

NOTES FROM SECOND MEETING OF SILVERDALE EMERGENCY RESILIENCE GROUP (SERG)

26 April 2025, Village Institute, 2-4pm

The meeting revolved around:

Background to the Silverdale Emergency Plan

- Local Resilience Forums – a national initiative; local emphasis on effects of Storm Desmond and flooding; vulnerability of rural areas; new version supported by Lancashire Resilience Forum.
- The Plan relies on a Steering Group of six, supported by Street Wardens who would check on and deliver information to neighbours; knowledge of vulnerable people; locations that would offer shelter and resources.

Identifying Local Risk

- Five routes into and out of Silverdale: New Road: Tidal flooding and fallen trees; Storrs Lane: Fallen trees; Ford Lane: Localised flooding and fallen trees; Black Dyke Road: Tidal and local flooding, and fallen trees; Sandside Road: Tidal flooding and fallen trees.
- Isolation could result from: National power outage; Tidal surge; Strong winds; Nuclear, air or rail accident or attack; Tsunami.
- Could impact: Communications; Rail; Water; Electricity; Gas; Food and Medicine supplies.

Building a Community Emergency Group (CEG) – Richard Gargini, Wennington Parish Council

Richard is a retired Police National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism and has also been involved in Risk and Procedures. Moved to Wennington in 2009; noticed gaps in community resilience regarding key risks – flooding (immediate risk to c.22 houses, and risk to infrastructure from weather, power cuts etc. How would Emergency Services reach the village?

No procedures were documented until 2015 when he liaised with the retired Police Superintendent for Lancashire. This resulted in a framework involving all the Emergency Services plus utilities and Category 2 responders, which became the Lancashire Resilience Forum. It took 9-12 months to convince the community to get involved. Lancaster City Council helped fund equipment, match-funded alongside Wennington Parish Council. There are two hubs in Wennington, one on high ground and one on low ground.

Funding had to be linked to a legal entity such as the Parish Council, for insurance purposes etc. Wennington Parish Council's precept funds the equipment list, which is included within the WPC Audit and Asset List. When required, equipment is borrowed by Lancaster City Council (and vice versa). The list includes replacement batteries for the village defibrillators.

Establishing a stable steering group is essential for help and ideas. It meets every six weeks to plan exercises to train people in various roles, e.g. first aid, and the immediate response if people fall into the river.

If there is a perceived emergency, only members of the steering group can activate the plan. Reasons to activate the plan and a Risk Assessment template (modified for any training exercises or training) is logged with the WPC insurance company, which is notified prior to any

exercises. This includes third party liability and recompense to shelters for consumables in the event of a real emergency.

Both Wennington hubs have a generator, each with a Bluetta battery pack, which are kept charged and can run up to 45 days. These batteries can run lighting and the Emergency Radio Area Link (ERAL) radios.

Wennington PC has also purchased throw ropes and buoyancy devices and keep them in its Emergency equipment store in case of water-based incidents.

Identifying Skills, Equipment and Resources

A Steering Group of six, supported by Street Wardens is essential, with the following roles identified:

- Volunteer and People Coordinator: to recruit *2 x Street Wardens per 20-40 houses* and maintain list; to arrange and locate childcare for parents involved in the emergency; monitor shifts and rest breaks during the emergency. (Note: deploy people in pairs and emphasise that they do not do anything that they have not been instructed to do).
- First Aid Coordinator: to maintain a list of First Aiders and coordinate them during an emergency (Note: details of vulnerable residents would be given to SERG by Social Services over the ERAL).
- Shelter Coordinator: to identify and liaise with 'safe' and 'rest' locations (if residents need to leave their homes temporarily); ensure locations have agreed with the Parish Council the terms under which they have agreed to offer shelter and have insurance in place; identify residents who could offer temporary accommodation or bedding. (See AP below)
- Supplies/ Consumables Coordinator: to identify local food, water and other supply sources (including Co-op and Pharmacy); liaise with 'safe' locations as per requirements during an emergency; log any supplies 'borrowed' or acquired from local sources.
- Vehicles/Equipment Coordinator: to review the Emergency equipment list; maintain and store equipment; recruit owners(farmers/builders/businesses) of 4 x 4 vehicles/tractors/trailers and any other heavy equipment required; liaise with other Coordinators regarding requirements during an emergency.
- Communications Coordinator: stationed at the Silverdale Control Centre during an emergency to liaise through ERAL with the Lancashire Resilience Forum and Emergency Services; establish a communications tree and create and implement a plan for village announcements when no power available (liaise with Volunteer and People Coordinator).

