

# Chairman's Announcement

**Subject**

**Emergency Planning Resilience and Response  
Review of Community Resilience**

## 1. Introduction

During the flooding on 2013/2014 Wiltshire Council found that communities with flood plans were more resilient. They were less reliant on assistance from public services, gave good welfare to their most vulnerable residents, were easily contactable, and were able to provide good intelligence and information.

Before 2014, community resilience had been undertaken by different teams in an uncoordinated way, with the Emergency Planning, Drainage and Highways Teams all approaching individual Parish Councils to complete an array of emergency, flood and snow plans.

A new approach was trialled in 2014/15, with multi-agency workshops delivered to the Parish and Town councils by Community Area Boards. Attendees were provided with information on how to prepare a community plan, and also information on risks including flood, snow, public health and how best to work with the emergency services.

## 2. Project Outline

**AIM:** To increase the resilience of communities by supporting Parish and Town Councils to create local emergency plans.

**OBJECTIVES:** Deliver multi-agency workshops for community area boards. Provide a toolkit for creating emergency plans, which take into account the key risks that affect particular communities.

**MEASURE OF SUCCESS:** Increase in the number of updated and completed community plans.

## 3. Summary of progress in 2014/15

Workshops Completed:

<b>Area Board</b>	<b>Total Parish Councils In the Area</b>	<b>Number of Parish Councils Attended</b>	<b>Feedback (Will improve community resilience)</b>
Chippenham	16	9	100%
Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade	12	7	100%
Malmesbury	21	9	96%
Bradford on Avon	8	3	75%
Amesbury	22	11	100%
South Wiltshire	16	9	100%

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Warminster and Melksham workshops are planned to take place in June 2015. A further 4 workshops will be programmed during the year.

## **4. Next steps**

Based on feedback received from parishes, there are a number of barriers to community resilience plans being completed in a timely manner. The following changes are proposed:

### **4.1 Different levels of plans**

Parish and town councils vary in size and complexity. Therefore, a single comprehensive template can appear unrealistic and daunting. Therefore, a staged approach is proposed:

Templates that are simpler and that can be tailored to the community, with awards:

Bronze – key contact details, rest centre and a method to contact the vulnerable.

Silver – to include a list of key risks, key assets, and contacts for wardens.

Gold – Full template completed covering flood/snow/power outages/public health/etc.

### **4.2 Greater levels of support**

There has been feedback that some parish and town councils require more resources to complete emergency plans. Therefore, we propose to introduce post-workshop support from the drainage team, emergency weather team, and by recruiting Emergency Planning interns.

## **5. Conclusion**

Parish and Town councils have told us that they value the multi-agency workshops that have been run in the past 12 months. However, the stated aim of raising resilience will not be met until more parish and town councils have emergency plans in place. Therefore, simple steps have been taken in year two of this programme to try and increase the number of councils that will be able to complete and share their plans.