**Flooding Update – Elford 10.00pm Saturday 09/12/2023**

**The current Flood Alert again means that we should be vigilant but low profile whilst ensuring that any impending threat can be effectively dealt with but with the least disruption to village life. However despite the river being back on the rise for an hour or two there was no repeat of the last event where the PS could not establish a steady automatic state of pumping giving rise to concerns. The PS has operated without the need for manual intervention by EA staff. As always when I am here I will continue to watch and monitor the situation here on the ground while an ‘Alert’ is in place. There was no repeat of the flooding on the A513 as I drove the route during the worst of the period and despite there being a three week closure notice the road has been open since the flooding subsided and the road cleared itself. These events occur quite regularly and pass most villagers by without concern and in most cases even them even being aware.**

**One issue that has concerned me is that there is ‘not a jot’ of storm water being retained by the balancing pond. Whilst the flooding events are nowhere near the design event there have been a short passages of rainfall that I would have expected to have at least shown a drop of water being retained in the balancing pond i.e. when the flow into the pond exceeds 6 l/s. That of course depends on the upper hydro-brake being in in place and operational. While I have not employed any systematic monitoring I am aware that even when the developer had to do extra drainage work at plots 5/6 when garage flooding occurred demonstrating severe run-off from the grassed areas there was no water retained in the pond area? This could indicate that the controlling hydro-brake may not be in place thus allowing all water in the system to discharge to the lower chamber and the river. As the lower chamber has not its lid during these events it could indicate that the lower hydro-brake may not be in place or may not be operative allowing all storm water run-off from the site to run unabated into the river contrary to the planning permission. This needs checking? Again these deductions are merely speculative but they may indicate proof of our assertions about the storm design and its potential shortcomings. Of course there is always the opportunity for the report to be tested at any time of severe rain and we should keep an eye on the operational position.**

**These operational events could usefully be recorded for the benefit of future wardens allowing them to understand the idiosyncrasies of the system during live event. There has been a change in EA personnel and we need to be cognisant of that fact as despite having a specialist engineer on site they do not always know how or why certain things happen with the control mechanisms of our system as it is definitely non-standard here in the village. We are the local knowledge base, it’s our village so we need to stay sharp.**

**Talk soon, well after Xmas, have a good one!**