

RESILIENCE & EMERGENCY PLAN SUB COMMITTEE

NOTES OF THE COMMUNITY MEETING

19 JUNE 2024 – 19.30 – 21.00

1. Present – Deb Muscat – Chair and facilitator
Ann Yarnold - Notes
16 parishioners
(All parishioners and stakeholders had received a general invite to this meeting.)
2. Welcome.
 - a) Deb Muscat explained the context for the meeting and the need to formalise a plan for future response by the parish council to events and emergencies which may occur within the parish. The parish is already very resilient and formalising detailed plans will increase the awareness and speed of response to any future issues.
 - b) The aim of the meeting was to explore with parishioners issues of concern from historic events and develop potential solutions which would be done by “break out” groups. This was to capture stories, identify actions and proposed solutions including what resources are available or would be required within the parish.
 - c) Deb explained that where such plans exist the community becomes safer, more resilient and the plan will also dovetail into Cumbria ACT which promotes community preparedness plans.
 - d) It was also emphasised that the plan is about repurposing capabilities for the short term and pulling together as a community so that any necessary actions can be spread amongst the parish and will not depend on just a limited number of people providing the support.
 - e) The plan is anticipated to cover events such as bad weather, isolations from lock downs i.e. pandemics, foot and mouth or other issues identified from tonight’s meeting based on previous events. Parishioners will then be asked identify the most effective way to put the plan into action i.e. leaflets, use of websites or social media, alert loops. It was explained that there would be an annual review by the Parish Council who have the overarching responsibility for the plan.
 - f) Deb also explained the need to be clear about the limits of the plan (scope) and community response in that –
 - It is anticipated to be very time limited i.e. short term
 - It will function within the limits of the parish boundaries
 - It will not replace existing emergency, council, or family responsibilities
 - It will not replace emergency plans for local businesses i.e. caravan parks, although there will be liaison with the business owners as part of the developing community plan

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3. Break out groups.

Exercise 1 - Issues from the past

- a) Parishioners were asked to identify main issues from the past including who and what was most affected and the impact to the community. Emphasis was to be placed on vulnerable communities and houses, not just vulnerable people, as this may be areas prone to flooding for example.
- b) The parishioners naturally broke into 3 groups – The sheets can be seen within the appendix.
 - Mawbray village feedback –
 1. Electrical outages and further problems as a result which were poor communications and lack of internet.
 2. Flooding risks highlighted and areas of flooding highlighted in map. This leads to road closures and access problems. Areas noted can be seen on the map in the appendix.
 - Salta, Edderside and Newtown –
 - i. Electrical outages and further problems as a result which were poor communications and lack of internet. All 15 dwellings in Salta are electric only so no gas back up. Freezers became useless and there was food waste.
 - ii. Inappropriate use of Hailforth Rd when coast road closed due to flooding or repairs. Heavy wagons using single track road. Flooding also on Overby/Tarns Road not just coast.
 - Outlying areas of parish –
 - i. Electrical outages and further problems as a result which were poor communications and lack of internet.
 - ii. Flooding risks highlighted and areas of flooding highlighted in map, in particular the gutter by West Farm.

4. Common themes regarding past issues from feedback –

- All three areas explained they were mostly self-sufficient and many of the farms had generators for power outages. Parishioners are mostly aware of their neighbours and historically step in to assist as occurred during the Covid Pandemic. The Pub had been particularly helpful during the January 2024 power outage and had provided a food hub.
- Each group identified similar issues and helpfully drew on a map the main areas of concern highlighting particularly vulnerable houses and roads. Shoreline management, field water drainage and coastal erosion were mentioned in all groups but this may be beyond the scope of the current planning meeting.

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The common issues were -

i. Communication –

Poor signal strength on mobile phones quickly impacted connectivity when electricity was down. This also impacted the internet so there was no means of summoning help or alerting family. Batteries on phones therefore ran down very quickly and could not be recharged. Analogue has been discontinued by all providers so there are no landline telephones which many people depended upon.

ii. Electricity –

Many homes are completely electric and are therefore dependent on this power source for heating, lighting and cooking. This is particularly problematic in the winter when the outages are more likely to occur due to storms. This prevents availability of hot food and when prolonged fridges and freezers become redundant resulting in food wastage.

iii. Flooding - Access due to icy roads and flooding, not just coastal flooding. The roads prone to flooding are highlighted in the appendix.

5. Exercise 2 – Gaps and solutions

Staying in the three groups further discussion was held around this topic as there is already much resilience which can be built upon.

a. Communication –

- Complete dependency on mobile phones with issues as described above. Some people had access to StarLink in January 2024 but this was only via BT and only after qualifying days without internet access.
- Information cascading has been done historically via word of mouth and local social media but many people do not have access and this becomes more problematic when there is no data or signal on their phones. It is also thought that there is no fibre anywhere in parish.
- Development of Social Networks or local Community Group to spread important information.

b. Electricity –

- Apart from Mawbray village there is no mains gas within the parish but the pub and village hall (Holme Cuthbert Hall) are located within the village.

c. Emergency Hub development - for duration of event only.

- **1st Choice - Village Hall** – As has not been flooded and has parking, kitchen and space.

