

# **Chard Area Resilience Group (CARG)**

## **AGENDA**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7pm**

**The Choughs Hotel, High Street, Chard TA20 1QB**

**(Just up from the Post Office and Guildhall where Members of the Steering Group will be on hand to direct to the correct location within the hotel)**

### **Item 1**

**Welcome and Introductions.**

**DB/LA**

### **Item 2**

**Apologies for Absence.**

**LA**

### **Item 3**

**Declarations of Interest Relating to Items on the Agenda.**

**DB**

Does not apply to individual, previously flooded residential or commercial properties.

### **Item 4**

**Administrative Tasks to Be Undertaken.**

**DB/LA**

For example, minute taking and then matters arising and agreement at next meeting.

### **Item 5**

**Report of The Steering Group – Standing Item, All Steering Group Leads**

Objective: To move matters along at a faster pace with an emphasis on not only being prepared for the worst but also suggesting potential causes.

Financial: To be determined. May involve match funding.

Legal: Some matters known but legal advice may be required. For example, road closure implementation legislation, health & safety and practical aspects.

Following on from the appointment of the Steering Group at the earlier meeting, the main aim of the Steering Group will be to support and gather information for the

Resilience Group. This will enable the Resilience Group to consider a wide range of emergency based activities and make recommendations to lead Authorities in order to benefit the people of Chard and surrounding areas with the aim of supplying planned response and, ultimately, a safer community.

1. Liaison with Local Resilience Groups and development of Chard & Area Flood/Incident Warden Structure – Louise Allen and Stop Flooding Chard Members plus SRA.

Training events and dates available will be discussed at the meeting.

Update on discussions with Ilminster Resilience Group.

Update on inclusion of adjacent Parish areas.

2. Update on liaison With Local Landowners – Keith Robbins and Kate Patay.

Update on progress of site visits, investigations of existing facilities and potentially derelict existing facilities, determination of landownerships for future discussions.

3. Update on liaison with existing emergency structure and interested parties such as CC/SRA/LLFA. The main aim is still to keep pushing forward with a system to find the potential causes of flooding and suggestions for rectifying problems. DB will summarise the recent email to South Somerset District Council Strategic Planning Team (Local Plan Review) along with any responses. This will be followed by a brief overview, with examples, of the technical aspects unearthed so far and a discussion will be encouraged. This also includes work going ahead on a Public Consultation draft and examples will be available for information.

A geographic area under review will be illustrated for agreement.

Work behind the Public Consultation draft includes seeking examples (particularly photographs and video) from earlier flood events, locations, the use and accuracy of Gov.UK flood mapping - including that intended for planning applications. Communications and getting information to the Steering Group is covered later in this agenda.

At the Steering Group meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, the merging of Groups 4 and 5 was discussed. This will be reported on at the meeting.

4. Communications Equipment During Incidents and Exercises, Organisation, Operational Confidential Contacts List Development. Louise Allen and SFC.
5. Local Commercial & Private Fund raising including match funding proposals – Louise Allen and SFC.
6. Supporting The Steering Group and The Teams inside and outside Emergency and Exercise Situations: Examples include Data Protection, Research, Development, Health & Safety, Training, Publicity, Facilitating, Geographic & Strategic Mapping and location finding & funding for booking meeting space.

### **Recommendations:**

- The Resilience Group **AGREES** the merging of Steering Groups 4 and 5.
- The Resilience Group **NOTES** the potential and need to attract more Volunteers to be on the Flood/Incident Wardens list, especially to cover for matters such as holidays and sickness. Members **AGREE** to act as Ambassadors to encourage more Volunteers to contact Louise Allen and colleagues via the Steering Group. It is hoped that a new system of communication within, to and from the Resilience Group will be investigated and implemented prior to the next Resilience Group meeting.
- The Resilience Group **AGREES** to be inclusive and act in the best interests of the residents and businesses within and, if necessary, outside the described area as illustrated.
- The Resilience Group **NOTES** the progress made towards identifying probable causes of flooding and the content of the email to the Strategic Planning Team.

### **Item 6**

#### **The Resilience Group Going Forward**

Objective: To overcome restrictive funding, organisational and statutory matters associated with operating across several Town & Parish organisations.

Financial: To be determined. This is a voluntary organisation.

Legal: Some matters known but operational legal advice may be required.

The Steering Group is very pleased that several organisations, including the local Town and several Parish Councils, are expressing interest and wishing to be involved.

However, this good news brings matters to be resolved as clearly illustrated by Paul Russell (the Chard Town Clerk) at the earlier Resilience Group meeting. That meeting was told, in no uncertain terms, about how restricted the Parishes and Town Council are in terms of statutory functions, the geographic area where they can spend funds, the need to maximise funding impact across their own parishioners and the general ability to spend funding given to them.

The Resilience Group is moving faster than expected. It is clear that, in order to run on a sound financial basis and accept income such as sponsorship and grants on behalf of several organisational areas - and be open, transparent and accountable - it will be expected that the organisation has a bank account, Officers and a Committee to be accountable.

**Recommendations:**

The Resilience Group is asked to **AGREE** that, with immediate effect, the Steering Group be transformed into the basis of the proposed Committee and that it delegates that group to seek out and appoint Officers for the first year of operation with a view to writing a Constitution (along with any other documents required), setting up a web site and email address (one point of contact specific to the Resilience Group) in order to aid communication. The Officers will then be able to open the proper banking facilities and accept funds.

Please note that membership of the Resilience Group would not be affected and will remain open to all residents, organisations and businesses within the wider area.

**Item 7**

**Any Other Business not on the main Agenda.**

**Date, Time and Venue for next Resilience Group meeting:**

Probably in June 2022. To be notified as soon as possible.

**Date, Time and Venue for next Steering Group meeting:**

Probably in early May 2022. To be notified as soon as possible.