

**Kirkbymoorside Town Council**  
**Information for the meeting on Monday 21 July 2025**

**14. The Weir**

- a. To receive information in response to concerns regarding silt deposits on the weir
- b. To consider seeking advice from appropriate authorities on best practice for management of the vegetation at the weir, most notably containment of the bull rushes
- c. To consider inviting volunteers to participate in exercises to manage the vegetation

**Concern reported to Environment Agency regarding silt deposits on the weir:**

There is concern about the amount of debris collecting on the weir at Keldholme and the associated flood risk to the neighbouring properties should there be a storm. Following the devastating impact on the properties in Kirby Mills following Storm Darragh, a number of properties remain uninhabitable, it is imperative that the watercourse at the weir is kept clear.

Please would you confirm by reply that this concern has been logged and will be appropriately addressed.

**Response received from the Environment Agency:**

Thanks for getting in touch, I can certainly understand residents' concerns about flood risk following the impacts of the flooding in December which will be awful for those affected.

As discussed, I've spoken with the asset team and they have kindly been out to have a look from the top end. Right now, we're not overly concerned about debris sitting on the weir. We think if the main weir sluice was closed or water levels were to rise, the debris should float away. In terms of the sluices, when a larger flood happens the effect of the weir becomes increasingly 'drowned out' the more it gets overtopped. The channel is also quite wide at the weir too but narrows shortly after downstream which may be more of a restriction in high flows.

However, every little helps and the advice is that the main sluice could be routinely kept in the closed position to reduce debris getting stuck on the weir or in the sluice. To reduce the build-up of silt on the upstream of the weir, the main weir sluice could be opened during higher water levels. Ultimately, the weir and sluices can be operated by the relevant landowner in relation to use of the mill race. I believe ownership has been looked into before and the land registry search possibly came back with no records for the weir but I understand from previous discussion with [land owner] that he may be operating the sluices on a best endeavours basis.

Our powers to do any works in a main river are permissive in nature and dependant on funding so we do our best to bid for and spend money as effectively as possible. As a private asset which is not owned, constructed or operated by the EA we are not responsible for the operation and maintenance of the sluices or weir.

A lot of trees came down during Storm Darragh, some of which have fallen across narrower sections of channel or have blocked bridges and other structures. Our field team have been working their way around the catchment in an effort to clear the highest risks. Some of these trees have been reported by people in the community and any reporting like this is always welcome. I think I mentioned the incident hotline 0800 80 70 60 which is probably the best option for this if its urgent so that it gets formally logged and reviewed by the 24/7 team but always happy to be a contact as well. We don't have cameras everywhere or the staff to

inspect all the rivers all the time so definitely worth raising concerns like this so we can keep locations like this under review together.

I was in a meeting with Hannah from NYC today and she also mentioned an enquiry they'd had about the weir and some debris you might not be able to see from the top end. She also mentioned a site visit they are planning with Yorkshire Water about a separate matter. We might see if we can join up with them and possibly speak to [land owner] to discuss further.

**Joe Allan**

Flood and Coastal Risk Management Advisor

North Yorkshire, Partnership & Strategic Overview Team

**Environment Agency** | Foss House, Kings Pool, Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX

[joe.allan@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:joe.allan@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Mobile: 07881035704

