

BAWDSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Emergency Planning Report 19/04/2018

The Joint Bawdsey and Alderton Emergency Planning Team has continued to meet regularly a few times over the last year. Since we now have a plan registered with the local authorities, our meetings are mainly to discuss any changes and improvements to the plan and to ensure we continue to be as prepared as possible. Two of our meetings this winter were attended by Keith Fawkner-Simpson, the Emergency Planning Officer at East Suffolk District Councils, who gave us some valuable additional advice.

A recent significant addition to our emergency equipment has been the purchase of three professional-grade walkie talkies and relative OFCOM license. These should enable us to communicate between Bawdsey Quay, Bawdsey Village, Alderton and Shingle Street in the event of extended power cuts that take down normal telephone communications.

Over the winter we have had two potential emergency situations, although the emergency plan was not activated in either of them:

1. 18th January 2018

High winds caused power outages across the area. We were not asked to activate the Emergency Plan by the local authorities. Members of the team were in contact with each other during the day, monitoring the situation and since power was restored to most homes by evening we decided that it was not necessary to open the village hall(s). In hindsight, we recognize that might have been a mistake and that perhaps the village hall should have been opened. Any comments on this are welcome.

2. 1st March 2018, the "Beast from the East"

As we all know, the Beast from the East brought heavy snowfall and high winds that caused snow drifts that blocked many local roads. Thankfully, there were no power cuts.

Mortiers Farms and other landowners were very helpful in clearing the roads.

Again, we were not asked to activate the Emergency Plan by the local authorities and didn't deem it necessary to open the village hall(s).

Jason Horncastle