

Emergency Planning Working Party

Notes of the Emergency Planning Working Party held on **Tuesday, 15 March 2011 at 6.30 pm** at Market Deeping Town Hall

Present: Cllr Lynn Thompson from Deeping Gate Parish Council, Cllr Pauline Redshaw and Cllr Nick Neilson from Market Deeping Town Council, Cllr Chris Pearce, Cllr Mike Pagella, Cllr Gerd Lindfors-Windsor and Cllr Colin Gamble, from Deeping St James Parish Council. Also present was Ivor Ablitt - a resident - and Peter Bayliss – Flood Warden for Deeping St James Steve Ashby, Clerk to Deeping St James Parish Council.

1. Peter Bayliss, Flood Warden.

- Flood Wardens were introduced by the Environment Agency in 2002 following floods in Northampton in 1998.
- His primary role is to liaise with the Agency – who have improved their warning systems – and he needs to be aware of vulnerable people who may be affected.
- The Deepings do have flood defences – for example the Crowland Washes are designed to take flood water – but river water from the Northampton area meets tidal water at Spalding. Surges from the North Sea though are prevented by flood defences
- The Environment Agency is based in Lincoln where it monitors the water levels and controls High Locks and Low Locks. They are closed to maintain water levels.
- Peter said that he felt the Agency could do more to keep the waterway clear as it has not been dredged for many years, the river west of Low Locks looks shallow as it is silting up, only part of the South bank has been dragged for weeds and the weeds are narrowing the river catching silt. The Agency do though walk the bank every couple of years
- The area is not known to flood but there is a remote possibility. The chance is very slight due to defences and gates. Previous problems along Eastgate were caused primarily by water seeping through the earth bank rather than overflowing the bank
- Sand bags need to be provided by residents but there are a number held at the Methodist Church in DSJ and some are held by MDTC.
- Since 2002 he has had no call outs whatsoever from the Agency.
- The Agency hold meetings once or twice a year in Lincoln or Louth and do not seem to be greatly interested in this area instead concentrating on Lincoln and the Coast.
- Cllr Thompson said that she had attended a recent Agency event at Lincoln on behalf of Deeping Gate and she is now considered the Flood Warden for Deeping Gate– she confirmed that Lincoln is the Control Centre in the event of a flood.
- Peter said that he is prepared to continue as Flood Warden- he regularly monitors rainfall and water levels, he reports to the Agency who have a system for alerting Flood Wardens but he would let the Parish councils know.
- There is a warning system via the internet but this is reliant on electricity supplies and if you have registered to be warned, the registration lasts for two years then you need to renew it.

2. Open Public Meeting

This was discussed and it was felt that as the initial purpose of the group was to put a plan together, the proposed open meeting should be deferred and the plan should be the priority. Once the plan was complete then an open meeting may be considered.

It was agreed that a copy of the plan would be emailed to all members of the group for each to include information that they have. The details will then be sent to the Deeping St James Clerk who will arrange for it to be consolidated so it can be reviewed at the next meeting.

Elderly resident complexes such as Cartmel Court and Joan Wake Close need to be included.

Cllr Redshaw offered to raise the subject of Emergency Planning at the Annual Parish Meeting in April,

3. Community Index

This is still being produced by the Community Centre and will be available shortly.

4. Next meeting

This was set for Tuesday 19 April 2011. 6.30 pm at The Institute, Church St, Deeping St James.