

APPENDIX E

SECTION 19 REPORT – TOLLERTON – FEBRUARY 2020

Introduction

Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states:

1. On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:
 - (a) Which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have relevant flood risk management functions.
 - (b) Whether each of those Risk Management Authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.
2. Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) of Section 19 it must:
 - (a) Publish the results of its investigation.
 - (b) Notify any relevant Risk Management Authorities.
3. The objective of this report is to investigate which Risk Management Authorities had relevant flood risk management functions during the flooding in February 2020 and whether the relevant Risk Management Authorities have exercised, or propose to exercise, their risk management functions (as per section 19(1) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010).
4. The Risk Management Authorities with a responsibility for this flooding incident are Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Nottinghamshire County Council as Highways Authority (Via East Midlands Ltd.), and Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC).
5. It should be noted that this duty to investigate does not guarantee that flooding problems will be resolved and cannot force others into action.

Background

6. Over the weekend of the 15th and 16th of February 2020 Storm Dennis hit parts of Nottinghamshire with 34mm (an average month's worth) of rain falling in 48 hours. Across the UK a record 594 flood warnings and alerts were in place over the weekend with 38 flood warnings and 16 flood alerts across Nottinghamshire as shown in Figure 2 below. Storm Dennis followed Storm Ciara which had hit the previous week bringing heavy rain and winds of over 90mph resulting in more than 220 flood warnings and alerts in place across England. Both storm events followed some 6 months of persistent and often heavy rainfall across the UK.

During Storm Dennis, Via East Midlands Ltd. (on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council) facilitated 51 road closures, placed over 70 flood signs on the network to warn motorists and delivered over 4000 sandbags.

Storm Dennis is believed to have caused the worst winter floods in recent times, in part because the rain was so widespread but also because the ground was already saturated from Storm Ciara the previous week. It triggered a record-breaking number of Environment Agency flood warnings and alerts in England on Sunday the 16th.

A major incident was declared at 07:00 on Sunday the 16th by the Tactical Co-ordinating Group.

With the ground already saturated following one of the wettest autumn and winter periods on record, the heavy rain that fell on the 16th of February resulted in extensive flooding across the Nottinghamshire area including Tollerton, a village with a population of approximately 1900 at the 2011 Census.



