



In this issue I share with you the current issues in surface water flooding, as delivered by representatives from central government, consultancies, water companies and practitioners at the CIWEM Surface Water Flooding conference that I attended in London earlier this week. CIWEM are the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management and a leading professional body in the field.

In this bulletin:

- What's trending in surface water flooding today – straight from the horse's mouth
- Gearing up for our first modelling workshop

First modelling workshop

The first modelling workshop in Hebden Bridge will take place next Tuesday at Hebden Bridge Town Hall. In this workshop we will:

- **Discuss or refine catchment objectives:**
These are things we think it is important to achieve in a flood risk management plan for the Hebden Water sub catchment.
- **Identify system variables:**
More about this in the workshop, but these include the drivers of the objectives we have identified, and what interventions we might consider putting in place to manage them.

I look forward to seeing many of you there.

What's trending today?

1. *Partnerships*

Top of our list is partnership working. It is increasingly being recognised that flooding, drainage, water quality, habitats and several other environmental issues cannot be managed in isolation. Partnership working enables sharing of resources and knowledge, and new perspectives on old problems. It is seen as crucial to achieving an integrated approach which can target future investments in a time of increasing economic austerity.

2. *Uncertainty*

The environment and the models and tools we develop to manage it are full of uncertainties. Understanding these and knowing which we can manage is essential to the success of future flood risk management.

3. *Multiple benefits*

A key theme running through several talks was that of multiple benefits. This was particularly key in building a business case for blue-green infrastructure and other alternatives to traditional flood defences. If we continue to look from one perspective the benefits do not stack up, but when we begin to look at the wider benefits, to health, recreation, water quality, etc... then these alternative ways of combatting flood risk often make financial sense.

4. *Designing for exceedance*

Designing for exceedance means thinking about what happens to water which escapes or cannot enter the drainage system during flooding. This is often the water that causes the most problems. There is still much work to be done to identify what is needed to support the uptake of schemes which fully take this into account.

5. *Involving stakeholders*

Finally, it was stressed that whatever route we choose, we need to get stakeholders on board, so that they can take ownership of the flood risk solutions that will affect their communities and understand what those solutions can and cannot achieve.

Next steps

Following each modelling workshop, I will put together a workshop outcomes pack that will summarise what was achieved, and where we are going next. This will support those of you that cannot make it to all of the five workshop sessions, but still want to get involved in the project. Each pack will be distributed to the whole mailing list for the e-Bulletin, so everyone can see what we got up to and have the chance to respond.