



Is your community prepared for an emergency?

Suffolk Prepared

June 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to our eleventh issue



by Sue Herne

Hi and welcome to the latest edition of the Community Emergency Planning Newsletter - Suffolk Prepared

Well there may not appear to be much on the horizon with regards to training, workshops etc. for Community Emergency Planning Groups, but rest assured there is plenty of planning going on behind the scenes. What's important to us is that we deliver the training, workshops etc. that will be of benefit to you and enhance the skills and knowledge of your volunteers. If there's something you would like that you think will be of benefit to other groups, then please let your local Steering Group Representative know. You can find who your rep is [Here](#).

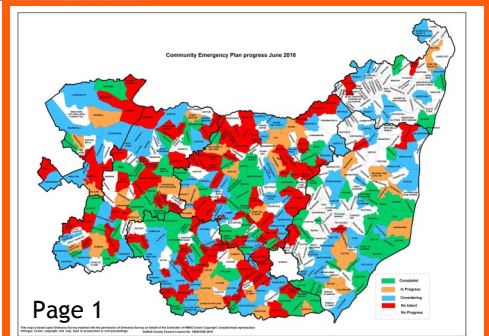
Please don't forget you can find a list of current training courses and their dates that are upcoming on the diary page which is at the end of this newsletter. You can book on any of these courses, which are free to attend by emailing emergency.planning@suffolk.gov.uk

The Environment Agency have just updated their flood warning website widget, and if you have the old style widget on your website you will need to change it to the new one. More information can be found on page two.

The Joint Emergency Planning Unit

(JEPU) are currently looking at the existing strategy for community emergency planning in Suffolk. One of the issues that has been identified, is that many CEP groups only have one routine contact. We are therefore, encouraging every group to let us have at least two if not three alternative contact details. This will ensure that when necessary we can ensure that each group receives information even when the main contact isn't available or can't be contacted. It would be helpful if you could forward these contacts to your local emergency planning officer. You'll find their contact details on Page 6.

You'll see some subtle changes still occurring on the map in terms of parishes that have opted to engage with the scheme. Over the summer we are making a concerted effort to contact all the white Parishes (those that have not yet responded to the survey) so that by the end of August, there will be no white spaces left on the map. Any parish that we haven't heard from by that time we will turn red. The colour which represents that a parish has no intent to formulate a plan at present. This will enable us and the steering group reps, to focus our support where it is most needed. If this applies to your Town or Parish, then please contact us to confirm whether you are interested or not at this time. If you would like to know more about what's involved in starting a plan, what support is provided etc., then why not book into our free workshop at West Suffolk House on the 27th July from 09:30—12:30. Please remember that it doesn't have to be the town or Parish Council that has to produce the plan, it can be any community group.



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How is engagement in community emergency planning spreading across Suffolk?



Find out more about the flood widget from the Environment Agency and how to place it on your website with live data.



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An introduction to RAYNET and how you can contact them to see how they could support your CEP group during an incident.

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What's new from JEPU and your Steering Group for 2016?



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Want to know more about CEP or start a group in your community? Details of our next New Starters workshops, what can you do to help us and some tips for keeping up to date with what's happening in Suffolk can be found here.



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Contact Details



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Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has developed a new flood widget which can be placed on any website to show flood warnings.

The new widget replaces the existing version that may feature on your website.

In April 2012 we developed and launched a flood widget. The flood widget is computer script or code that web developers can use and embed within any website.

It provides live information displaying the number of Environment Agency flood alerts, flood warnings and severe flood warnings in force.

The flood widget uses the Environment Agency's open data and provides the latest summary of flood alerts and warnings. The widget is designed to update every 15 minutes.

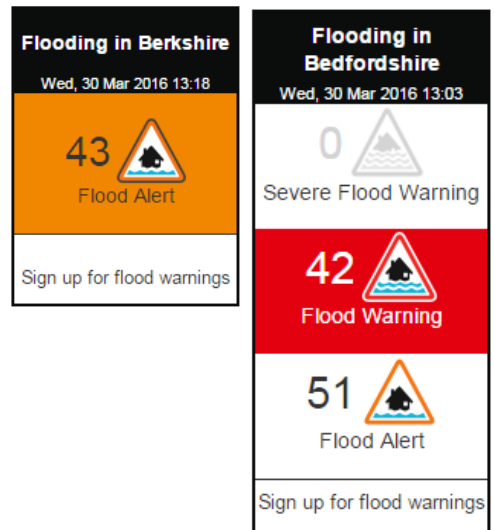
The Environment Agency is carrying out a large programme of work to review and improve its flood services. The flood widget is one of those services. The widget has proven popular since it was launched in 2012. We have reviewed the need for the widget and have made some improvements to how it looks.

The new flood widget

The new widget has been re-designed to provide either a national (England) view or a county-based view. You are able to download the new widget at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/flood-widgets>.

