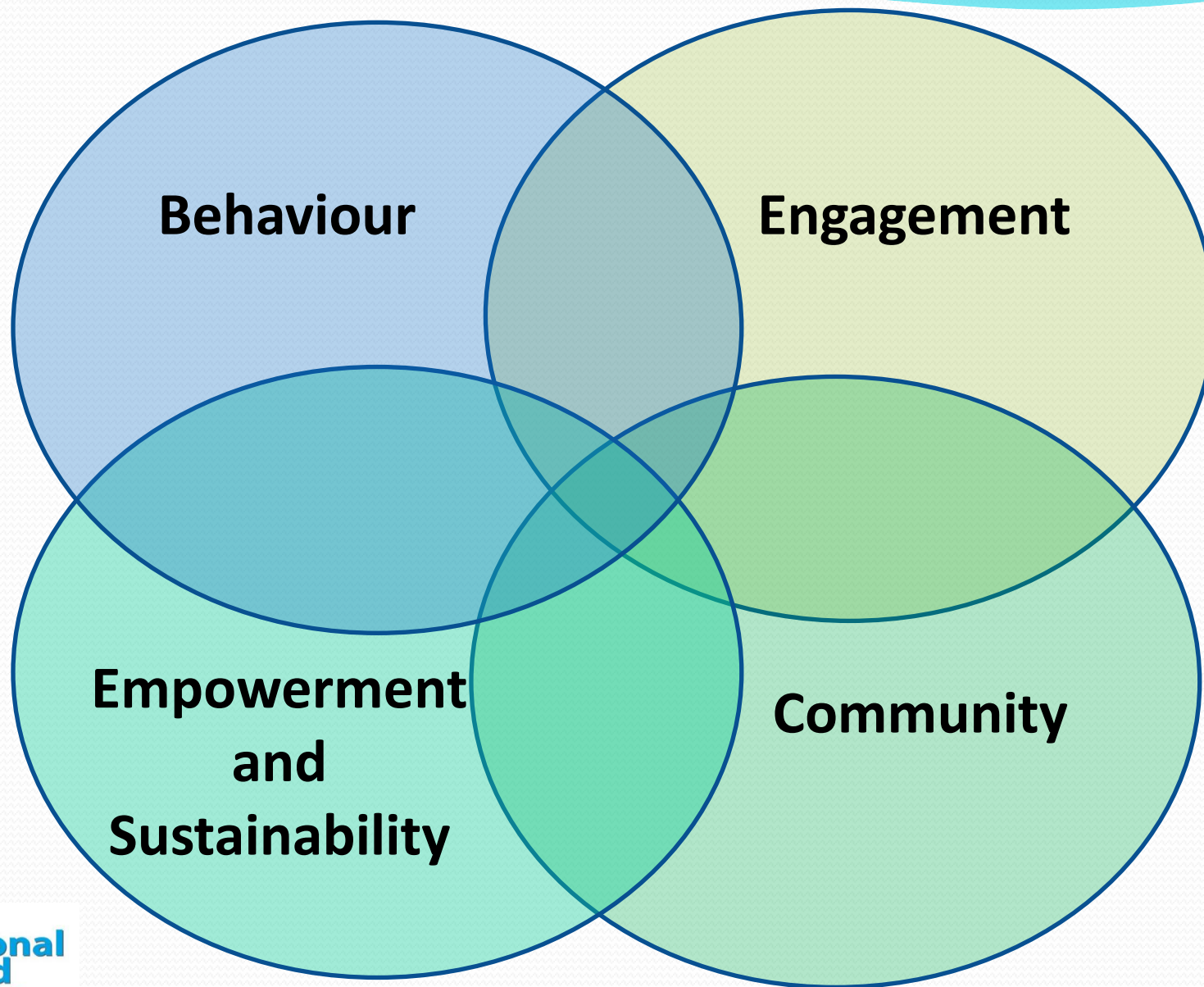


**Hannah Tankard**

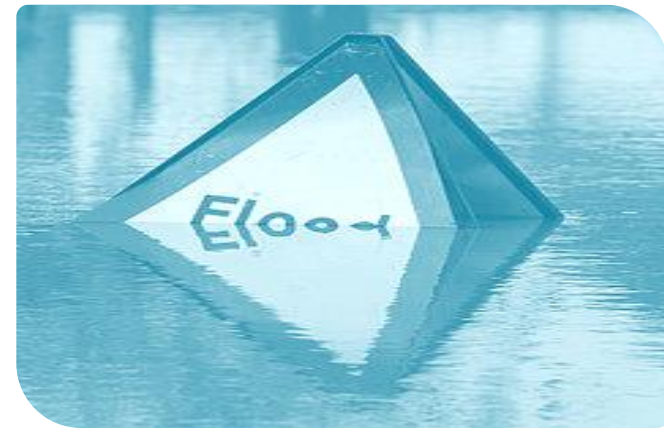


**‘Community Engagement’**









**RUTH WEBB**



**‘Working with communities’**



# The National Flood Forum and Working with Communities

The purpose of this presentation is not to revisit the academics of community engagement nor will it present the already well document 'best practices' of working with communities.

The purpose is to present the **KEY ELEMENTS** of 'working with communities' which are often not given high enough priority when addressing successful 'community' engagement tactics.



EMPOWRMENT



SUSTAINABIILITY

# Empowerment

Enabling communities to have the confidence to address their flood related issues and present them to the appropriate agencies and authorities.

## Key Factor: TIME

Anyone who has experienced flooding will tell you that **the process of acceptance and recovery does not simply happen overnight:**

**It doesn't happen in a few days,**

**It doesn't happen in a few weeks**

**It probably doesn't happen in a few months.**

**Example: West Sussex flooding in June 2012.**

# Sustainability

On the same theme as 'empowerment' being grounded in the temporal dimensions, we can also discuss the key element of 'Sustainability'

**What can be done to ENABLE and EMPOWER communities to continue to work on behalf of their wider community, when they do not get paid for all their dedication and hard work?**

**Key Factor: Group to Group, Community to Community support.**

Building a strong network of support by encouraging relationships with other Flood Action Groups. In West Sussex, we link our groups to each other, encouraging communication and support.

We also link them with other flood action groups outside of West Sussex

# Bring the elements together:

**SUSTAINABILITY** and **EMPOWERMENT** should be supported by all agencies and authorities. Beyond the scopes of 'work packages' or 'project objectives'

We have to make sure that communities are involved and communicated with on any issues that are relatable to their flood risk.

**EXAMPLE: Environment Agency: Solent & South Downs Resilience Team Advisor, Joanne Higgs:** Continually thinking about and identifying opportunities that Flood Action Groups can be included in. Rain gardens, river clean ups etc.



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/environment-agency/sets/72157638079193564/>



