

Elford Flood Alert Update – 10.00am 23/10/2023

While the Flood Alert has yet to be lifted on the Lower Tame which includes the river flood plain by the village conditions are improving quickly. The Pumping Station (PS) operated perfectly throughout the flood event and again we should as a community be grateful for the support provided by the Environment Agency for us. This support enables us not only to be protected at times of flooding but also maintains our ability to secure house insurance at a reasonable prices which in turn supports house values in the village.

I have not yet obtained the precise volume figures for this latest event but in the past events of this magnitude have required the PS to pump over half a million tonnes of water..... that is not a misprint the pump has lifted 500,000 cubic metres of water (at 1 tonne each) into the river from the Green Brook. It was operating at midnight last night so may have pumped even more water this time!

The EA engineers were in attendance at the PS prior to the event fully unfolding despite the PS operating automatically just to check that all was well while there was time to take remedial action should any have been necessary. The village has over the last fifteen years benefitted from over half a million pounds worth of investment in the Green Brook PS, culvert and channel up to the A513 thanks to the brook being made 'Main River' by the EA. As a village we all need to ensure that that investment and all it provides to us a community is maintained and protected. This was only possible thanks to the help of politicians at all levels from our own Parish Council through the District and County Council members and ultimately those responsible for the Environment Agency.

The Parish Council team tasked with supporting the EA in their action was again called into its 'local contact' monitoring role which ensures not only that everything goes smoothly but that the EA phones are kept as clear as possible. It also ensures that the village Flood Plan is developed in the light of actual event experience. Generally the team maintains a degree of supervision throughout the period of the event including throughout the night. For this last event I would particularly like to thank Gary Delderfield and James Oakley for taking the frontline role this weekend and once again the EA for their commitment to the flood security of our village.

Elford Parish Council Flood Team