Figure 1. Location Plan

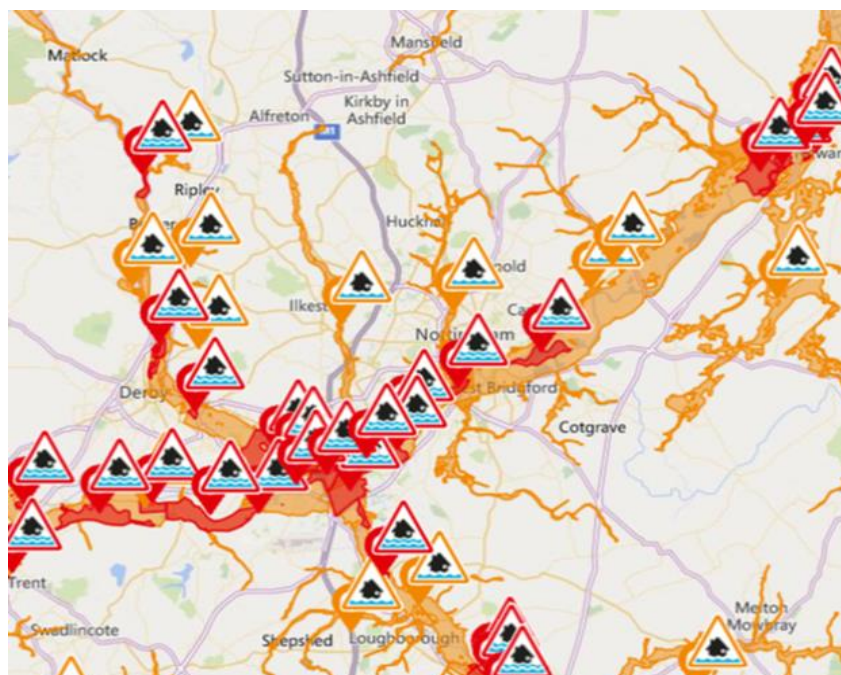


Figure 2. Flood Warnings and Alerts Issued during February 2020

On the 16th of February 2020 following the prolonged period of heavy rainfall, parts of Tollerton suffered a significant flood event with 14 reported incidents of internal property flooding. The flooding also affected a number of gardens, curtilages and the public highways in the village to the extent that both Tollerton Lane and Cotgrave Lane were closed due to the severity of the flooding. The flooding experienced replicated the events of November 2019.

