

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

Purpose of presentation

This purpose of this presentation is to provide the residents of Littleton and Harestock with a short general introduction to the subjects of Community Resilience and Emergency Planning.

Parish Council Notes:

- *In any local emergency the Littleton and Harestock Parish Council (LHPC) will operate under the control of the emergency services and the local authority.*
- *The summary information presented here was obtained from Government, National, Local Authority, Charities and local organisation sources.*
- *Online links are provided for Littleton and Harestock residents to obtain further information about community risks and emergency planning.*
- *If you want more information about the detailed Littleton and Harestock Community Emergency Plan, please contact the LHPC Clerk (01962 886507) who will direct you to the appropriate LHPC Councillor.*

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What is a community emergency?

- A civil emergency is *an event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the UK, the environment of a place in the UK or war or terrorism which threatens serious damage to the security of the UK* (Civil Contingencies Act, 2004). The Government, military, national organisations, the emergency services and local authorities are required to have plans for dealing with emergencies. These agencies identify risks and their potential impacts at national, county and local authority level. Agencies maintain policies about their likely responses to emergency events, equipping accordingly, based on factors such as the plausibility of incidents, amount of warning and their potential costs.
- Emergency response planning at all levels is a complex process subject to continuous review. As part of the overall emergency planning process local authorities and their associated parish councils are required to maintain plans which detail how they have prepared for, and will respond to, emergencies.
- We may be fortunate and the Littleton & Harestock community may never have to cope with the kinds of serious incidents experienced in other local communities for example the potential dam collapse at Whalley Bridge (2019) or the chemical attack in Salisbury (2018). However, ‘no notice’ emergency events do happen, even taking local authorities and emergency responders by surprise, and which can have significant effects on communities.
- In the context of emergency planning for Hampshire and Winchester, LHPC has a Community Emergency Plan which covers the actions the Parish Council might take during an emergency event.

Who is responsible for Emergency Planning and Responses?

- **National responses.** Responses to large scale emergencies tend to be multi-agency in nature (*Government agencies, emergency services, the military, local authorities and voluntary organisations*) based on their size (*seriousness and location*) and the level of risk to people, property, infrastructure and environment.
- **County and City level responses.** Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council have Emergency plans and staff allocated to emergency roles. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum (HIOWLRF) is a partnership which works together to help people in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight stay safe. It aims to reduce risk in the community and help people prepare for emergencies. HIOWLRF brings together the emergency services, councils, businesses and voluntary organisations at a county level, as part of coordinated emergency response preparation.

- **LHPC Emergency Responses.**

- As a part of the Winchester local authority structure, LHPC recognises responsibilities and roles during an emergency response. We will represent the interests of Littleton and Harestock residents during emergency events and assist residents where possible.
- During an emergency event, LHPC will always act under the control and guidance of the emergency services, WCC, HCC and other emergency responders.
- The Parish Council response to any emergency event will be constrained by the availability of resources, emergency volunteers and organisations willing to help.

What are the emergency risks?

An emergency is an event which is likely to present a significant risk to life, property and environment and where such events tend to involve groups of people. The nature of emergency risks is subject to a wide variation in geographic, population, industrial, transport and land-use factors. You can find detailed explanations of the emergency risks published in the public domain in:

- The [UK National Risk Register](#).
- The [Hampshire County Council Risk Register](#). This risk register provides practical advice to Hampshire residents about preparing for the different types of emergencies.

Examples of plausible risks for the Littleton & Harestock communities

Using the [Hampshire County Council Risk Register](#), we have listed below, some cases of emergency risks for the Littleton & Harestock Communities. The Hampshire County Risk Register provides a fuller listing of emergency risks with a professional estimate of the likelihood of these risks and their potential impact. Littleton & Harestock residents might also be caught up in broader and larger-scale urban and rural emergency events affecting the Winchester and Hampshire areas as well as other types of emergencies.

- **Groundwater flooding risks in Littleton and Harestock.**

- Littleton and Harestock are located on a chalk terrain and potentially subject to groundwater flooding, although the risk is much less in Harestock because of the relatively modern mains drainage system. Littleton is subject to potential flooding problems with a rising water table after some months of high rainfall. Groundwater can flood the surface, where it is usually dry even in Winter. Significant Littleton groundwater flooding occurs approximately every 10-15 years; with climate change it may become a more frequent occurrence.

