

Dear Community Plan Holders

I hope that you are all well and that this year is hopefully an improvement on the last one!

It's been a while since we last sent out any messages to you as a group, I trust you will understand that we have been a little pre-occupied what with one thing and another through the last twelve months or more. Yes, it is that long as we were preparing for Covid19 and EU Exit before it became a problem here in the UK. Sadly, there was little we could pass out to the Community Plan Holders regarding Covid, other than what HM Government was issuing in reality.

A couple of things have changed is the Head of Emergency Planning at HCC Ian Hoult has recently retired after 22yrs service, Stuart Fox has replaced him as Interim Head for the foreseeable future. Additionally, the LRF Lead Officer for Community resilience has changed from Hampshire Fire & Rescue to Melvin Hartley from Eastleigh Council, we have worked closely with Melvin for a number of years and it is hoped he will bring new ideas into the group, he has recently been to the USA on a Fellowship to study their Emergency Response Volunteer Groups.

On a day to day basis, our relationship with you all will not change and you will still be looked after by the local HCC Emergency Planning Officers, however, some of those officers have changed too ! Here is how it currently stands:

NFDC	Neil Jenkins/ Katie Morgan
TVBC	Stephanie Layzell
WCC/BDBC	Erica Chisholm
Hart/RBC	Penny Lewendon
EHDC/Havant	Ruth Smith
FBC/GBC	Erica Chisholm/Katie Morgan

Much of the last 12 months has been spent carrying out critical work within the Hants & IOW Local Resilience Forum (HIOW LRF), our team has been at the forefront of many things including managing the Testing Operations, PPE for all agencies in Hampshire, the Excess deaths cell and Operation Transmission (the EU Exit Transport plan) amongst numerous other things. As a result, I have to say our day has suffered slightly, but obviously the response to the nations critical situation was/is more important.

It was very pleasing to see that as a county our PPE was reported by the military (to HM Gov) as being the best in the country and a role model for other areas. As a result, this area has never been short of kit due to the diligence and planning at the outset of the pandemic.

Hopefully as we begin to move out of this phase of response, we will be able to engage more frequently once again and offer help and guidance where needed.

The end of 2020 was particularly wet, with significant rainfall recorded. This has seen some surface water issues and rising Groundwater levels. If your community is in a Groundwater Flood area, please ensure you are taking the correct preparation and staying up to date with the information published by the Environment Agency.

The Environment Agency have published a Groundwater Flooding Briefing note, including lots of graphs, which I have attached. The main point from this is that Groundwater levels are high, but flooding is not expected imminently. However, we may see some flooding as we move through the early part of 2020.

If your community is in a Flood Risk area:

- Sign up for any relevant flood warnings (<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>)
- Read the attached leaflet from the Environment Agency with some practical advice
- Check your Community Plan – is it up to date and relevant?
- Scroll to the bottom of the ground water briefing for some more advice and links
- Check the website for live water level updates
- Prepare ahead, if you receive flood warnings think about how you are going to protect your property and yourselves, and where you get those resources from
- Have a look at the Hampshire County Council website for guidance on preparing for flooding (<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/emergencyplanning/whattoplanfor/floodi ngadvice>)
- The National Flood Forum provides some useful information (<https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/about-flooding/preparing/checklist-action-plan/>)
- Think about any other winter risks and preparation!

There is lots of information on how to protect your home from flooding available from the Environment Agency and your local District Council, and it remains the homeowner's responsibility to look after their property.

Finally, you may wish to know that we have moved onto Microsoft Teams and to that end effectively we have no landlines in our offices, however our main office no. still exists 01962 846846 and with the magic of modern technology that will connect you

with one of the team. Our main email of emergency.planningteam@hants.gov.uk is still the one to use.

Thanks to you all for keeping your plans up to date and forwarding them to us to keep us current.

Neil Jenkins

Interim Deputy Head of Emergency Planning & Resilience

HCC

Winchester