



Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council Emergency Plan

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The Emergency Plan.

The purpose of an Emergency Plan is to provide a clear and workable framework which will enable the Parish Council and its representatives to respond to any emergency affecting the local area which posed significant danger to life, limb or property and with which the Emergency Services alone could not be expected to cope.

The plan should identify possible risks which could affect the local community and should also describe clear strategies for dealing with any associated emergencies. It should seek to examine all possible risks and evaluate the probability of the local community being affected by them.

It should, ideally, also include a list of local volunteers who would be prepared to offer their services and where appropriate, their equipment to assist the Parish Council in their actions.

Buildings should be identified which could provide, if necessary, shelter and accommodation for local people should the need arise.

A document offering practical advice for householders on how to prepare for and cope with specific emergencies has been prepared (Practical Advice for Coping with Emergencies) and should be made available to all residents, either in paper form or through the Parish Council Website.

Finally, a foolproof chain of command should be established so that in the event of an emergency occurring, practical help for those affected could be swiftly and effectively organised.

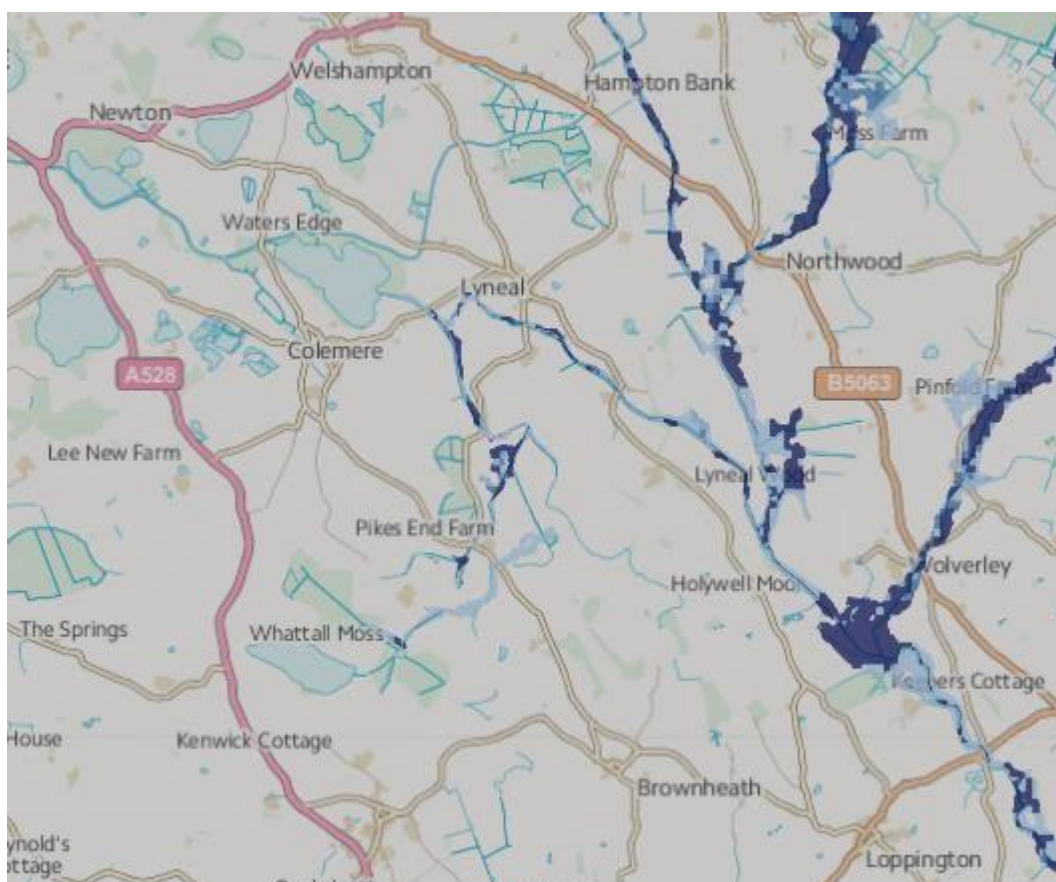
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Possible Risks

Flooding

Although localised flooding in the area served by the parish Council can cause inconvenience and annoyance, there are no properties where flooding could cause any significant risk to life, limb or property.

The map below shows the areas most liable to flooding within the Parish Council Boundaries.



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Industrial Accidents

The Parish Council area is predominantly rural and there is no industrial activity which could pose any significant risk to life, limb or property.

Severe Weather Incidents Including Prolonged Power Cuts

This is probably the most likely cause of the Parish Council Emergency Plan having to be put into operation.

The area served by the Parish Council has an unusually high proportion of narrow, unclassified and often single track roads which are particularly vulnerable to prolonged severe winter weather conditions and there are many isolated properties.

Because of the predominantly rural nature of the area, electrical power cuts occasioned by severe gales could take days, rather than hours to rectify, leaving local inhabitants without heating or lighting.

For example, in late November 2021, Storm Arwen caused widespread power cuts affecting most properties in the area served by the Parish Council with electricity being cut off for thirty six hours or more.

Local response was extremely good, with many residents taking it upon themselves to offer assistance to vulnerable neighbours.

In the case of prolonged severe winter weather, a network of volunteers should be established who possess vehicles capable of negotiating snowbound lanes and buildings capable of providing refuge for significant numbers of affected people should also be identified. In addition, local residents and businesses who possess equipment capable of snow clearing should be approached so that assistance can be quickly organised if required.

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Pandemics

The Coronavirus pandemic which began in early 2020, affected communities globally.

Local response was extremely good, again with many residents taking it upon themselves to offer assistance to vulnerable neighbours unable to risk shopping for food or medication for themselves.

Road Traffic Accident on the A495 Involving a Passenger Coach

In normal circumstances, the emergency services could be expected to cope unaided with any Road Traffic Accident (RTA), whatever the severity. However, an accident involving a coach on the A495 could leave the authorities with a considerable number of people with minor injuries, possibly many of whom would be badly shaken and would who would need on the spot treatment, shelter and refreshment whilst awaiting the arrival of replacement transport.

If such an event were to occur, the Welshampton Village Hall could be made available and volunteers called to assist.

Local Businesses Willing to Become Involved

The only substantial business in the Parish Council area is the Tudor Griffith Group, based at Wood Lane, adjacent to the A528.

The Company has indicated, via informal approaches, that it would be willing to use some of its heavy equipment to help unblock roads in the event of heavy snowfall.

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List of Vulnerable People

Ideally, a list of particularly vulnerable people could be compiled, including specific details of any special requirements so that in the event of the Emergency Plan having to be implemented, these people can be assisted as speedily as possible. However, compiling such a list could cause problems because of the Data Protection Act.

Perhaps a more practical approach would be to encourage all residents, through an article in the Parish Newsletter to make themselves aware of vulnerable neighbours and to offer help and assistance when necessary.

Chain of Command

In the event of an emergency occurring which required the implementation or the *possible* implementation of specific parts of the Emergency Plan, the Chair of the Council, the Councillor responsible for Emergency Planning and the Clerk to the Council should confer. If one or more of the above named are away or otherwise unavailable, any single one of these three should take the decision whether or not to act as required.

If action is required, volunteers should be contacted and allocated tasks and if necessary, those responsible for the allocated refuges should be asked to make them available.

Other Considerations

The Parish Council may wish to consider the provision of emergency generators to be available for the refuges if necessary.

If volunteers were unwilling or unable to provide these, the Council may wish to consider purchasing some.

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