

Whitchurch-on-Thames Community Emergency Plan

Plan last updated on: 09 March 2023

If you are in immediate danger call 999

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1. Introduction

This is the Whitchurch-on-Thames Village Community Emergency Plan. The intention of this plan is to agree a clear process for handling likely emergency scenarios along with accountable individuals within the community to ensure that emergencies can be responded to quickly and effectively where time to respond can be critical. It is important that we are clear what actions should be taken and who is supposed to do what in such situation. The plan also identifies any required capabilities required in the village to ensure we can respond with the appropriate speed, e.g. back-up generator at the Village Hall, defibrillators in two key locations in the village.

The Emergency Plan has been developed by a team that comprises the key contacts identified in Sections 8 and 9 of this document. The Emergency Plan is reviewed at least annual using the following process:

- The Emergency Team meets annually to review the plan.
- The Clerk checks will check with all contacts identified in the document to comply with GDPR rules.
- Updates to plan approved by the Parish Council
- Plan distributed to web-site and other contacts described below including OCC/SODC emergency contacts
- Coordinator arranges periodic drills
- Other actions as described in Section 5.

2. Plan distribution list

Name	Role	Phone number /Email	Issued on
Paul Mann	Local Authority Emergency Planning Officer	Tel: 01865 323765 Email: emergencyplanning@oxfordshire.gov.uk Emergency Planning Unit OFRS HQ Sterling Road Kidlington OX5 2DU	
Jim Donahue	Chairman of Parish Council	07557 668601 cllrdonahue.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com	
Jane Yamamoto	WOT Parish Clerk	07876 714 906 parishclerk.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com Available to provide hardcopies upon request	

Gary Carey	SODC Emergency Planning lead	gary.carey@southandvale.gov.uk or adrianna.partridge@southandvale.gov.uk 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, Abingdon OX14 4SB	
Richard Wingfield	WOT Village Website	Maintain the latest version of the plan for public to download.	
Various	WOT Emergency Management team	Contacts identified in this document telephone tree, Section 8	
Dawn Chesters	WOT Primary School Head Teacher	Whitchurch-on-Thames, Primary School, Eastfield lane Office@whitchurchprimary.org.uk 0118 9842347	

3. Plan amendment list

Date of Amendment	Details of changes made	Changed by
4/12/18	2nd draft	JB, HH, KB, DB, GW
05/01/2020	3 rd draft	JB, JD
07/02/2020	4 th Draft	Emergency Management Team meeting on 26 th Jan
16/02/2020	V1.0 Approved version	Approved by Parish Council on 13 th February 2020 meeting
22/02/2020	V1.1	Action item update following the PC meeting
31/03/2022	V1.2	Update following Annual Emergency Team Meeting
01/07/2022	V1.3	Correct formatting and contact information consistency. Add link to flooding and drainage report.
09/03/2023	V1.4	Updated following Annual Emergency Team Meeting

4. Local risk assessment

Risk	Impact on community	What can the Community Emergency Group do to prepare?
<p><u>Flooding</u> (Thames or surface)</p> <p>SODC Flooding information page including contact info for Environment agency, Thames Water, and OCC road flooding: http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/environment-and-neighbourhood-issues/severe-weather/flooding</p> <p>Probability: High risk of significant flooding every 5 – 10 years as per Environmental Agency assessment.</p>	<p>Low risk to life. Relatively small number of houses flooded.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use telephone tree to check vulnerable people and help warn, evacuate • Encourage residents to improve home flood defences (incl. getting own sand bags, warn new residents in welcome pack) • Create reception centre at Village Hall. • Drainage preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Street and Village Drainage monitoring – Village Flooding & Drainage Forum (see website report http://whitchurchonthames.com/flooding.html) • Whitchurch Hill drainage grips – PC/OCC • Greyhound manhole grill to culvert below Eastfield Lane • Identify flood-vulnerable properties and encourage property owners to register with the EA's Floodline to receive telephoned warnings.
<p><u>Roads/pavements Blocked</u> (Trees down, Snow fall, toll bridge blocked, etc)</p>	<p>People can't get to shops, school or work. Health visitors can't get in.</p> <p>Note: The village is connected by three roads –</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify people (via telephone tree, Internet/email tree.) who need to get food, medicines or need to go to hospital. • Contact drivers of appropriate vehicles who could help. • Make sure we stay on OCC gritting list.

