



## Welcome to the Spring 2024 DCRF Members' Newsletter

Thank you for being a part of Devon Community Resilience Forum. This is our first newsletter of the year!

In this issue:

- Devon Prepared Conference
- Devon Prepared - online follow up event
- Power outages
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- Events
- Funding
- Climate

As a reminder, Forum members benefit from:

- A quarterly newsletter with information and advice.
- The opportunity to apply for grants of up to £1500 for creating and implementing their emergency plan.
- Liaising with other members about recommended equipment for community resilience, advice on plans and sharing resources.
- Access to FREE resilience training

If you have any organisations that you feel would benefit from being a member, please pass on our information.

## Announcement



We are delighted to announce that the **Environment Agency** and **Devon County Council** have extended their support of Devon Community Resilience Forum for another three years, so we will be able to offer emergency planning advice and funding until at least March 2027.

### In review: Whole of Society Resilience Conference Event, Friday 22nd March 2024 at the Kenn Centre.

At the time of writing we are in the process of collating and analysing all of the fantastic conversations, ideas and suggestions from the Devon Prepared conference.

The keynote address was given by Becky Maynard of the VCS Emergencies Partnership, providing the national and regional context. There followed very focussed presentations by Devon County Council, the Environment Agency, Teignbridge District Council and Kingsbridge Town Council on how they are supporting whole of society resilience. This led to animated discussions by the delegates about what they are already doing to promote resilience, what they would like to do and the barriers they faced.

Several topics came up again and again. In particular the problem of liability when volunteers are involved in resilience work and the question of what to do in the event of power and communications blackouts. Both these are addressed later in this newsletter.

The afternoon featured presentations on climate change and public health; community buildings as emergency rest centres; and how householders can help reduce surface water flooding.

A more detailed report of the day will be produced soon.



# Devon Prepared - online follow up event

Book your free place today!

In case you were not able to join us on the 22nd in person, an online event will be held on **Tuesday 30th April from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.**

We will report on the outcomes of the conference, respond to questions raised by delegates and discuss some of the main issues that arose.

This is for you if:

- You attended the conference and want to continue the conversation
- You were unable to be at the conference
- You are interested in resilience, emergency planning or future-proofing

## Be prepared: Power Outages

**POWER CUT?  
CALL 105**



To find out about  
planned or  
unexpected

To report a power cut call 105 -  
<https://www.powercut105.com/en/>

To find out about planned or  
unexpected power cuts -  
<https://powercuts.nationalgrid.co.uk/>

For more details on what to do in  
the home if the power goes off,  
check the British Red Cross website:  
<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/power-cut>

power cuts click  
here

### Two-way radios

In the event that all communications fail, including mobile phones, two-way radios can provide a solution for local comms between members of an emergency team.

PCE Technology gave a presentation at one of our previous forums. There is a brief introduction to two-way radio choices on their website at <https://www.pce-tech.co.uk/post/confused-by-the-choice-of-two-way-business-radios>

## Volunteering Volunteers liability



A topic which arose several times during the Devon Prepared conference was whether volunteers could be held liable for anything that occurred while they were helping during an emergency or in taking pre-emptive action such as clearing drains to prevent flooding.

In general, councils and voluntary organisations will have public liability insurance which covers volunteers. Tegan Faulkner of Devon County Council's Highways Team said that anyone who undertook their free road warden training was automatically covered by their insurance.

NCVO has information about insurance for volunteers - <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/help-and-guidance/involving-volunteers/planning-for-volunteers/getting-volunteer-insurance/>

There is further information on the Cornwall Flood Forum site - <https://www.cornwallcommunityfloodforum.org.uk/support/insurance/>

# Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism (SARAH) Act

**SARAH Act** is designed to provide reassurance that if something goes wrong when people are acting for the benefit of society or intervening to help someone in an emergency, the courts will take into account the context of their actions in the event they are sued for negligence or for breach of certain statutory duties (which operate in a similar way to the law of negligence).

It is also intended to reassure people, including employers, that if they demonstrate a predominantly responsible approach towards the safety of others during a particular activity, the courts will always take full account of the circumstances.

The Act does not change the overarching legal framework, but directs the courts to consider particular factors when considering whether the defendant took reasonable care. In any negligence/ breach of statutory claim that is brought where the court is determining the steps a defendant should have taken to meet the applicable standard of care, it must have regard to whether:

- a) the alleged negligence/breach of duty occurred when the defendant was acting for the benefit of society or any of its members;
- b) in carrying out the activity in the course of which the negligence/breach of statutory duty occurred, the defendant had demonstrated a predominantly responsible approach towards protecting the safety or other interests of others; and
- c) the alleged negligence/breach of duty occurred when the defendant was acting heroically by intervening in an emergency to assist an individual in danger.

## Become a voluntary road warden

At the Devon Prepared conference, Tegan Faulkner from Devon County Council outlined the road warden scheme which allows communities to:

1. Organise minor works either on or off the live carriageway (see types of work below)
2. Carry out minor works either on the live carriageway or away from the live carriageway

For more details go to

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/opportunities/road-warden-scheme>

## Events

Land Use - Who Owns Totnes?  
Community Resilience Forum

Devon Prepared - online follow up  
event

Saturday 27th April  
1.00pm - 3.00pm  
Totnes Methodist Church

This Forum will focus on understanding the context of legal ownership of land, community led development, and how creating more resilient systems on a local level is impacted by land ownership.

