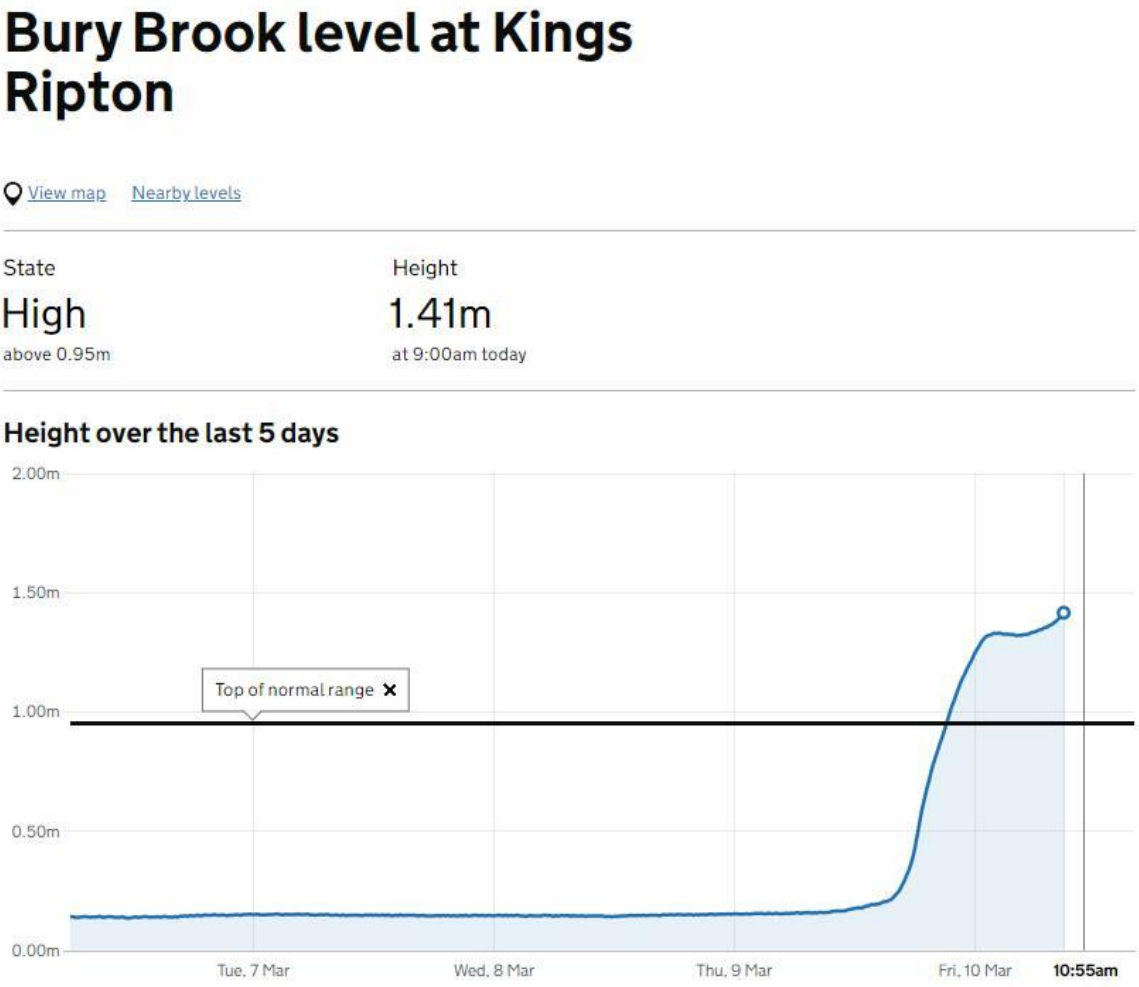
# Broughton Flood Action Group Report for the Parish Council July 2023

**Flooding in the Village**

Thankfully, in the two and a half years since at least 16 houses in the village flooded in December 2020, we have not come close to an event of this scale. On 10 March 2023, the Environment Agency issued a Flood Alert for the Bury Brook and levels rose sharply through the morning. Our flood wardens alerted people on Bridge Road and Causeway Road, cars were moved and one resident helped to install their flood guard. We reported Causeway Road becoming impassable to the Police as per our policy. Updates were posted on the village Facebook page and via WhatsApp.

The river at Kings Ripton peaked around midday at a level of 1.5m, short of the 2.5m level recorded on 23 December 2020. I am not aware of any other impacts of the high river levels but the event did provide an opportunity to test our village response which was proactive and proportionate.




**Broughton Flood Action Group**

We held a public meeting in the village hall on 10th November 2022. This was well attended, mostly by those who had been previously affected. This will become an annual meeting, to raise awareness at the onset of the winter 'flood season'. The draft Flood Action Plan was shared with those present for comment, and was subsequently circulated around the village electronically, with 40 printed copies provided for those on Bridge Road and Causeway Road who are most at risk. Our thanks to the Entertainment Committee who covered the cost of the printed copies.

Ben Benstead and Ian Scotney have volunteered as flood wardens for Causeway Road and Bridge Road respectively.

**Equipment Pool**

Through grants from Cambridge County Council and the Environment Agency, we now have the following equipment to assist villagers:

- 5 No. Dirty-Water submersible pumps with 20m hose each
- 5 No. Wet & Dry vacuum cleaners
- Drainage rods and manhole lifting keys

**Water Level Sensors**

Through our relationship with Cambridge County Council (CCC), Broughton was offered the opportunity to trial new water level sensors which would alert residents to rising levels in the Bury Brook. The trial has been slow to commence but two sensors are now planned, at the footbridge near the jail and downstream on Illings Road bridge. Due to poor mobile phone signal, a gateway must be installed and the village hall has been identified as the best location. Nick Moulton is kindly assisting CCC with access to the hall and any maintenance agreements required.

**Modelling and Natural Flood Management**

At our request, the Environment Agency (EA) has been modelling new profiles of the Bury Brook through the village to determine any flood benefit. We await the results but these are unlikely to show significant benefit. Instead, installing woody dams or other Natural Flood Management features upstream of Broughton may help ‘slow the flow’ into the village. The EA have been on site to consider options. The EA will provide the findings of the modelling study and an update on NFM progress in the next few weeks.

David Cobby