- Groundwater flooding can start to move downhill from different directions through the built-up area along the natural valley: South Drive, Main Road, North Drive, Fyfield Close and Pitter Close.
- Groundwater flooding may appear in locations lower downslope before full flood flows start. The floodwater then discharges onto MoD Land, across the Andover Road and joins the flooding through Headbourne Worthy to the River Itchen.

- **Sewage contamination of the groundwater.** Many Littleton properties use independent septic tanks and sewage processing systems.
 - In flood conditions many foul drainage systems could be invaded by groundwater, even systems which are not directly along the flood track could be flooded, leading to public health risks.
 - If your sewage system is at risk of flooding during a flood event, then have it emptied. Such tank emptying may be outside of your regular maintenance cycle.
 - Residents should refer to the LHPC statement about [Septic Tanks and Small Sewage Treatment Plants](#).



A communal sewage tank still underwater after surface flooding had dissipated, Littleton (9 March 2014)

- **Flash Flooding in Littleton & Harestock.** The hilly nature of Littleton & Harestock can cause water to pool anywhere during intense rainfall.
 - Debris, sediment, snow might block drains and soakaways, causing unexpected flooding.
 - While Harestock is served by mains drainage, there is almost no mains drainage in Littleton where drainage is through soakaways. Therefore, when the water table is high, intense periods of rain could cause flash flooding, and because the rainwater cannot soak into the ground low-level areas could flood causing property damage.
 - Water main bursts can also be a source of unexpected flash flooding.



Flash Flooding: Main Road, (Littleton, 2012)
(After 15 minutes of intense rainfall)

- **Malicious attacks/violent extremism/terrorism risks.** At a National, County and Winchester City level the threat of extremist and terrorist actions are taken seriously. Any extremist/terrorist attack in Littleton & Harestock could result in many casualties with injuries/loss of life. Such an event would result in a massive emergency services response, restriction of movement during the incident and its follow up for an extended period. While residents may consider this risk to be unlikely for the Littleton & Harestock area, St John Moore Barracks (Army) is located in Littleton and there is MoD sponsored accommodation in Harestock. There is also a joint services site located nearby at Worthy Down. Therefore, all residents should remain alert to the possibility of these types of emergency incidents.
- **Public health risks.** The Littleton and Harestock communities, as with the broader population, are subject to a range of public health risks (e.g. Pandemic Flu). These risks are managed by the Government, the National Health Service and the care services.
- **Loss of critical infrastructure risks.** Critical Infrastructure is the name given to the different essential services on which we rely on as part of modern society and the economy. Critical infrastructure includes electricity, gas, telecommunications, water, fuel, IT, food and health services. Many parts of the infrastructure network are dependent on one another. If infrastructure failures occurred in extreme weather conditions there could be considerable disruption to normal life, travel restrictions, and increased risk to the health and wellbeing of vulnerable residents. What might start as an initial inconvenience could develop rapidly into a civil emergency.
- **Hot/cold/energetic weather extremes.**
 - The Hampshire area has a relatively benign climate. However, extreme weather events can happen (*e.g. the Great Storm (October, 1987), the hot summer (2003) and the snow (February 2010) across most of the UK*).
 - The consequences of severe weather are varied, some common issues include property damage, road and travel disruptions, damage and disruption to utilities, school closures and damage to infrastructure. In extreme weather events the vulnerability of residents will increase significantly.
 - Climate change may introduce significant variations. There is a wealth of material published about climate change. For a straightforward brief see [Climate Change in the UK](#). For Southern England, for at least the remainder of the Century, we should expect hotter drier summers and warmer wetter winters coupled to more energetic weather.



Littleton Snow (February 2010)

- **Transport risks (Air).** The Littleton and Harestock communities are located under the outer Northern approach to Southampton Airport. Aircraft pass over the area at relatively low-level.
 - The airspace is used by many types of civilian aircraft and helicopters at varying heights.
 - There are also low-level military helicopter movements in and out of St John Moore Barracks. Usually military helicopters approach and depart over open countryside.
 - Although very rare, an incident involving an aircraft could be the cause of an unexpected and significant, emergency event in the Littleton and Harestock area.



