

[Speech: Launch of 2018 Business and Sustainability Programme in Chile](#)

It is a special pleasure for me to welcome you here tonight. In my last position I was a Private Secretary to HRH The Prince of Wales and I had a close relationship with Polly Courtice and the team at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. The Prince is the Founding Patron of the Institute. I visited their centre and participated in events that they had organised in a number of countries around the world as part of HRH's international travel programme.

Many of you will know that a priority aspect of our work in the Embassy is to promote initiatives in Chile aimed at combating climate change and delivering sustainable economic growth. Governments alone cannot tackle these challenges. All sectors of society need to work together. The private sector has a crucial role to play and your presence here this evening is evidence of your commitment. So thank you.

The pressure from society on businesses to demonstrate responsible environmental practices continues to increase. Leaders of major corporations worldwide are rising to the challenge – delivering profits for their shareholders whilst ensuring minimum negative impact on the environment. Indeed many recent studies have shown that, far from sustainability being a drain on resources, environmentally friendly businesses are outperforming others financially.

Both Chile and the UK need more business leaders to rise to this challenge.

For this reason, I am delighted that Recyclapolis has partnered up with the Institute to bring their Business and Sustainability Programme to Chile for a second year. Cambridge have been running the programme successfully for 20 years in the UK and internationally. It provides business leaders with the tools to insert sustainability in their future business strategies and to reconcile profitability with sustainability.

To implement this successfully in Chile, Recyclapolis needs your help and support. Your attendance here is the first step.

Thank you again for joining us this evening to learn more about the course. I hope you enjoy the event.

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Sustainability Programme in Chile

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Press release: Official opening of Hexham flood defence

A new £65,000 flood embankment which protects homes in Hexham from flooding

has been officially opened.

Storm Desmond saw flooding to 15 properties at Tyne Green, Hexham, on 5 December 2015.

Properties flooded as a result of water from the River Tyne flowing through an underpass beneath the Newcastle-Carlisle railway line near to Tyne Green Golf Course.

The Environment Agency prioritises delivery of new and improved flood defences using government funding over a rolling six year programme, to schemes which provide the greatest benefits to protect properties from flooding.

Due to the small number of properties that would benefit, against the cost of delivering a flood scheme at Tyne Green, the Environment Agency had been unable to deliver new flood defences in the area.

The new flood bank has been uniquely funded by residents who pooled individual government grants made available to them following flooding over the winter period of 2015/16.

The Environment Agency and Northumberland County Council worked closely with Tyne Green residents, Northumbrian Water and Network Rail to provide a creative solution.

The new bank was officially opened by local resident Joan McDonald – who contributed to the scheme – and Hexham MP Guy Opperman at an event on Tuesday 28 August.



L-R Tyne Green resident Keith Hutton, Coun. Nick Oliver from Northumberland County Council, Hexham MP Guy Opperman and Environment Agency Area Director Oliver Harmar.

Real success for residents

MP Guy Opperman said:

This is great news! I am delighted that a pragmatic team effort has produced a real success for the Tyne Green residents. I want this collaborative working to be the prototype for future flood defence projects in Tynedale.

Tyne Green resident Keith Hutton added:

I am pleased to have been involved in this project alongside so many others, and on behalf of everyone, I would like to extend a huge thank you to Guy Opperman, our MP, for his steadfast support in getting all the agencies together, something we could not have done single-handedly.

Special credit should also go to Chris Hood, from the Environment Agency and Aaron McNeil from Northumberland County Council. They recognised the opportunity and worked hard alongside our community to deliver this scheme.

Finally, Network Rail and Northumbrian Water have been a huge support to this lengthy project and I think we all recognise that going forward, this flood defence, which has been funded in such a unique way, gives our community a real peace of mind.

The flood embankment, built by Breheny Civil Engineering, has been designed to protect against a flood event similar to that experienced by Tyne Green residents during Storm Desmond.

Thanks to residents

Chris Hood, Project Manager for the Environment Agency, said:

I'm delighted we've been able to build this flood defence which is great news for the residents of Tyne Green. I'd like to thank them for their continued support and patience while we worked with our partners to find the best and most cost-effective solution.

Councillor Glen Sanderson, Cabinet member for Environment and Local Services with Northumberland County Council, added:

This is another fine example of agencies working with local communities to find innovative solutions to improve their areas and prevent flooding events damaging their homes in the future. Storm Desmond had a massive impact on communities in Tynedale and this work should help provide peace of mind for the future.

The Environment Agency is urging people to 'Prepare, Act, Survive' by [visiting the Floods Destroy website](#) and do three things to prepare for flooding.

- check your postcode and find out if you are at risk of flooding
- sign-up for free flood warnings if you are at risk
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Professor takes up new Scientific Director role

A well-known researcher at Scotland's Rural College has been named as the new Scientific Director of the Scottish Consortium for Rural Research (SCRR).