We launched the new widget on 8 April 2016. Both the old and new widget will be available for around 8 weeks

New Flood Widget



Updating your website

If your website features the existing flood widget, you should replace it with the version which can be downloaded from <https://environment.data.gov.uk/flood-widgets>

You can choose which design and location you want to feature. The old widget will only continue to work till the end of May 2016. It is important that you update your website with the new widget before June if you want to continue to receive the service.

If your website visitors require flood warning information for Wales they will be unable to get this through the new widget.

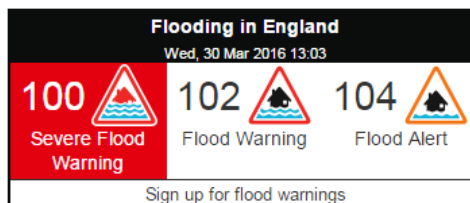
Natural Resource Wales (NRW) are responsible for the flood warning service in Wales and they don't currently plan to provide an alternative widget.

If you want to direct your visitors to flood warning information for Wales you can instead provide a link to NRW website at <http://naturalresources.wales/flooding/check-flood-warnings/?lang=en>

Further information or feedback

Please contact **Frazer Rhodes** FCRM Senior Advisor (07833 614286).

www.gov.uk/environment-agency





Raynet in Suffolk Supporting Community Emergency Planning

by Peter Hammond

It has gone down in history as one of Britain's worst storms with the loss of 307 lives, but something worthy came out of the East Coast Flood Disaster with the formation of a national emergency communications organisation which still serves the public over 60 years later.

On the night of January 31st and February 1st 1953, Britain was battered by gale force winds and a tidal surge which swept down the East Coast, raising sea levels six metres above normal and breaching flood defences in 1,200 places. In the Irish Sea, the ferry Princess Victoria sank with the loss of 133 lives.



Telephones and Coastal Radio Stations were put out of action, but Radio Amateurs came to the rescue. Humber Radio was dealing with a distress call from the SS Levenwood, which had requested the help of tugs and urgent medical advice, when it lost power and went off air.

But Radio Amateur Reg Hutcheson-Collins was monitoring and he arranged for a tug to go to the Levenwood's aid and got medical advice from a local hospital which he passed to the ship's master. That night Reg answered four distress calls, including one from the Humber Light Vessel.

At the time Radio Amateurs were licensed to speak to each other, but were not permitted to pass what is now known as "third party traffic", so the regulations had been broken. Although Radio Amateurs worked for MI5 during the Second World War monitoring Morse code signals – submitting 23,000 logs a month, the Radio Society of Great Britain's offer to provide an Emergency Amateur Communications Service was rejected by the Government in 1950.

The East Coast Flood Disaster resulted in an urgent rethink. The Amateur Licence was amended to allow the passing of third party traffic on behalf of a Government-approved list of "User Services", including the police, fire and ambulance, and in November, 1953, the Radio Amateurs Emergency Network was formed.

In the 60 years that have followed RAYNET, which has around 2,000 members nationwide but no paid staff, has provided emergency communications at many major incidents, including the Lockerbie air disaster where up to 200 people a day operated for 10 days until recovery of the 270 dead was complete.

The Lockerbie Official Report said RAYNET had made a vital contribution and the organisation should be considered as an integral part of future planning arrangements. "The facilities and co-operation of the RAYNET teams were essential to the management of the emergency and its search and recovery operations."

Today the "User Service" list has been extended to all Category 1 and 2 Responders as defined in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. They include

Police, Fire and Ambulance services, Emergency Planning Officers, Coastguard, health authorities, public utilities, St John Ambulance, British Red Cross, Salvation Army and RVS.

Everywhere RAYNET goes, it starts with nothing and engineers and operates a radio system to meet the needs of its users. But RAYNET also keeps detailed paper logs of all radio traffic and has the ability to record all messages to a computer hard drive, which can be accessed for any future inquiry.



RAYNET Control at Lake Meadows - June 2014 Essex

RAYNET members today are dedicated to providing a professional communications service to our User Services and event organisers, and remain ready to be called upon in emergencies. We have two active groups in the Suffolk county area one covers the East the other covers the West.

Both groups support local events, these include long distance walks and horse events as part of our training to support community resilience. If you require further information on how Raynet could support your local community emergency plan please contact the county controller.

The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network is a registered charity 1047725 and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England 2331954.



What's New in 2016?



by Sue Herne

Flood Re

April saw the launch of Flood Re, a new national scheme designed to help provide better access to affordable home insurance for households not only in high flood-risk areas, but for those affected by significant surface water flooding across the UK.

It represents a long-term, sustainable approach to providing home insurance for those at flood risk.

The Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit, amongst others, have been actively promoting this initiative to both existing Community Emergency Planning Groups and Parishes across the County. If your Parish or Community Group are not already involved in Community Emergency Planning and you want to find out more, email; emergency.planning@suffolk.gov.uk or visit <http://www.getpreparednow.co.uk>

Visit the [Flood Re website](#) for more information and a list of participating insurers. An information leaflet describing how Flood Re will work for householders is available [HERE](#).

Your local Emergency Planning Officer has some hardcopies of the leaflet if they are required by anyone who does not have access to the internet. (See page 6 for their contact details.)

The Joint Emergency Planning Unit and the CEP Steering Group

As those of you that have been involved in CEP in Suffolk for some time will know, it has evolved significantly since it's major launch back in 2010. We have recognised that the existing strategy for CEP now needs to be reviewed to reflect those changes. Also, to ensure that we continue to facilitate the right workshops, training, templates etc. that you need to keep your plans alive, and to ensure that your volunteers are adequately trained. Work is currently

ongoing to update the strategy that steers the way forward for community emergency planning in Suffolk. We hope to be able to share the finalised version with you in the next edition of this newsletter.

There is now a bank account up and running for the Steering Group. So if there are any groups out there who can't apply for funding because they don't have an account which funding can be paid into, then please contact the treasurer, Steve Stocks ip17steve@outlook.com for more details.

There have been a few changes to JEPU staff in recent months. Emily Roden, who was until recently with the British Red Cross, has now joined the East Team as the New Emergency Planning Officer for Ipswich. Emily joins Peter Langford - District EPO East and Keith Fawkner - Simpson EPO East. Agnes Jung has moved to pastures new with Public Health England.

Over in Central and West Suffolk, there have also been some changes. Alan Points has moved on to a new role with Suffolk County Council, Steve Henthorn is the new District Emergency Planning Officer and Claire Weller will be joining us on the 4th July to take up Steve's previous role as the Emergency Planning Officer for West Suffolk working alongside me.

You'll find all our contact details on page 6, so **please don't forget to update any contact details that you may have for us, in your existing or draft plans.**

The 3 working sub groups of the Steering Group have now met, and they are each developing their terms of reference, looking at what they want to achieve, and how they are going to deliver and communicate their objectives with you. These sub groups are open to other volunteers to be a part of so if you are good at fund raising, have good social media, communication skills or just want to be more involved, then your contacts are Carol Bull carol.bull@stedsbc.gov.uk the chair of the Funding Sub Group, Peter Hammond peter.hammond@raynet-uk.net the chair for the Communications Group, and Jerry Voden voden@btinternet.com the chair of the

Workshop, Training and Exercising Sub Group. These subgroups will be part of the mechanism that will help to drive and deliver the revised County wide Strategy.

You may note that there is a lack of workshops this year with the exception of Rest Centre Training and the workshops for new groups or new volunteers coming into existing groups.

We, and your steering group reps, want to hear from you, and hear what you want to see in future workshops, what skills you feel need developing within your group of volunteers. You can feed your ideas in via your local reps, your local emergency planning officers, through twitter or by emailing emergency.planning@suffolk.gov.uk

Klaus Gleissberg and Carol Bull have moved on from their CEP groups, which leaves two vacancies on the Steering Group for someone to cover the Northern part of Mid Suffolk District Council and the Northern part of St Edmundsbury Borough Council. You can see the patch in question [here](#) if you would like to join the steering group and cover these patches, even if it's not an area that you live in, then please do contact either Bradley Smith communitywarden@sudburytowncouncil.co.uk as the chair of the Steering Group or Sue Herne.

Members of the Steering Group supported JEPU at the Suffolk Show promoting CEP. We ran two competitions; one for children on the top 10 things they would take with them if they had to leave their house as a result of an emergency. For the adults it was a bit more challenging—they had to list 10 areas they would cover in a personal household emergency plan. This certainly got a few people thinking about things they had never considered in the past. The Children's winner was Jasmine from Rendlesham who wins a trip to a local Fire Station provided by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service. The adult winner was Alison from Leiston, who won a grab bag awarded by the Environment Agency.



Workshop for New Groups

The next workshops for parishes wanting to find out more about Community Emergency Planning, or thinking about starting a plan is taking place on the **27th of July** at West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU. This will be a morning meeting and is open to anyone interested from across Suffolk

Rest Centre Training

We continue to open our Rest Centre Training for Council Staff and Managers to volunteers from your CEP groups. However, if there is enough demand, we can run an evening session for anyone that is working and is unable to attend day time trainings. Dates will be circulated to all Community Emergency Planning Groups when these are scheduled and publicised in future newsletters.

Places for all workshops are currently free of charge and can be booked by emailing emergency.planning@suffolk.gov.uk. Any CEP Volunteers can attend these sessions, irrespective of which local authority your Parish or group falls within. Please note that training is not just for your core group, it's for any of your volunteers.