RAF Chinook heavy-lift helicopter flying at low level and at speed over Littleton

- **Wildfire Risks.** A wildfire is an out of control fire in an area of combustible vegetation occurring in rural areas. Wildfire is a particular risk for the rural parts of Littleton and properties located close to wooded and dense vegetation. In the UK the risk of wildfire appears to be increasing. The UK had nearly a hundred large wildfires each covering at least 25 hectares by April 2019, making it the worst year on record. The causes of most of the wildfires have been blamed on higher than average temperatures and drought conditions since the spring of 2018 ([New Scientist 23 Jan 2019](#)). Wildfires can be risky for firefighters, cause significant property damage and be a source of air pollution. An example of a Hampshire wildfire was in Ringwood Forest (May 2019) and the fire covered a surface area of 40,000m².

Advice about preparing for emergencies

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum (HIOWLRF), set up under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004), coordinates resilience and emergency planning across the Hampshire area.

- This Local Resilience Forum (LRF) is a partnership made up of representatives from the local Emergency Service Responders, Local Authorities, as well as associated businesses, organisations and voluntary sector.
- HIOWLRF aims to reduce risk in the community and help prepare people and organisations respond to and manage emergency events.
- The HIOWLRF Website offers detailed constructive advice about preparing for emergencies. LHPC representatives often attend HIOELRF events. See the HIOWLRF links listed in the table below.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum (Advice on Preparing for Emergencies) (See links)		
<u>Prepare your family</u>	<u>Prepare your business</u>	<u>Prepare your community</u>
Staying informed about emergencies	Why prepare	Government advice on preparing your community
Insurance	How to prepare	Community Emergency Plan Guide
Sandbags	National Business Continuity Toolkit	Community Emergency Plan Toolkit
Emergency Packs	National Business Continuity Leaflet	Community Emergency Plan Template
Household Emergency Plan	Preparing for emergencies	Contacting the Local resilience Forum
Evacuation Checklist	The Business Continuity Institute	CitizenAID
	Business Central	
	Business Continuity Information for Businesses	<i>(Note: Littleton & Harestock Parish Council developed its Community Emergency Plan based on the Guide and Templates above, which were initially issued by the Cabinet Office.)</i>
	Write a business continuity plan	

Littleton and Harestock Community Emergency Plan

- The Littleton and Harestock Community Emergency Plan is a working tool of the Parish Council. The Plan conforms to Cabinet Office template requirements and contains a list of pre-emergency routine actions, emergency actions and post-emergency routine actions the Parish Council might opt to undertake during an emergency (*subject to the nature of the emergency event and the availability of resources*).
- An LHPC Councillor has the role of Emergency Coordinator. Emergency planning is an agenda item at every meeting of the Parish Council. If required, the Parish Council can mobilise an Emergency Group with a membership which depends on the type and impact of the emergency.
- LHPC will vary its response according to the nature, scale, impact of an emergency and the requirements of the local authority and emergency services. The following are some examples of possible actions to illustrate the role of the Parish Council in an emergency:
 - Provision of advice and support to residents (*where possible*).
 - Keeping residents informed during emergency events (*e.g. issues such as access and travel options, parking alternatives, communication outside of the area, Internet provision, school opening details, food deliveries, refuse collections and transport issues*).
 - Assistance to residents using volunteers (*where possible/as available*).
 - Represent residents with Emergency Services, Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council.
 - Coordination with Hampshire Highways about diversions, road closures, signage and road cones in use.
 - Identification of vulnerable residents and help arrange specific assistance (where possible).
 - Assist the Emergency Services and Local Authority in any evacuation of residents to refuge/rest centres during an emergency (*where possible*).
 - Maintain an Information Desk in any refuge/rest centre and represent residents' problems and issues.
 - Gather evidence to support subsequent applications for financial support by the Littleton and Harestock Community.
- If you want more information about the detailed Littleton and Harestock Community Emergency Plan please contact the LHPC Clerk (01962 886507) who will direct you to the appropriate LHPC councillor.