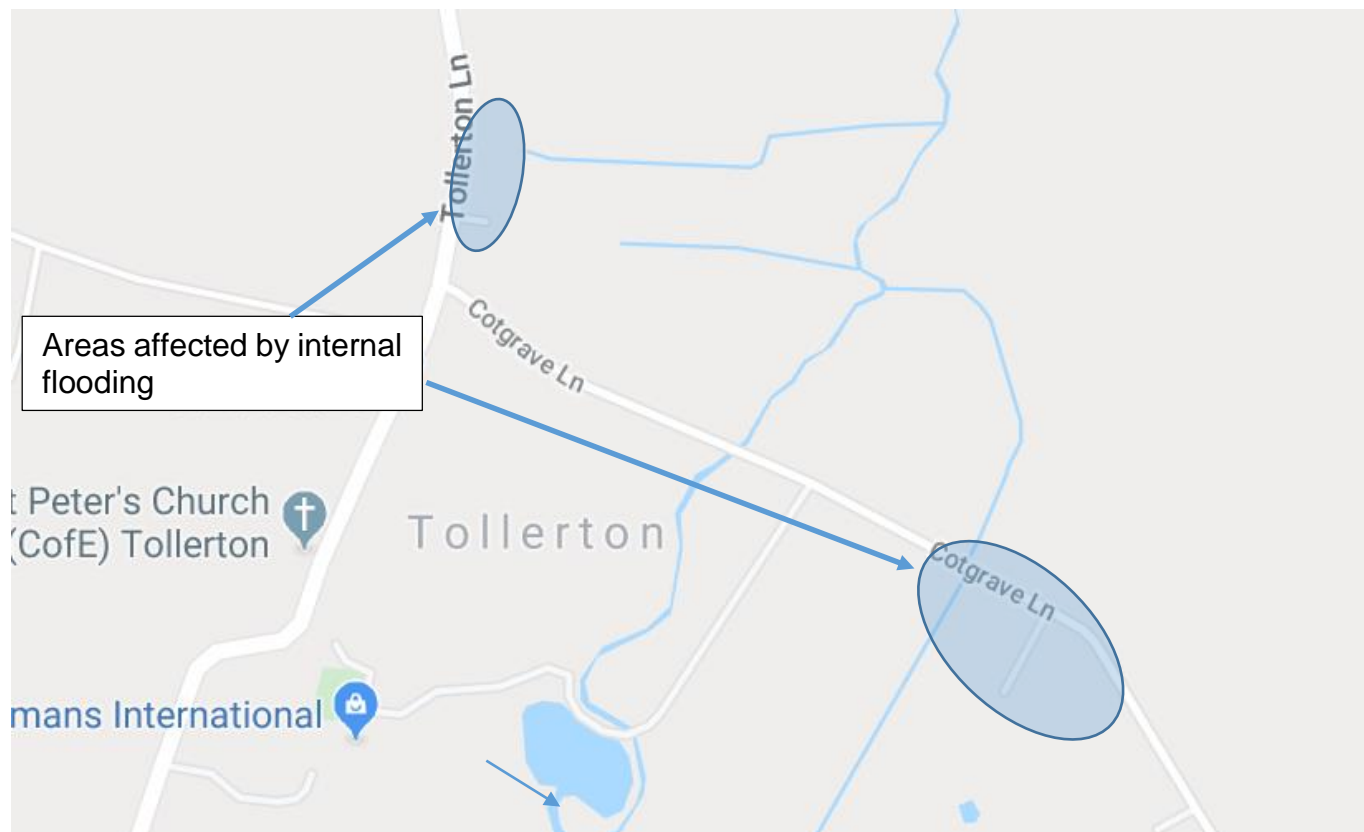


Figure 3. Plan highlighting areas affected by internal flooding

Summary of flooding and its causes

7. The flooding in February mimicked that of November 2019 and as such the fundamentals of this report are the same as that published for the November 2019 event. As part of our proactive response we were in the process of carrying out investigations into the surface water assets in the area affected when the February event occurred. These investigations were completed in April and an action plan has been developed that recommends short and medium term proposals to reduce the risk and consequences of repeat incidents. This action plan will be shared with all affected by the flooding once the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.

The areas of Tollerton affected are served by a mixture of highway drainage assets and a network of surface water culverts and ditches, and are surrounded by fields as shown on Figure 4 below. It must be noted that there are other watercourses and culverts that help drain the area and that are likely to have contributed to some of the flooding but are not shown on Figure 4. As part of our follow up to the flooding in November these assets have been the subject of detailed investigations that were underway when the February flooding occurred and concluded in March 2020.

