



# Brixham Town Council

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**Town Clerk: Mrs Tracy Hallett**

<b>Report Number</b>	43-2021	<b>Date</b>	26.07.21
<b>Report Type</b>	Public	<b>Meeting</b>	Community & Environment Committee
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Linda McGuirk	<b>Job Title</b>	Deputy Town Clerk
<b>Report Title</b>	Brixham Emergency Plan		

## Summary

The Emergency Plan Task & Finish group met with representatives of the Environment Agency and Torbay Councils Emergency Planning Officers to discuss how to progress a Town Emergency Plan. The Environment Agency representative showed a presentation, which can be seen here [Emergency Plan Presentation](#).

The group discussed:

- What is an emergency
- Types of emergencies that could affect Brixham
- Benefits of having an emergency plan
- Help to write the plan
- Planning for flooding
- Pros and cons of developing an emergency plan now

Next steps are to decide:

- If we want to update the current flood plan?
- Include wider emergencies?
- Who will lead on delivering this piece of work? and allocate roles
- Access support from Devon Communities Together
- Access support from the Environment Agency to review the flood section of the plan?

Devon Communities Together (DCT) supports Town and Parish Councils to initiate an emergency plan. We have made contact with the Community Projects Advisor who is ready to assist and provided some additional information, see annex 1.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that the Community and Environment Committee:

1. Updates and expands the existing Flood Plan to incorporate wider emergencies.
2. Works with Devon Communities Together.
3. Allocates roles.
4. Liaises with the Environment Agency to review the flood section.

## Annex 1

### Community Emergency Plans

The Civil Contingencies Act of 2004 set out to create an integrated approach to emergency management that involves the emergency services and all other organisations that might be involved in responding to an event. Whilst not compulsory, local emergency plans can be part of this strategy, providing a local first response, managing a situation where the professional services response is delayed, supporting the responding services and helping with the local recovery from an event.

The local plan is produced to a national template and the plan is held on a database that can be accessed by the services and agencies. This provides essential information on local contacts, resources and capabilities that can be integrated into the professional response.

A local response team is set up and equipped to address the most likely events. There is training and guidance available for local teams and, in certain circumstances, funds to equip, train and undertake projects. Plans may address weather related events, accidents, failure of essential services, illness at a local or pandemic level etc.

Whilst a town or parish council usually initiate the local plan, it is not necessary for councillors to develop the plan. Communities will have volunteers who are willing to undertake this task and there may be people with experience of emergency planning living in your community. The most important role for a council is to ensure that the plan is regularly refreshed. There is a small fund available to facilitate compiling a plan. We can come to your meeting or a community event to give a short presentation and to answer questions. (If covid restrictions dictate, we can use Zoom or similar.)

The process can take several months and we normally support those compiling a plan with an initial training session or can provide a Zoom alternative. We are available to give advice, review drafts and support your efforts.

About a hundred communities in Devon have plans, with others in progress; we have a six monthly forum that brings communities together. This is supported by the emergency services and major agencies. The Forum is an opportunity for emergency response training, learning and exchanging information.

In addition to our ongoing support for local emergency plans we are promoting the National Flood Forum 'Pathfinder' community flood resilience project to residents and local response groups.

*Devon Communities Together is a rural development charity and is promoting emergency plans on behalf of the Devon Community Resilience Forum.*

For further information see:

<https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/devon-community-resilience-forum>

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