

## Team

### Slow the flow



Bill and Elizabeth Blackledge and Amanda McDermott

Founding members of Slow the Flow (Calderdale) and West Wolds Slow the Flow (WWSTF)

**Nominator:** Dr Jacqueline Diaz-Nieto

Senior Design Engineer

Severn Trent Water and Brian Smith IEng

Retired water industry professional

*Elizabeth, Bill and Amanda completely embody all the criteria of SuDS champions. In addition to their day jobs, they have used their professional SuDS expertise in voluntary and community projects, founding Slow the Flow (Calderdale) and West Wolds Slow the Flow. We have seen first-hand, when attending a Slow the Flow technical meeting, how the team galvanized key stakeholders involved in flood risk management and explained, by gathering and interpreting multi-stakeholder data, the critical part that sustainable drainage (SuDS) plays in solving today's flooding problems. We observed how the team engaged and inspired highway drainage colleagues, water industry colleagues and RMAs to get together in one (virtual) room to understand the multi-stakeholder flooding issues and how good SuDS/NFM is key for flood alleviation and climate change resilience.*

*The team have produced publicly available, excellent, user-friendly blogs and information which bring technical SuDS understanding into the community; inspiring grass-roots level involvement in SuDS and creating demand for SuDS delivery that addresses community drainage issues.*

*Elizabeth, Bill and Amanda have gone the extra mile to share their professional SuDS knowledge via industry bodies outside their own memberships, thus building the foundations for multi-disciplinary exchange that is required to fully achieve the four pillars of SuDS. They recently presented a highly successful webinar to the ICE Yorkshire & Humber regional forum.*

*Having developed strategic themes, site-specific projects, and formed appropriate stakeholder and technical groups, their work attracted the interest of Ofwat, who invited them to present on STF/WWSTF and advise on the issues faced, the challenges in reaching and educating people and what is needed from regulators/government/businesses. STF achievements have been recognised at national and local levels, through media coverage including Countryfile, and awards including the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.*