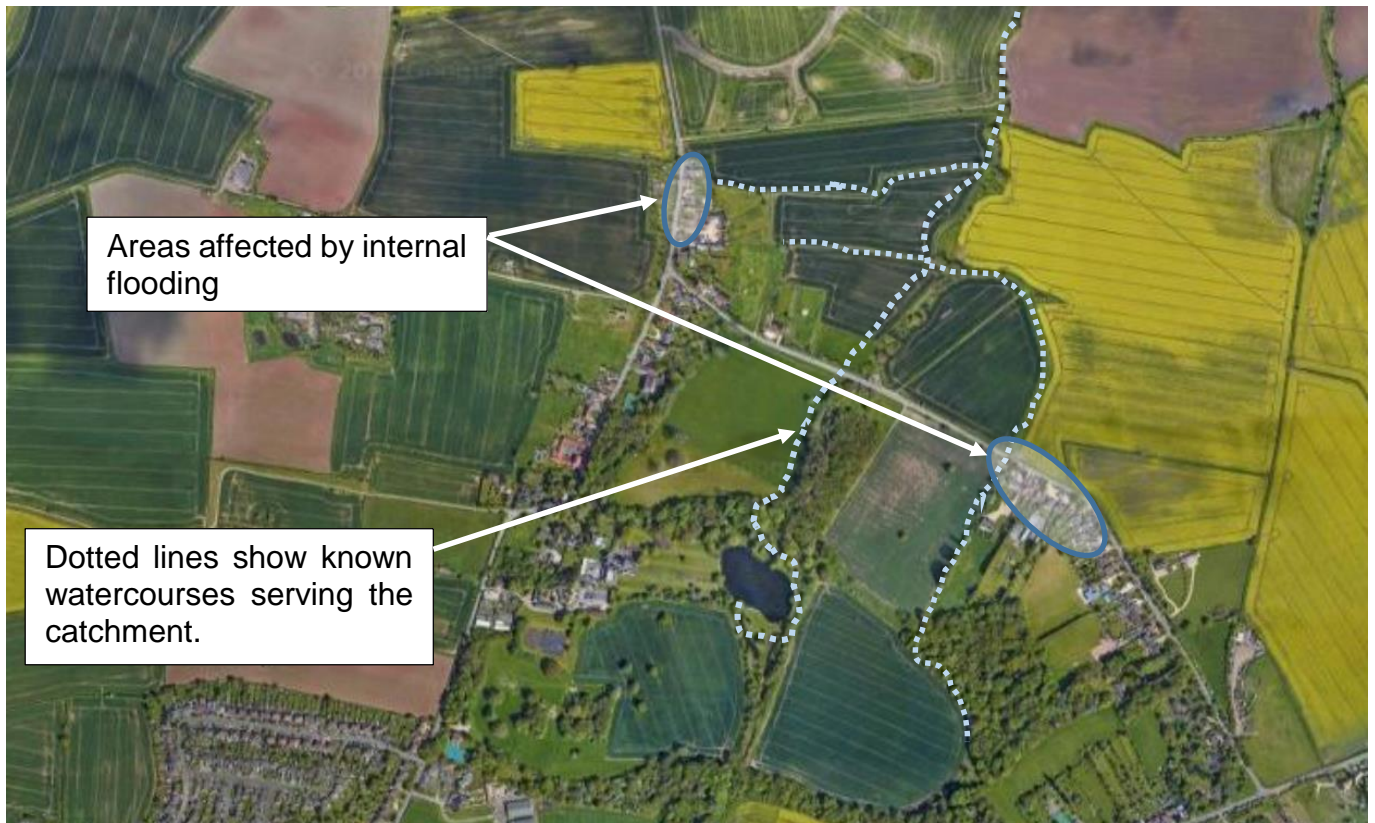


Figure 4. Plan showing watercourses and rural nature of catchment

During the rainfall all the surface water assets were overwhelmed resulting in flooding of properties. The flooding was exacerbated due to run off from the surrounding fields; the impact of which was worsened by the saturation of ground following the prolonged period of rainfall. Indeed, in many instances across the County during this period areas that were normally permeable were behaving as almost impermeable due to ground saturation.

Figure 5 shows the topography of the area and the surface water flow paths.

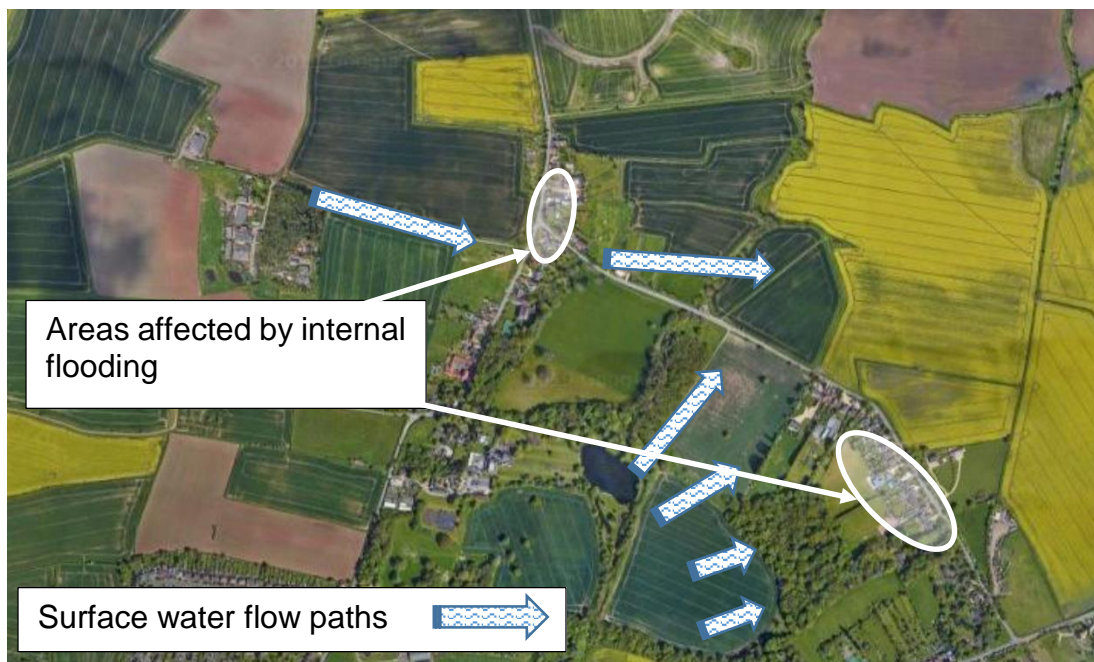


Figure 5. Catchment and natural surface water flow paths

Figure 6 overleaf shows extracts from the Environment Agency’s flood risk maps where the predicted flooding is very similar to the areas actually affected by the flooding. The discrepancies are likely to be down to the level of accuracy used in the mapping and also influenced by drainage assets operating outside of their optimal levels due to blockages.