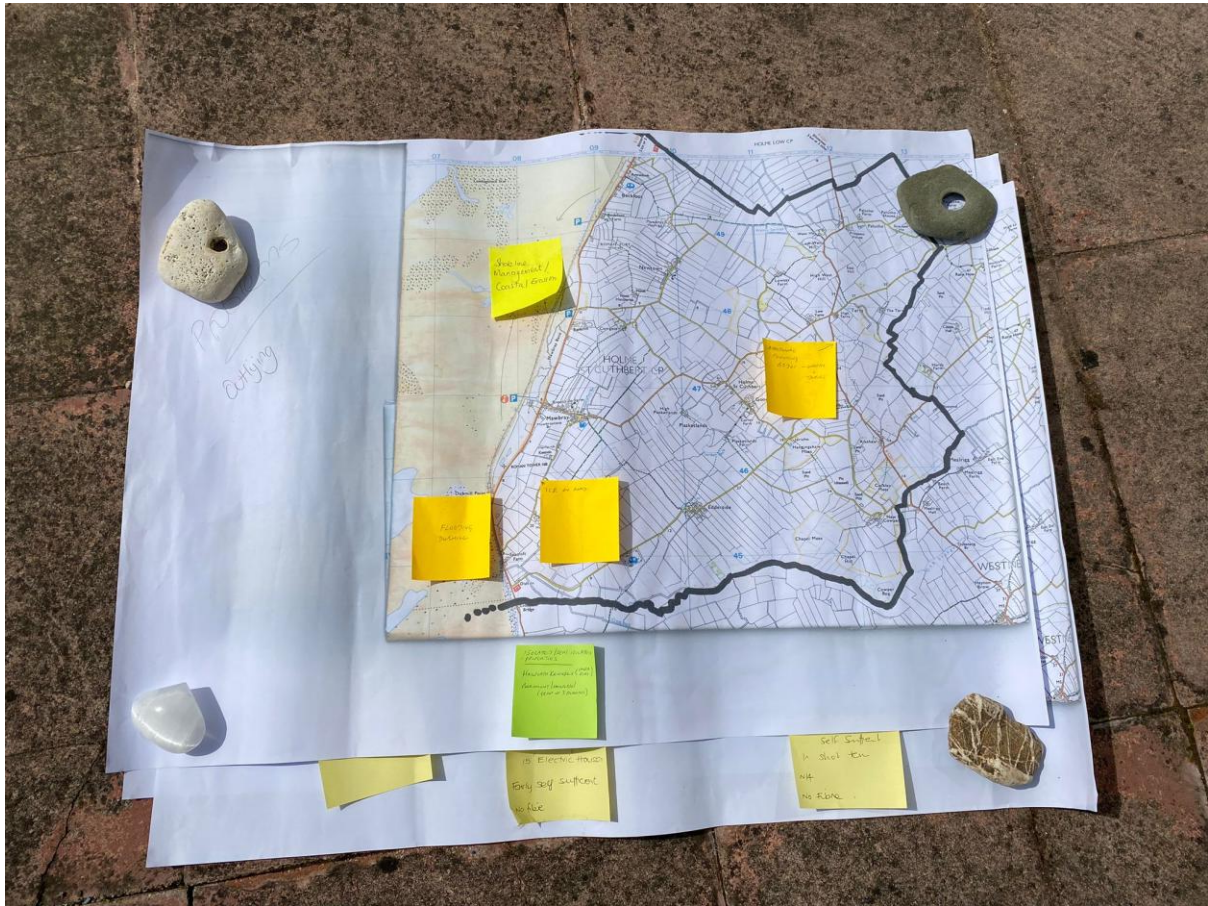
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- A generator would be required and we would need to work out who could provide this, how large it would need to be and how would it be fuelled. This would provide heating and lighting.
 - This would provide power to charge mobile phones for connectivity and safety and Business Continuity.
 - StarLink or other satellite capability to be explored for internet connectivity for telephones and PCs.
 - Access to hot drinks and food. Although there is no capacity within the current hall for freezers; food could be used collectively to prevent wastage, especially with power outages of long duration.
 - NB This would not be dependent on the Hall Committee for functionality but a team of people will be identified to fulfil the above.

 - **2nd Choice – Pub** – The pub is centrally placed on some of the highest ground in the village and has gas, a local shop, food and pod, parking.
 - There is less space than the village hall however it has a fully working professional kitchen and has successfully been used as a food hub in previous power outages.

 - **3rd Choice – Church and/or School** – Both establishments are on high ground outwith the village and we would need to contact the relevant people for permission prior to assuming usage.
- d. Flooding - Areas highlighted on maps. One solution would be to clear the waterways regularly to prevent back up. This is currently done on the beach. Every property is dependent on Septic Tanks and flooding may impact public health if these breach into the village highways.
- e. Other proposed solutions were –
- Grant funding for heaters, de-humidifiers and blankets.
 - Emergency accommodation list – Holiday lets, caravan parks and AirBNBs.
 - Tractors and heavy machinery may be needed – approach willing farmers.
 - List of emergency tradesmen – Alan Wise, KMG
 - List with agreement form householders of vulnerable properties ie very young, elderly, vulnerable
6. A further meeting is proposed to feed back these findings to the wider parish community and build upon the solutions identified in this meeting.

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