

Longney and Epney Parish Emergency Plan

Prepared by the Longney and Epney Parish Council (update of March 2010)

It's about Local Emergencies

Most emergencies we have to deal with are strictly local (our parish or ours and adjoining parishes). We have chosen to put in place our ability to deal with them locally as far as possible, and not to rely entirely on rapid and effective help from outside.

This plan has been developed in response to the Civil Contingencies Act of 2004 which recommends preparedness/resilience at the local level as an important factor in limiting damage, and also in response to concerns raised by residents about flooding.

District Emergencies and National Emergencies may (or may not) affect us but much of the following will apply to these as well.

Information held by the Parish Council

All Parish Councillors will have the following.:

- Access to SMS messaging system which sends an message labeled "emergency" by email or voicemail (or both) to all residents of the Parish who have given permission for their contact details to be used for this purpose.

What are we calling an emergency?

An event or an imminent event that requires urgent action by a significant number of people in the parish to avoid damage to persons or property - or in some cases - very significant inconvenience. Whether a particular event constitutes an emergency or not will often be a matter for judgement, and we are trusting Parish Councillors and individual residents to raise the alarm (see Stage 1 below) if they consider it reasonable to do so.

Emergencies which might affect us include -

Flood - regardless of source;

Snow warnings;

Major power failure (not scheduled) likely to last more than 6 hours;

Water cuts (not scheduled) like to last more 6 hours;

Major interruption to road access (accident, bridge breakdown);

A major hazard (e.g. burning vehicle with dangerous load within Parish or adjoining Parish);

When there is no power

If there is no power, most people will have no landline or computer access. Mobile networks can be overloaded or closed down during serious emergencies over wider areas.

In such cases the emergency message will be spread by door to door visits - splitting the village up between Parish Councillors.(to be discussed at June 2010 PC meeting).

Our Actions

Stage 1 - ASAP

Whoever first becomes aware of an emergency (because, for example, they have actually seen water flooding into the road such that it might become dangerous or impassable or threaten houses, or had a phone call from a resident or an official body, radio/TV - any source at all) contacts the Parish Emergency Coordinator (currently Roger Godwin) by phone. If Roger is not

available contact the Vice Chairman (currently Paul Dempster) by phone. Residents identifying an emergency event should contact any Parish Councillor who will proceed as above.

If possible, two Parish Councillors confer as to whether the event constitutes an emergency. If the emergency is critical (within 3 hours as above), one alone should make the judgement without delay.

The SMS is primarily sent out by the Emergency Coordinator after discussion with the Parish Chairman (if available). If not the Vice Chairman. If not, any other Parish Councillor - or just do it. In the event the Emergency Coordinator is already the Chairman, he should speak to the Vice Chairman or any other Parish Councillor.

The emergency message is composed and sent out as above. All emergency messages should include "alert your neighbours" and "The Emergency Contact Number is..." giving the mobile phone number of the person sending the message.

In the event the (formal) Emergency Coordinator is not available the co-ordinator for this particular event/emergency is the person who has sent the SMS and his/her number should be sent with the text.

They will act as parish hub for information/decisions, and should remain in that role until the immediate emergency is over.

The key at this first stage is that it's always better to do the above without delay. A false alarm is better than losing time.

Stage 2

Parish Councillors (or others co-opted as helpers) then split actions between them depending on the nature of the emergency. These might include:

- The emergency coordinator co-ordinates who is doing what and where and holds the number which residents can also contact.
- Ensure vulnerable households are contacted immediately by phone or visit (houses most likely to flood, people alone with children, older people, others) and there is someone to help them.
- Be on hand where sandbags are stored so people can collect them.
- Make temporary road signs and set up/direct traffic.
- Maintain contact with external (District/County/Emergency) services where necessary.
- Co-opt vehicles that can move around in eg flood conditions if required.
- Acquire supplies such as drinking water/other
- Appoint and equip "safe haven" within Parish (such as temporary accomodation above flood level)
- Other?

Longney and Epney Parish Council, March 2010.

Emergency Coordinator - Roger Godwin (tel)
Other Parish Councillors - (telephone nos)