and what you want to get out of it, please drop me an e-mail (address below). I understand this is a busy bank holiday – so feel free to suggest other suitable times.

Next steps

The next step in the project is to meet up with as many of you as possible to discuss what you would like to see the project achieve, what you think should be its starting objectives, and to better understand the best time to schedule the workshops.

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