

KINGSTON SEYMOUR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TEAM

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To: All Residents of Kingston Seymour

KINGSTON SEYMOUR COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

Have you ever wondered what you would do if there was some kind of specific emergency in the village, such as a serious flood, a toxic substance alert or a plane crash? Possibly not as we tend to push such unpleasant thoughts to the backs of our minds. Yet as recently as 1981, there was a flood which necessitated the evacuation of some homes and the setting up of a temporary shelter at the Village Hall. Since then the sea defences have been considerably raised and improved, but nevertheless we cannot afford to be complacent.

North Somerset Council encourages all local councils to “*be prepared*” and the Local Community Resilience Team has put together a Community Emergency Response Plan, which will assist the Emergency Services, the local authority and the community team in the event of any kind of emergency. The Emergency Services and / or other “professionals” would of course be responsible for dealing with an actual emergency. The community’s role would be limited to providing information to the professionals and organising practical help and support for residents – food, shelter, transport, basic first aid etc.

As the full Plan contains a lot of personal data, mostly in the form of a series of lists of key people and resources, with their contact details, it will neither be widely circulated nor posted on the website. However, the attached document contains what you need to know in the event of an emergency, and also some ideas as to appropriate actions you can take “just in case”.

Telephone Tree

Kate Gillam, our Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, maintains a list of telephone numbers and e-mail addresses that are used to advise parishioners of criminal activity in the area.

In the exceptional circumstance of a major emergency, this network could be used as a “telephone tree” to disseminate information quickly and efficiently. Not all residents are yet on this list so you might wish to ask Kate to add your contact details to the list (kswcoord@icloud.com).

Steve Dixon, on behalf of the Kingston Seymour Community Resilience Team

EMERGENCY PLAN

- **STAY SAFE** - The most important thing is to ensure that you and your household are in no immediate danger. Do not risk your own safety to help others. If your life is at risk, or you are unwell or hurt, ring 999. Bear in mind that in the case of a major incident, it may take time to get a response. If you are anxious, ring one of the coordinators listed below, who will try to help in the meantime.
- **STAY IN CONTACT** – In the event of a specific emergency, or the imminent threat of one, it is likely that someone (Emergency Services, local authority or local community resilience coordinator) will contact you quickly. If they do not, please ring one of the following:

Zoe Bartlett	Emergency Liaison Officer	07796 353 989
John Harris	Emergency Liaison Officer	01934 832126
Angus Norrish	Environment Agency Liaison	01934 838892 / 07818 454 848
Caroline Harris	Healthcare Officer	01934 835652 / 07487 828 011
Kate Gillam	Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator	07525 040 472

- Please bear in mind that if others are also trying to get in touch, you may not get through straight away.
- **WEBSITE AND VILLAGE FACEBOOK** – Check the village website for reliable information and instructions. Any instructions given by the Emergency Services, Local Authority or other body such as The Environment Agency or a utility provider will be posted on the village website and should be reliable. The Village News Facebook Group may also be a good source of information.
- **REMAIN CALM** – Try to remain calm. This will help you to listen to any instructions and follow them properly. Inform the person giving the instructions if you cannot follow the instructions or will need help to do so.
- **NEIGHBOURS** – *Only if appropriate*, check to see if your neighbours need help.
- **SAFE REFUGE** – You may be encouraged to move – or be helped to move – to a safe refuge. **Unless otherwise indicated by the Emergency Services, the designated safe refuge for the parish is at:**

- **Acorn Lakes, Lampley Road**

- Please inform the person giving the instructions if you cannot follow the instructions or will need help to do so.

- SECURITY AND HEALTH – If you have to leave your home, lock all doors and windows if possible. If possible, and there is time, take with you any items of particular value, as well as at least 24 hours' supply of any essential medication, and, if relevant, items needed for babies or young children. You may also be asked to take additional clothing and / or a pillow, blanket or duvet.

Flooding:

- Flooding is perhaps the most “obvious” risk we face as individuals and as a community. Register with the Environment Agency’s **Floodline** Warnings Direct service. You can do this online at www.environment-agency.gov.uk or by calling 0345 988 1188. You can also download (or have sent to you) a **personal flood plan**; this contains lots of guidance as to how best to prepare for a flood. There are also now many **flood protection products** on the market to help protect homes and businesses from flood damage. A Directory of these is available from the National Flood Forum at www.bluepages.org.uk.
- In the event of a risk of serious flooding, listen to local weather reports and if appropriate ring the Floodline (0345 988 1188) for more information. Those registered with the Warnings Direct service can use a quick dial number which is specific to the level of flood risk on the Kingston Seymour coast.
- In the event of an actual flood, await assistance. Do not try to drive through flood water (a normal car will be ruined and you might end up in the ditch). If possible, avoid walking in flooded rooms unless you have wellies – the water is almost certain to be contaminated.
- If necessary and possible, temporary shelter may be provided at the Village Hall or the Church or at Acorn Lakes. Acorn Lakes is in an area that is considered by the Environment Agency to be at less risk of flooding than properties west of the M5.

EMERGENCY READINESS KIT

The Environment Agency recommends putting together a permanent “flood kit” to include a torch, warm and waterproof clothing, water, non-perishable food, medication, essential items needed for children or pets, rubber gloves, wellies. To this might be added candles, matches, a battery-operated radio, spare batteries, a spare mobile phone charger, a tin opener, a bottle opener, a penknife, a few plates, mugs, knives, spoons etc, a few large sheets of paper and jumbo felt tip pens. These items are also listed on the Resilience Postcard that was delivered to every home in the village. If you would like a replacement card, please contact Steve Dixon whose contact details are on the first page.

It is suggested that you keep this kit somewhere where it would be readily accessible day and night – somewhere upstairs could be a good plan.