	unlikely all three blocked unless by heavy snow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that salt bins are full before winter. • Investigate alternative pedestrian access across weir via the Mill House
Power cut - if power is out for more than 6 hours in all of the village or a particular section.	No heating, lighting. Cooking hard for some. No broadband.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create reception centre at Village Hall (with provision to charge devices). • Encourage resident requiring power for medical equipment to sign up for SSE Priority Services Register. • Encourage residents to be ready for emergency (as per leaflet – incl keep a store of candles, blankets and food not requiring heating).
Someone has a heart attack	Risk of death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call 999 and use the defibrillator in Phone box at Manor Road High Street junction or on Village Green Pavilion. • Directions for use and access code will be provided by 999 operator. Note: Keith Brooks and Tim Hardwick maintain the one in the Phone box, Alistair Aitcheson looks after the one on the Village Green. • Jean- Marc to arrange annual training classes in the Spring at the Village Hall.
Other risks that are considered low probability for which impacts that are difficult to predict include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contaminated water supply - Failure of water supply - Major sewage failure or blockage in the village - Spread of epidemic - Extreme cyber attack 	Unclear/varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the telephone tree to communicate to residents requesting information. • Consider meeting of members of emergency team to formulate plan to take appropriate steps

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Plane crash- Nuclear/chemical incident- etc.		
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5. Actions Now - in preparation

- Action EP4 : Jim/J-M/John - to plan and arrange a drill. **Mar 2023: To plan this year using the new generator for a power cut scenario in the Village Hall.**
- Action EP6: J-M/John - Get Village Hall prepared – Apply for grant. **Mar 2023: Wifi in place and traditional phone not requiring a battery are in place. Petrol emergency generator has been purchased by the Village Hall. John Bradon knows how to use it. He still needs to purchase LED emergency lights, Kelly kettle, USB charging ports. It was agreed that bedding etc for overnight stays was not likely to be needed.**
- EP 12 - Eastfield Lane power is not resilient. Geoff to investigate potential for grant to put cables under ground. **March 2023: Geoff investigated with SSE and grant is not available. Geoff to raise request to SSE to come from Parish Council asking about the design of the power distribution network.**
- EP 13 – Richard investigating where the village water source comes from and where the sewage is treated to post on the website.
- EP 14 - Jean-Marc – Consider organising defibrillator training for the village annually if possible.
- EP 15 - Jim – Write Bulletin article requesting if there are any trained Emergency Responders in the village.

Complete:

- Action EP1: Jim - Review this plan with the PC – propose to add to February 2020 agenda. Once approved, send to OCC and SODC reps and contacts in Section 1. *16 Feb 2020: Done- approved at 13 Feb PC meeting. OCC and SODC contact sent copy of the approved plan.*
- Action EP3: Jim/Richard – Publish articles on Web-site/Bulletin – including publicizing SSE preferred access service. Done 2020
- Action EP7: Adrian Dixon - Encourage vulnerable villagers to register with SSE Priority Services Register. Ask surgery to promote this. – Done - 2020
- Action EP12: Jim to get Geoff a key for the notice board: *16 Feb 2020: Done.*
- Action EP2: John B - Confirm that OCC provide insurance cover for named volunteers, including use of chainsaw and 4x4s. Mar 2022: OCC does not cover it.
- Action EP9: Warren to arrange for CCTV investigating of the culvert with support from the PC. Feb 2022: No longer needed following the work OCC did to investigate after the flash flooding.
- Action EP10: Based on the results from Action EP8, Jim to consider requesting OCC or SODC notifies owners of houses of their responsibility to maintain the culvert. Mar 2022: OCC investigated the culvert and can be closed.
- Action EP11: Richard to check about pedestrian access to crossing at the Weir in case of blocked bridge. Feb 2022: Richard confirmed that local landowners are not prepared to provide access. Default option to drive to other river crossing at Goring or Reading.

- Action EP8: John – Prepare short leaflet summarising information they should know to prepare for an emergency including emergency contacts in the village. This can be used by telephone tree contacts to provide to residents who want more information. March 2023: CLOSED – leaflet distributed with Bulletin.

6. Local skills and resources assessment

Skill/Resource	Volunteer	Phone number	Email
Tractor owner/driver	James Norman	07867 657156	jamesnorman1815@gmail.com
Chainsaw owners	Peter Woolhouse Charles Cotgreave Neil Huntington	0118 9844365 07770 648722 07979 751985	Sally.woolhouse@gmail.com Charles_Cotgreave@yahoo.co.uk Neil Hunters60@gmail.com

