

Menheniot Parish Council Community Emergency Plan

Support Document

1.1 Why do we have a Community Emergency Plan for Menheniot?

All major emergencies are dealt with by the Emergency Services, Local Authorities, Utilities and Voluntary Agencies in a combined response. In extreme conditions, it is possible that the Emergency Services may not be able to reach the scene or react immediately. In such circumstances, the initial response may rely entirely on local people coming forward.

It is for this reason that the Parish Council has developed a Community Emergency Plan, to provide local support on the ground speedily and when it is most needed, using volunteers in a structured manner. The plan supports the Emergency Plans adopted by Cornwall Council, the Menheniot Primary School and local businesses.

The aim is to look after the immediate welfare needs of people in the Parish and help to maintain our infrastructure. It does not replace the support provided by the Emergency Services, but supplements it, particularly at the early stages. It is designed to deal with events affecting the Parish or parts of the Parish so that we may recover from an emergency situation more quickly.

This Emergency Plan is not designed to deal with local emergencies affecting less than three households or when the Emergency Services are perfectly capable of dealing with the emergency without any formal Parish involvement.

The operational structure of the plan is based on 3 zones North, Merrymeet, Central, Menheniot and South, Lower Clicker.

As Menheniot is a rural community with much of the infrastructure for supply of electricity and broadband (including mobile phones reliant on WiFi) via overhead cables , these services will be susceptible to interruption due to adverse weather. Therefore residents will be encouraged to continue to use the established red/green "Please help" signs displayed prominently in house windows so our Community Wardens will be able to identify any households in need of support. In some circumstances Community Wardens in the absence of any other means of communication may have to personally visit vulnerable households.

As part of the planning emergency boxes/kits will be provided for each of the Emergency Coordinator/s with essential equipment to be used in the emergency.

Specific Risks

The types of emergencies which we might have to contend with as a Parish include evacuation for safety reasons, flooding; utility failures, particularly electrical power outages or damage to high pressure gas mains; severe weather, such as heavy snow; and human and animal disease outbreaks. This list is not exhaustive.

Following a risk assessment the following risks have been identified for inclusion in this plan;

- a. Flooding.
- b. Result of adverse weather causing utilities to fail or preventing access to and around the Parish e.g. such as fallen trees, dangerous buildings or snow.
- c. Evacuation of whole or part of parish for safety reasons eg LPG cylinders or fertilisers involved in a fire or chemical spill, High pressure or distribution gas main damage.
- d. Outbreak of contagious diseases.
- e. Direct or indirect consequence of incident and closure of the A38 or main railway line.