NOTES FOR DISCUSSION

AP = Action point

Establish SERG meeting schedule

Meetings should talk about recent events and how we would deal with scenarios. This should create a schedule for exercises and drills. Ask for a relevant representative from Category 2 responders (e.g. NW 4x4s, Red Cross, Bay Search & Rescue) to attend our training exercises.

AP: Appoint Coordinators

AP: Shelter Coordinator: Write T&Cs for shelter locations; Investigate willingness to participate: The Royal Hotel; The Silverdale Hotel; The Woodlands Hotel; The Gaskell Hall; The Methodist Church; St John's Church & Parish Room; Silverdale Golf Club; and any others. Make a note of those with working wood burners or open fires.

Exercises/drills

First exercise: generator training – first part of the day, showing people what to do, and second part, we do a training exercise. Issue list of trained users to SPC insurance company and copy to the Gaskell Hall committee.

Radio drills: practising using the walkie talkie radios around the village.

AP: Get a list of training exercises from Wennington Parish Council

Revise equipment

Housing for existing generator – mobile arrangement?

Storage for Emergency equipment

1 x new generator?

Large A0 maps for tabletop exercises (street map plus wider area map) and emergency scenarios

A4 portable laminated maps for Street Wardens and Coordinators

20 x Headtorches and spare batteries (2 existing)

20 x high-viz tabards (2 existing)

6 x hard hats

2 x hand lanterns and spare batteries (existing)

Timer for recharging 8 x 2-way radio hand sets

Portable lights with tripods

Extension leads (1 existing)

Bluetta battery pack

Foil blankets

Walter filter

Water boiler

Permanent marker pens

Box AA batteries

Box AAA batteries

Box D batteries

Pack biro (existing)

1 x DAB radio (existing)

Box Freeze-dried meals

1 x white board with pens (existing)

Pack of 4 round magnets (for white board - existing)

Stanley knife

Coordinator Log and Task sheets (existing)

Record book for supplies acquired from local sources (existing)

1 x headphone (existing)

Throw ropes

AP: Chase up Kirstie Banks-Lyon for 1,000 copies of the Lancashire Resilience Forum leaflet to go out to homes – recommending an emergency grab bag with contact details, NI number, etc and items to keep in store.

Insurance and funding

We need to tell our insurance company about the SERG and submit a Risk Assessment template, which can be adapted for any exercises we are doing and for any emergency event. Insurers will want to know who is doing this and what is their training and do they have their own 3rd party liability.

Wennington Parish Council do their equipment audits in March each year.

Audit list – B4RN generator needs clarification, as John mentioned.

£2,500 pounds may be available from LRF – there is equipment on a menu that we can pick out and they will pay for it.

Kirstie Banks -Lyon at Lancaster City Council will have a list of equipment held by other CEGs and find out what we can borrow from them.

Cove House and Cove Orchard – both have a generator.

Mobile generators are £400 or £500. You can get a dual-fuel generator

Priority hub – will have its own power source

AP: Need information about the B4RN generator – put on May SPC agenda (Liz enquiring).

AP: Ask Hannah Sutton at Lancashire Resilience Forum about available funding.

AP: Risk assessment template to Parish Council insurers.