7. Key locations identified with emergency services for use as places of safety

Building	Location	Potential use in an emergency	Contact details of key holder
Village Hall - primary	Manor Road, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7EU,	Designated Rest Centre/safe place	Jean Marc Grosfort Hartslock Lodge Hartslock Bridleway Whitchurch RG9 7QX 07881 312233 John Bradon Ryland's House, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch on Thames RG8 7HW 07789 944676
The Old Stables - alternate	High St, Whitchurch on Thames RG8 7DF	Rest Centre/safe place	Geoff Weir Geoff.weir@brinternet.com 07919 102610
Water/food supplies	Pangbourne Co-op/ Woodcote Co-op	0118 984 2038 01491 680369	6-7 The Square, Pangbourne, RG8 7AG/ 2 Bridle Path, Woodcote, RG8 0SE

8. Emergency contact list

	<p>Name: Jim Donahue</p> <p>Title: Community Emergency Coordinator</p> <p>24hr telephone contact: 07557 668601</p> <p>Email: cllrdonahue.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com</p> <p>Address: 17 Hillside, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7HL</p>
	<p>Name John Bradon</p> <p>Title: Alternate contact</p> <p>24hr telephone contact: 07789 944676</p> <p>Email: john@jbradon.co.uk</p> <p>Address: Ryland's House, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch on Thames RG8 7HW</p>
	<p>Name Jean Marc Grosfort</p> <p>Title: Village Hall Manager</p> <p>24hr telephone contact: 07881 312233</p> <p>Email: jmgwhd48@gmail.com</p> <p>Address: Hartslock Lodge, Hartslock Bridleway, Whitchurch on Thames RG8 7QX</p>

9. Telephone tree/WhatsApp Group

The phone tree works as a pyramid, with the coordinator at the top making the first call to two or more people. In turn, they call an assigned set of people and so on, until the tree is complete.

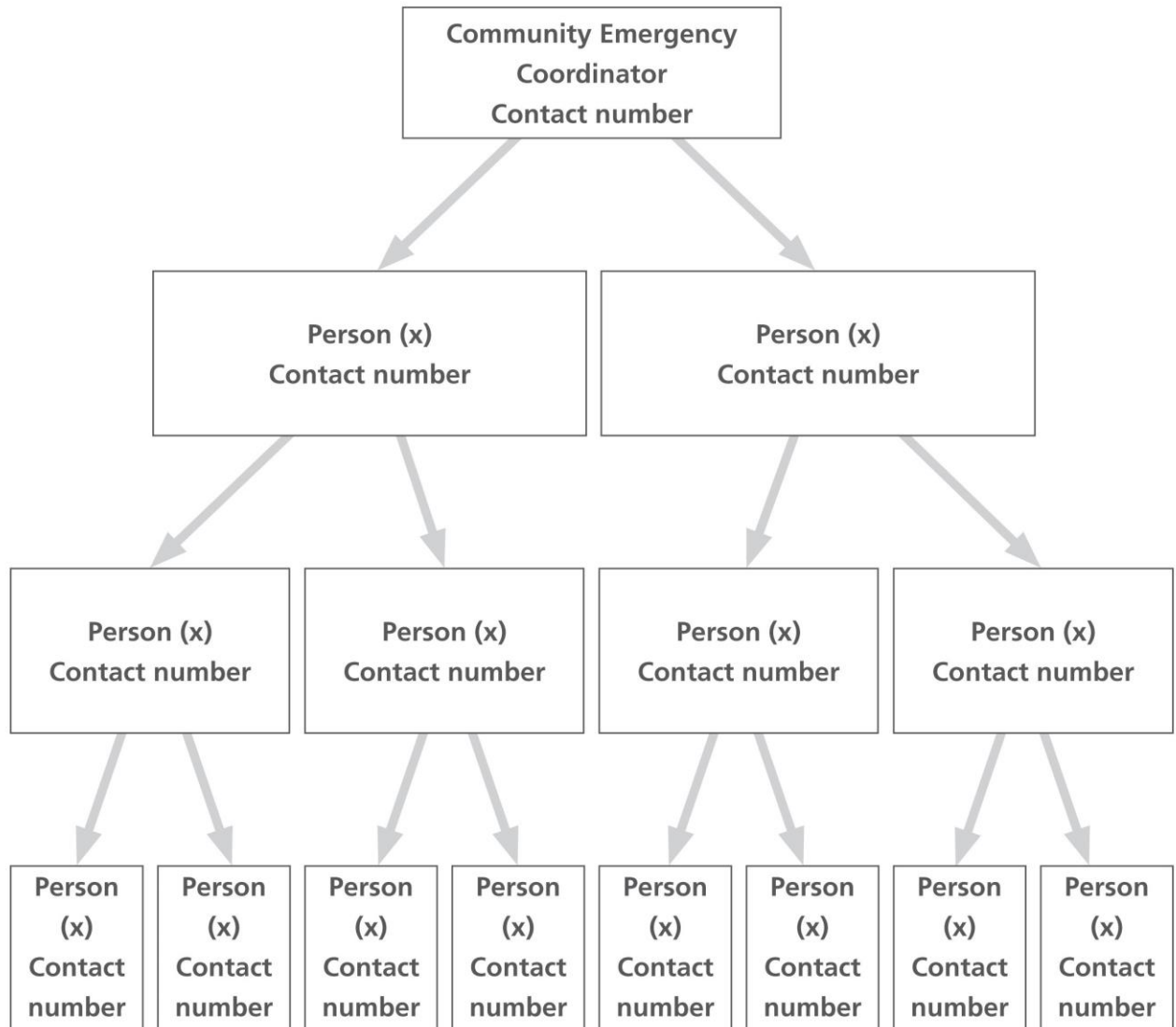
Role of street/area coordinator:

