

The Government require communities to become more resilient through Emergency Planning.

County level Resilience Forums bring together the utilities and emergency service providers and are now encouraging towns and parishes to establish their own groups and Community Emergency Plans.

Workshops were organised by Hampshire Association of Local Councils and I attended one earlier this year prompted in part by the number of incidents in and around the village: gridlock, unreliable Water pressure & Mains leaks and loss of electricity typically in stormy weather.

The Parish Council have formed a Subcommittee with the Purpose:

“To recommend to the Parish Council how the parish can become a more resilient community including: assessing and periodically reviewing resilience risks, developing resilience and emergency plans, taking action, monitoring and reporting progress on the resilience plan, monitoring any use of the emergency plan and reporting feedback.”

We have held two meetings so far and are exploring various situations:

- Loss of power
- Loss of water
- Road traffic Accident
- Gridlock (a frequent occurrence in the village)
- Severe weather (snow/storm)
- Major Fire
- Livestock escape
- Pandemic

We are also opening discussions with organisations/associations in the village to understand concerns and potential impacts as well as identifying resources that could be useful in an emergency.

Our intention is to put together a comprehensive plan as well as a quick reference guide for all households. As well as identifying guidance for what to do in an emergency it will also include hints and tips on how to be prepared in advance to minimise impacts.

We will distribute useful information as we proceed through the Newsletter rather than waiting for the published plan. You may have seen the article in the April Newsletter regarding the Priority Services Register.

You may also be aware of the WhatsApp Support Group that was established during Covid and has continued to operate with members posting incidents of potential concern to other villagers. Please let me have your mobile number if you are not already in the group.