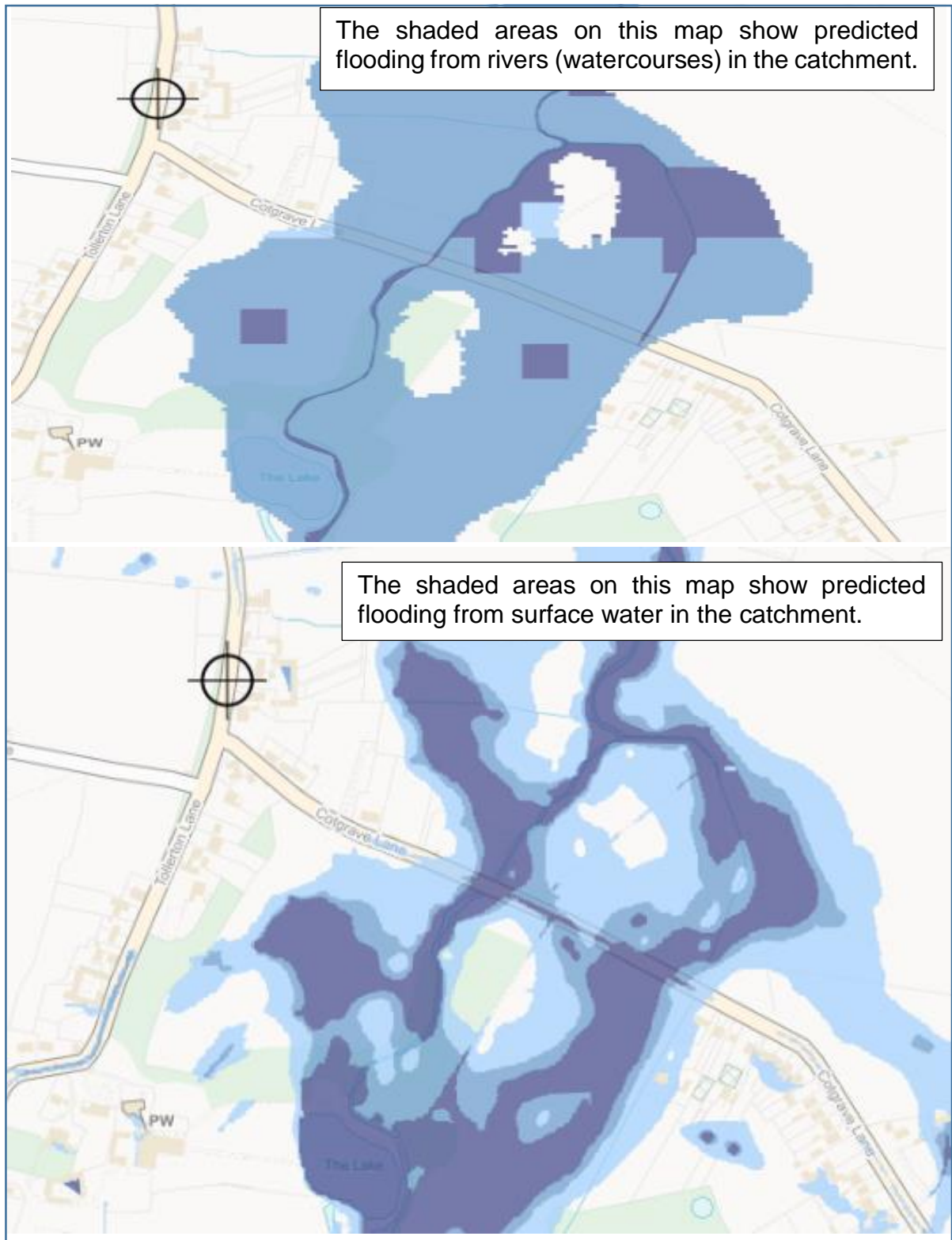


Figure 6. Extract from the Environment Agency’s flood risk maps for the area. The darker the shading, the higher the risk of flooding