- Area coordinators should be generally aware of people in their street or area, particularly anyone who may have special requirements such as medical equipment that requires power or a house that is particularly subject to flooding, etc.
- Area coordinators will distribute leaflets identifying key emergency preparation activities that all residents should be aware of. The leaflet will provide emergency telephone tree contacts. Residents should let their Area Coordinators know if they want to be notified of emergencies.
- In the event of an emergency, the overall coordinator, or an alternate, will ensure that all of the area coordinators are aware of what is happening via What's App, email, or telephone. The village web-site and Facebook page will also provide information.
- Depending on the situation, we may decide to call a meeting of the Emergency Team at the Village Hall and use it as a support centre for the village.

Volunteers by Area

Road/ Area	Volunteer	Phone number	Email
High Street South (from Bridge to Manor Road)	Geoff Weir	07919 102610	geoff.weir@btinternet.com
High Street North of Manor Road, incl Hartslock Bridleway	Jean Marc Grosfort	07881 312233	cllrgrsfortwhitchurchonthames@gmail.com
Hardwick Road	Adrian Dixon	07973 187139	adrian@adriandixon.com
Hillside	Jim Donahue	07557 668601	Clldonahue.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com
Swanston Field	Gordon Bull	07900 914407	gbull13160@aol.com
Eastfield Lane	Neil Huntington	07979 751985	Neil.hunters60@gmail.com
Manor Road	Katherine Higley		Clrhigley.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com
Hardwick Road (Bozedown farm to Hardwick Estate)	Sally Woolhouse	07956 037927	Sally.woolhouse@gmail.com

Hardwick Estate	Miriam Rose	07765 501687	miriam@hardwickestate. co.uk
Coordinator	Jim Donahue	07557 668601	Cllrdonahue.whitchurcho nthames@ gmail.com
Coordinator	John Bradon	07789 944676	john@jbradon.co.uk



10. List of community organisations that may be helpful in identifying vulnerable people or communities in an emergency

Organisation	Name and role of contact	Phone number
Pangbourne & District Volunteer Centre	09:30 to 11:30 every weekday (except public holidays)	0118 984 4586
Boathouse Surgery	08:00 to 18:30 Monday through Friday	0118984 2234
SSE Priority Services Register	Register for priority support in event of a power cut, e.g for if you rely on power for medical equipment, or need extra help for any reason	0800 622 838

11. Activation triggers

Record details of how your plan will be activated. You should include details of how the plan will be activated as a result of a call from the emergency services, and also how your community will decide to activate the plan yourselves, if the emergency services are unavailable:

1. When we get a flood warning
2. If power is out for more than 6 hours in any part of the village
2. When OCC, SODC or any of the emergency team contacts the Chairman

12. First steps in an emergency

[Use this space to add the steps to be followed in when the plan is activated]

	Instructions	Tick
1	Ensure you are in no immediate danger	
2	Call 999 (unless already alerted)	
3	Contact the Community Emergency Group and meet to discuss the situation if required by the situation	
4	Contacts on telephone tree check that all people requesting to be contacted are OK	

13. Actions agreed with emergency responders in the event of an evacuation

1. Help police/local authority with door knocking
2. Tell emergency services who might need extra help to leave their home

14. Alternative arrangements for staying in contact if usual communications have been disrupted

Communication Type	Name of contact	Location
WOT Web-site	Richard Wingfield	www.whitchurchonthames.com
Facebook Group – Only Good Vibes - Whitchurch	Jim Donahue	
Village Notice Board	Geoff Weir	High Street opposite Eastfield lane
WhatsApp Group – Emergency planning team	Jim Donahue	WhatsApp/email