

NALC Emergency Planning meeting – 29 March 2023

Report by J. Parish

Presenters -Finn Woodhill of Communities Prepared (communitiesprepared.org.uk) and an assistant Town Clerk whose Town Council has an Emergency Plan in place.

An Emergency Plan is basically about being prepared; by listing potential risks in the parish area, identifying what the Parish Council can do about these risks and building relationships with External Agencies and the local Community so that should an emergency arise, there is a plan in place to follow.

Listing potential risks

Risks can be identified by referring to your Parish Council Risk Register, the Community Risk Register (each Local Resilience Forum has one) and the UK Government Resilience Framework.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-government-resilience-framework>

What a Parish Council can do

This involves building relationships along a two-prong approach: making contact with the External Agencies and the Community (be it local groups, businesses etc).

The Parish Council is perfectly placed to be a facilitator to link up the community volunteers and the external agencies when an emergency arises.

Even for the Smaller Parish councils with limited capacity, it is beneficial to have an Emergency Plan in place; the Parish Council is a perfect link between the outside agencies and the community.

Some Parish Councils chose to link up with neighbouring councils and create a joint Emergency Plan.

Recent Examples

Covid was an example of local communities coming together during an Emergency and is the main reason why the government funding has been put in place.

If CCPC had an Emergency Plan in place during the recent Perenco Oil Spill Emergency in Poole Harbour, the External Agencies (the Environment Agency and Dorset Council) would have contacted our PC immediately (as part of our parish is affected). We could have then posted current advice to protect members of the community.

Starting a Plan

Check out the resources at communitiesprepared.org.uk

There is currently free training and support for communities to create an Emergency Plan from Communities Prepared; government funded.

There is a free workshop on 19th April.

<https://www.communitiesprepared.org.uk/crm/event/info/?reset=1&id=149>