Status of Flood Defence at Ewyas Harold

7th July 2026

At the time of writing there has been no action to speak of by any agency to mitigate flooding in the River Monnow catchment area.

In spite of a meeting with senior Environment Agency and Hereford County Council officials in the presence of our MP, Jesse Norman, in early spring no action on the ground has been taken.

Subsequent visits by staff members of the above agencies have resulted in a small number of initiatives being mooted, none of which have been commenced.

1) Cleaning of the pipes etc where the Dulas Brook enters the River Dore at Pontrilas – currently no action has been taken because the EA cannot agree traffic control with Hereford Council and the Highways Agency. To date no action has been taken.
2) Putting in place a new drain from the main road past the old garage into the Dulas Brook. To date no action has been taken.
3) Filling in the hole under the bridge by the shops and fish and chip shop that was caused by the large tree stump that was stuck in the floods and repairing the fallen wall below the bridge. Permits are being sought to allow the work to be undertaken, and M Group (formerly Balfour Beatty) are looking to put out tenders for the work, but they have to change their tendering process and firms to be in line with Hereford Council. To date no action has been taken.
4) The EA has put forward the idea of installing a debris catcher into the Dulas Brook above the village to prevent large debris from flooding down into the village. An initial site inspection has been made.

Apart from these measures none of the proposals drawn up by the flood defence group have been accepted.

One of the main issues faced by the communities in the Monnow catchment is the number of agencies that are involved in managing the waterways and any work needed to mitigate flooding:

The Environment Agency

Natural Resources Wales

Hereford County Council

Monmouth County Council

The Highways Agency

The Wye and Lugg Drainage Board

We have written to Defra and the Rivers Minister, Emma Hardy, on two occasions highlighting the issue that we face and asking for the minister to visit and see for herself the situation on the ground. We have not had a satisfactory answer and will write again to try and maintain as much pressure as possible.

The bottom line is that over 9 months after the most recent flooding in November 2025 no action whatsoever has been taken to mitigate flooding in the catchment area in spite of numerous efforts to press the relevant authorities.