

Emergency Response Planning: notes from the meeting, 9th November 2019

- 12 Parishioners attended, including several Parish Councillors

Most likely emergencies the village might face (listed in terms of likelihood):

- Severe weather (snow and ice; strong winds) leading to loss of access to shops and potential loss of power or commodity shortages for >24 hours
- Loss of power for >24 hours
- Fire (residences or field or both)
- Major incident on the A12 leading to its closure: Holton St Mary and our village hall / some residences may be asked to act as safe places pending repatriation of stranded motorists to their homes / destinations etc. - we need to liaise with the VH Committee to register with the emergency services for this
- Major accident on the B1070 running through the village (eg HGV collision; tanker-spillage) leading to road closure

Comments from the meeting

Not all residents have access to the Village Facebook or to a mobile telephone. They rely on land-lines or face to face for communication. Conversely, many do not read Quartet (maybe a generational thing) - conclusion - we cannot rely on just one approach.

The question of supporting vulnerable residents. 'vulnerable' was not specifically defined but could/may include those:

- Living alone and aged >75
- Aged >75
- With a disability or significant health issue (permanent or temporary)
- With no means of communication other than a land-line
- Other self-declared support needs

Their identification and any 'registration' can only be with their consent, including the PC's Emergency Situation Officer (ESO) holding a list of their names, addresses and any relevant details. This needs to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

In the absence of consent, discussion suggested residences should still be known to the ESO and we would probably attempt to inform residents if there was an emergency in which their life or wellbeing was considered to be at significant risk.

The 'good neighbour' approach was felt to be the most appropriate response to most emergencies.

However, there was also a consensus for an update to the 2003 documents that were set up and a more formal structure and team to coordinate, in case of a "major

incident". It was suggested we would divide the village into four areas with two people leading for each area.

The suggested areas (and people - subject to their agreement):

- Bacon's Green, Sandpit Lane down to Laits Barn and up to and including Holton Hall and Corpus Christi Cottages (Claire Rowan and Erik Ellis)
- Glen Haven to Hall Cottage, Field View to (and including) Church Square (Richard Appleton and Sally Thurlow)
- Roseacre and Meadow View (Mark Anderson and Keith Jeffreys)
- Loen to Four Sisters (inc slip road) and Honeycrest to (and including) Stubbins Lane (Jan Cheng and Richard Noel)

These names and village areas need to be confirmed (Keith and Richard were not at the meeting).

There was general agreement that a register should be made of those inhabitants who would be happy to volunteer their services or resources in the event of an emergency – e.g. tractors, 4x4 vehicles; chain saws; alternative heating or cooking sources; camp-beds; sleeping bags; blankets.

Follow up Activities

- Sally will report back formally at the forthcoming Parish Council Meeting
- Claire Rowan will produce a register (to include self-declared people who may need help) that can be placed in the Village Hall at forthcoming social events to encourage their completion.
- The Parish Clerk will continue to press Anglia Water to give the PC a plan of the fire hydrants throughout the village and for the plates on the hydrants to be replaced where missing (first requested by the PC over 12 months ago after the Fire Service struggled to locate a hydrant during the barn fire).
- Richard and Claire will also arrange to meet with the business units by Holton Farm to see if they have any collective plan in the event of an emergency in their 'campus', possibly designating a fifth area.
- The Parish Council will contact Raydon to share our approach when it is a little more mature.
- Jan will raise the proposed registration of the Village Hall with the emergency services to place on the list of locations for use in the event of a major emergency outside the Village