

What Happened In East Bridgford on Tues 23rd July 2013

At about 18:30 on 23/7 a massive thunderstorm hit the village and between 3 & 4 inches (7 – 9cm) of rain fell over the next hour. That is over a month's rain in one hour.

Flash flood waters swept through East Bridgford focussed on Kneeton Road and Main Street. We are aware of at least 30 houses that have been affected. One on Trent Lane has had part of its front wall blown out by the force of water, with the contents of two rooms swept down the lane.

The length of Kneeton Road had blocked drains and culverts, and the full force of water swept down the road. At the bottom the flood went into at least 5 properties. Part of the flow deviated into the gully behind Cuttle Hill and in through the back door and out through the front wall of the unfortunate property on Trent Lane.

Another focus of flooding was around Brickyard Lane. The storm gully on the junction of the lane and Main St overflowed with a mixture of sewage and storm water to a greater extent than ever before. Two properties were flooded. The overflow, plus water from elsewhere, flowed back along Brickyard Lane, combined with the flow from Walnut Tree Lane to flood down Springdale Lane and into 2 properties down there. This drain is the responsibility of Severn-Trent Water. Your Parish Council have been pressing Severn-Trent about this problem; we have subsequently had an on-site meeting with a senior manager from ST.

Elsewhere a number of other properties have suffered from flash flooding from land immediately adjacent. There appears to have been exceptional run off from the playing field, with 3 houses and the school (quite badly) affected.

Trent Lane took the full flow of water from Kneeton Road and Main St, and the foliage either side indicates the flow was half a metre (18 inches) deep. In places the road surface is buckled and there was debris, and furniture strewn all the way down to the river. Two drain covers were pushed out and carried away and all the side drains filled with silt.

At the bottom the bridleway leading to the boat yard was blocked by clay from landslips on the bank below the chalet/ bungalows in Bridgford Court, and part of that site is precarious – particularly the decking. Six properties have suffered from subsidence, and inspections are on-going to determine if they are safe, and what remedial work is required.

Further along at least two more landslips on the cliffs above the river can be seen, and several trees are leaning dangerously. All the footpaths in that direction were closed until inspected and proven safe. This will last at least until the end of August. We already know major repairs are needed to the footpaths in places.

All over the village, gravel has been swept out into the roads and this has filled many of the storm gullies. On Kneeton Road lots of the drains and the culverts were totally full of silt and gravel, as were many on Walnut Tree Lane, Kirk Hill, Trent Lane, Browns Lane, College Street and Main Street. We have succeeded in getting them cleared out before it rains again. In places the pavements have

been lifted. Great drifts of gravel & silt obstructed the bottom part of Trent Lane, which was closed for several days. That is now removed.

At time of writing Trent Lane remains closed due to the work required to the damaged house. Subsequent inspections showed that the embankment carrying the A6097 down to Gunthorpe Bridge had become de-stabilised and urgent piling work was needed to prevent a collapse. As a precaution NCC closed one half of the road with a traffic light controlled single lane in operation. This caused massive tailbacks in the rush hours, including on Kirk Hill. This was likely to last until the middle of September, before repairs are complete.

The PC and I express our sympathies to all households affected, and our thanks to the many folk who turned out to help with the clear up, with special thanks to the crew from the boatyard who produced equipment, vehicles etc.

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