

Crediton Emergency Plan Meeting

Wednesday, 7th December at 6.00 pm

Present: Cllr Andi Wyer, Cllr Frank Letch, Rebecca Hurst-Smith, Louise Martin, Andrew Tonkin, Ron Cuthbertson and John Higgs

Cllr Wyer introduced himself and thanked all for attending.

A broad discussion was held relating to the potential risks facing Crediton, in which the following were discussed:

- Fire hazards
- Flooding
- Snow

The group discussed how the public can report incidents, such as blocked drains. It was agreed the Devon County Council (DCC) report a problem system could be publicised via the Town Council Facebook page and Crediton Courier. The idea of setting up a new Facebook page dedicated to reporting problems was also considered.

The Assistant Clerk advised that the Council will shortly be attempting to join the Snow Warden Scheme again. It was requested for the Assistant Clerk to establish how many grit bins there are in Crediton.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to establish how many grit bins there are in Crediton.

The group discussed getting the Chamber of Commerce involved in the Emergency Plan to encourage shopkeepers to maintain the area outside their shop, by supplying shopkeepers with grit for example.

Ideas surrounding a telephone cascade system were discussed. One suggestion was to set up an answerphone message on the Town Council telephone during emergency situations to advise individuals on what to do/who to contact.

Cllr Wyer also suggested establishing a list of vulnerable people. He suggested whether some sort of form could be sent out with Council Tax bills.

Cllr Letch asked the Assistant Clerk to find out how members of the public can contact the duty officers at Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) & DCC in an emergency and whether there is a 24/7 service.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to establish what 24/7 services MDDC & DCC provide

It was agreed that the first step in making Crediton more resilient is to try and encourage an active community through a 'good neighbour scheme' in which neighbours look out for each other. The group agreed that in order to progress the plan a meeting should be held in the New Year, with invitations being sent to key community groups to get them on board. The following groups will be contacted:

- Crediton Courier & Mid Devon Gazette
- Crediton Chamber of Commerce
- Supermarkets - Coop/Tesco/Morrisons
- Schools
- Two Rotary Clubs
- Lions Club
- Free Masons
- Scouts, Guides & Brownies
- Air Cadets & Army Cadets

- Devon Senior Voice
- Sustainable Crediton
- Royal British Legion
- Football and Rugby Clubs
- Churches
- Young Farmers
- Parish Magazine
- Help the Aged/Age UK
- Crediton & District Swimming Club
- Crediton Twinning Association
- Boniface Allotments Association
- U3A
- CODS
- Graphic
- Jacksons

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to establish an appropriate meeting date for the end of January/beginning of February, starting at 6.00 pm, and invite all groups mentioned above. The invitation will explain that even if a representative cannot make the meeting, minutes can be circulated to ensure the group remains involved.

In addition, a separate meeting needs to be held with the Emergency Services in to discover what emergency plans they have in place.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to arrange meeting with Emergency Services.

Members agreed that the Town Council's website would be a great platform to provide the public with key information relating to preventing/dealing with emergencies including:

- Contact details for key stakeholders
- Emergency Services details
- Maps indicating emergency routes, grit bin locations etc.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to start updating the Town Council website to include helpful information for members of the public to refer to regarding emergencies.

Louise, Andrew and Andi volunteered to be part of the Snow Warden Scheme when it is up and running.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to forward all Snow Warden Scheme information to Louise, Andrew and Andi.

The meeting finished at 7.45 pm