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

8. Nottinghamshire County Council

a) Lead Local Flood Authority

- i. Investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results of such investigations.
- ii. Play a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event.
- iii. Lead Local Flood Authorities also have a duty to determine which risk management authorities have relevant powers to investigate flood incidents to help understand how they happened, and whether those authorities have or intend to exercise their powers.
- iv. By working in partnership with communities, Lead Local Flood Authorities can raise awareness of flood risks.
- v. Lead Local Flood Authorities should encourage local communities to participate in local flood risk management.

b) Emergency Planning

- i. If a flood happens, all local authorities are 'category one responders' under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.

c) Highway Authority (VIA East Midlands Ltd. on behalf of The Nottinghamshire County Council)

- i. Maintenance of the public highways including highway drainage assets.
- ii. Provided site-based presence and investigations immediately following the event.

9. Rushcliffe Borough Council

- a) Category one responder under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

10. The following lists the actions taken by each Risk Management Authority in response to the flooding both in the immediate aftermath as well as in the longer term:

a) Nottinghamshire County Council:

- i. Initiated and co-ordinated Emergency Planning procedures.
- ii. Delivered sandbags to affected residents and facilitated emergency road closure.
- iii. Carried out (and continue to carry out) investigations on culvert and watercourses in vicinity of flooded properties and checked highway gully connectivity / condition.
- iv. Liaison with local landowners to help facilitate improvements to riparian owned watercourses.

- v. Liaison with Parish Council and offer of future support to promote and encourage local flood risk awareness and management.
- vi. Administered Flood Hardship Fund.
- vii. Initiated and led the Section 19 Flood Investigation.

b) Rushcliffe Borough Council

- i. Provided emergency response support in management of flooding event.
- ii. Delivered sandbags to affected residents.
- iii. Managed and continue to manage recovery in affected Rushcliffe communities.
- iv. Administered the flood hardship fund and Community recovery grant.
- v. Administered council tax and business rate relief grant scheme.
- vi. Actively engaged in the Section 19 Flood Investigation.
- vii. Continues to administer the property flood resilience grant scheme.
- viii. Arranged additional emotional support for residents through British Red Cross team visits to the community.

Additional information and future actions

11. All the Risk Management Authorities involved in this event are committed to continuing the investigations into the causes of this incident. Those investigations may identify further actions not listed below.
12. Where appropriate Nottinghamshire County Council and the Environment Agency administer a Flood Warden scheme, including supporting the provision of local sandbag stores, and a Community Flood Signage Scheme in communities at risk of potential flooding. All equipment and training is provided for free should there be sufficient volunteer interest in the community. Further information on these services are available on Nottinghamshire County Council's website.
13. The local community spirit and resilience during the flooding must be recognised as without their efforts the impacts of the flooding could have been worse.
14. Rushcliffe Borough Council administer a flood resilience store grant scheme to encourage community resilience. Grants of up to £1050 are available to Parish Councils.
15. NCC have completed further investigations into the network of surface water assets in the catchment and as part of this have completed some cleansing of assets in the area. We will be reviewing the information that these further investigations has provided and use it to support a plan of action for reducing the risk and consequences of future events. Our proposal is to share this information with the residents either through the Parish Council or with a residents group direct. Following the flooding in November an offer to support the Parish Council was given however as we have had no formal response to this offer as yet it will be reissued in the hope that we can work collectively to share knowledge, increase resilience and reduce the risk and consequences of future events.
16. As the Lead Local Flood Authority we have witnessed and have experience of how flooding devastates communities. The most vulnerable in the community will be our priority. NCC will continue to work closely with partners and communities to identify ways of proactively reducing the risk, likelihood and consequences of future flooding events.