

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

Emergency Plan Committee

The Parish Council has for many years had in place an Emergency Plan. What IS an Emergency Plan and why might we need it? An Emergency Plan is designed to help our community cope with any kind of emergency – not in place of, but BEFORE the emergency services are able to reach us.

There is a general acceptance I believe that we are now experiencing global warming, which has somewhat ‘shaken up’ our climate and weather.

At the beginning of this year, we experienced a ‘near’ emergency! Excessive rain meant that there was some flooding in The Valley and to a slightly lesser extent in Valley Road. Water was flowing through the ditch in a torrent and the fear was that houses could be flooded out (which has happened in part years!).

Most of Parish Council gathered at the bottom of Lewis Road and debated what action may be needed! From memory I was aware that we do have some sandbags, but we had no sand (pre-filled sandbags will rot).

A swift request to the powers that be for help resulted in nothing for many hours. Understandably, because of the extreme weather, there were more dangerous situations around the area!

This led us to re-think our plans the future, bearing in mind that we could experience such things as drought or wildfire (if we have a scorching summer), pandemic, loss of power, water shortage, road or other accident, storm – the possibilities go on.

We need to update our Plan, to share it with the community, to be able to offer places of safety, develop lines of communication – and so on.....

As Chair of the Emergency Plan Committee, I and my fellow Parish Councillors will be looking to open up dialogue with our residents – looking for suggestions and ideas and to set up a network of help if, heaven forbid, we are faced with an emergency that requires some speedy action until help arrives.

If you feel this is something you could help with – do please talk to me!

JANET MALIN

Chair – Emergency Plan Committee

Radford Semele Parish Council