

Knowstone Emergency Plan

The Knowstone Emergency Plan was updated during the summer months of 2017 and was in place before the winter season.

In August, every household in the parish would have received an envelope containing a letter of introduction, Emergency Plan update and a questionnaire, as well as an information sheet about the parish defibrillator situated at the Parish Hall. The intention of this exercise was to inform all parishioners of the Emergency Plan objectives and to collate a list of volunteers, equipment and services that could be drawn upon in cases of real emergencies.

In small communities, like Knowstone Parish, most people of course help their immediate neighbours where required. However, in more potentially serious emergencies, as outlined in the plan update, a call for more general and coordinated support throughout the parish may be necessary. Disappointingly, out of over 120 households throughout the parish, only 19 questionnaires were returned. We are grateful to those who did return their questionnaire and offer anything from 4x4 vehicles to bedding to accommodation for people and pets.

Despite some severe frost and two substantial snowfalls, the only incident that required “emergency cover” was a gas cylinder lorry that slid down the hill at Crosside and got wedged between the two banks. This blocked the journey of the school bus, but thankfully there were no casualties. With the help of the police, Cllr Reg Howe organised a successful recovery.

In this parish, I would like to increase the list of volunteers/equipment for future years, and I also require an Emergency Plan Coordinator from Knowstone village. If you are interested in this role or need another questionnaire, please contact me on 01398 341977.

It is Devon County Council’s intention to have a network of Snow Wardens throughout the county, to assist on minor roads when winter conditions are adverse. In Knowstone Parish we need Snow Wardens and volunteers. Official DCC training will be given to anyone who is interested in these positions. For further information, please contact me at the above number or email timothybrowse@knowstone.org.uk

Timothy Browse

May 2018