More information and to book your place, click here:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/land-use-who-owns-totnes-community-resilience-forum-tickets-861534792757>

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Book your free place today  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/880665081967?aff=oddtcreator>

### **Future Farming Resilience Project**

The Future Farming Resilience Project aims to support the farming community transition from the Direct Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) towards the governments new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) by providing free, expert advice that is tailored to unique farming businesses.

More information and to explore the range of events and support, visit:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/economy/business-support/current-business-support-projects/future-farming-resilience/>

### **The Latest Farm Grants Update**

Wednesday 24th April  
7.00pm - 10.00pm  
Cullompton Community Centre

This free workshop provides up-to-date information to farmers aiming to build farm business resilience and profitability.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-latest-farm-grants-update-tickets-768887181257?aff=erelexpmlt>

### **Communities Prepared**

Flood Volunteering Training and Emergency Planning Workshops online. For details of forthcoming sessions go to their [events page](#).



## Funding

APPLY TODAY

### Grant funding for community emergency resilience

The Emergency Resilience Grant scheme to support communities across the county affected by extreme weather events is continuing in 2024-5.

The initiative offers two funding schemes - scheme 1 up to £250 to help communities to develop emergency plans and scheme 2 up to £1,500 to support small scale works and resilience equipment for those communities that have an emergency plan in place or are in the process of preparing one. For more information go to <https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/grant-funding-emergency-flood-resilience>

### Property Flood Resilience Scheme

Devon County Council aims to help individual property owners

### IK Shared Prosperity Fund Community Resilience Grant

This grant fund aims to support the resilience of community facilities, such as community and village halls, village shops, and other sites which provide a range of services to their local communities.

<https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/your-council/budgets-and-finance/budgets-and-spending/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/community#:~:text=This%20grant%20fund%20aims%20to,Limited%20other%20community%20infrastructure%20exists>.

### Community Energy Fund

The Community Energy Fund is a national £10m grant scheme for urban and rural communities to kickstart community-led clean energy projects.

be better equipped with the tools and basic defence measures they need to be able to deal with flooding.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/flood-riskmanagement/flood-resilience/property-flood-resilience-funding-scheme/>

<https://www.swnetzerohub.org.uk/what-we-do/community-energy/>

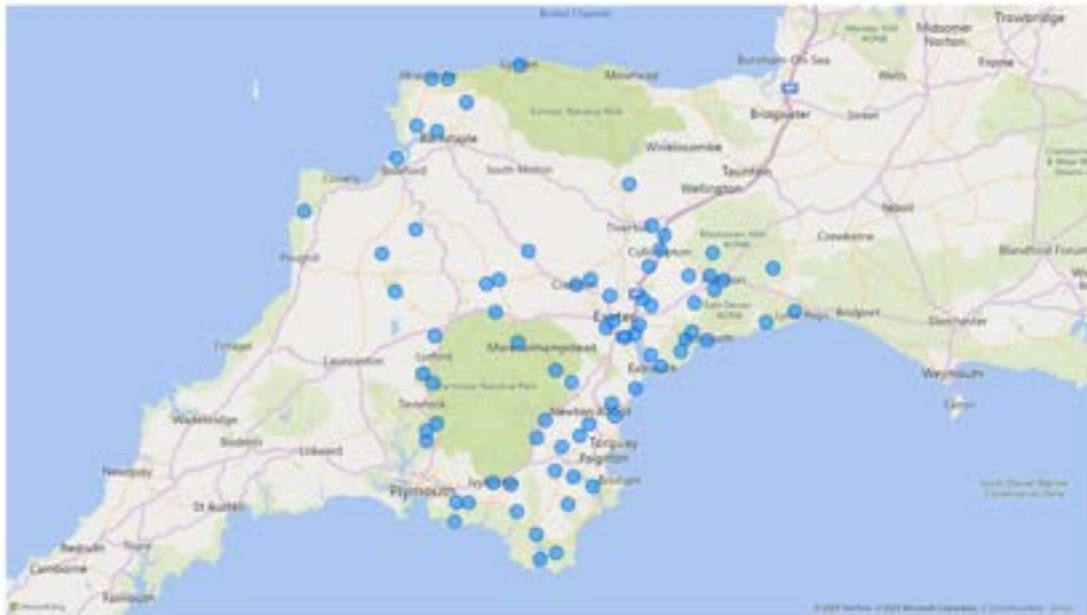
## Emergency Plans

A Community Emergency Plan (CEP) is a document that outlines the steps your community will take before, during and after an emergency incident. It helps you to manage local activities to reduce the risk to people and property in your community.

If you need help in either preparing a CEP or updating your current plan, we encourage you to get in touch.

Contact Rod Birtles to discuss your Community Emergency Plan

Where are the current Community Emergency Plans in Devon?



Devon Climate Emergency



If you are concerned about what your community can do in the face of climate change, DCE's website has information, resources and useful links. <https://devonclimateemergency.org.uk/resources-for-community-groups/>

And if we ever needed reminding that the climate is changing in unpredictable ways, the news from Dubai provides a shocking example: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/dubai-flooding-pictures-rain-storms-b2530191.html>

For more information about the Devon Community Resilience Forum, click [here](#) or contact [rod.birtles@devoncommunities.org.uk](mailto:rod.birtles@devoncommunities.org.uk).

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[Unsubscribe here](#)

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