Our community is growing, however there are still areas of Suffolk where we have yet to forge any community partnerships, and get new groups and plans off the ground. We need all the help we can get to encourage more Towns, Parishes and communities to come forward and take up the challenge. The latest map charting progress for Suffolk can be found on www.getpreparednow.co.uk on the Who's got a plan page.

Here's how you can help us improve that:

- ➔ Promote the work you are doing amongst your community and share it with your local District & County Councillors and other local groups
- ➔ Provide articles or feedback for future newsletters
- ➔ Contact neighbouring communities and work jointly, offering and benefitting from mutual resources
- ➔ Stay in touch with us and keep up to date with developments and opportunities.
- ➔ Make the most of any local opportunities for publicity that you can.
- ➔ Don't forget to annually review your plans and promote any changes to your communities and send us a revised copy of your plan.

So what are we doing?

Here's a taster of some of the activities coming up.

- ➔ Follow-up workshops to help develop or complete your plans
- ➔ Continuing to improve the information on the District Websites and on www.getpreparednow.co.uk
- ➔ We continue to attend Parish Council meetings and other events to promote community emergency planning.
- ➔ Sharing information and best practice that may be useful to you and your community volunteers. If you haven't already done so, then check out the link below for some useful tool kits. www.practicaltoolkits.org.uk
- ➔ The Steering Group is gearing up now and is starting to shape the future of community emergency planning in Suffolk. Look at their pages on the websites to find out more and see who your local contacts are www.getpreparednow.co.uk

Tools of the trade:

You can contact the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit via the following email addresses

Email us at

emergency.planning@suffolk.gov.uk
emergencyplanning@babergmidssuffolk.gov.uk
emergency.planning@westsuffolk.gov.uk
emergency.planning@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

You can also follow us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/SuffolkPrepared>

Keep up to date with information by visiting our website

www.getpreparednow.co.uk

For more information on Community Resilience, case studies and a step by step tool kit to help with writing a plan visit:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/communityresilience>.

Some of you have been asking questions about the Data Protection Act, the link below might help you to determine whether your group needs to register or not. <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/>



Find out more in the next edition of your newsletter

Contact Details

**Babergh, Forest Heath, Mid Suffolk
and St Edmundsbury Emergency Planners:**

Steve Henthorn

M: 07920 466340

T: 01284 758460 / 01473 825884

Email: stephen.henthorn@suffolk.gov.uk

Sue Herne

M: 07776 481787

T: 01449 724851 / 01473 826635

Email: sue.herne@suffolk.gov.uk

Claire Weller

M: 07833 234553

T: 01284 758461 / 01449 724851

Email: claire.weller@suffolk.gov.uk

**Waveney, Suffolk Coastal and Ipswich Emergency
Planners:**

Peter Langford

M: 07920 139293

T: 01473 433431 / 01502 523321

Email: peter.langford@suffolk.gov.uk

Keith Fawkner-Simpson

M: 07920 139306

T: 01394 444453

Email: keith.fawkner-simpson@suffolk.gov.uk

Emily Roden

M: 07920 466338

T: 01473 433431

Email: emily.roden@suffolk.gov.uk

You can find more useful contacts on the following link

<http://www.getpreparednow.co.uk/home/useful-contacts/?stage=Live>

Environment Agency Community Resilience Advisors

Tamsyn Ellway

M: 07557 847860. (West Suffolk)

T: 01480 483852

Email: tamsyn.ellway@environment-agency.gov.uk

Chris Chapman

M: 07917 592602 (Central & East Suffolk)

T: 01473 706710

Email: chris.chapman@environment-agency.gov.uk

Carol Mayston

M: 07900 406755 (Central & East Suffolk)

T: 01473 706005

Email: carol.mayston@environment-agency.gov.uk



Dates for your Diary

July

6th Steering Group Meeting, Dove Room, MSDC, 131 High Street, Needham Market, IP6 8DL

13th Rest Centre Practical, MSDC, 131 High Street, Needham Market, IP6 8DL 09:30—12:30

20th Rest Centre Practical, SEBC, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3YU 09:30—12:30

August

10th Rest Centre Practical, BDC, Corks Lane, Hadleigh, IP7 6SJ 09:30—12:30

24th Rest Centre Practical, FHDC, College Heath Road, Mildenhall, IP28 7EY 09:30—12:30

September

20th Rest Centre training Felixstowe Leisure Centre 09:00 –12:30 Theory, 13:30—16:30 Practical

October

20th Developing Plans WDC Riverside Offices 0930-1230

28th Developing Plans SCDC Council Chamber 1400-1700

Steering Groups Meetings are for members of that group only, however minutes from the meetings will be placed on our [website](#)

Places on all the workshops & courses can be booked by emailing emergency.planning@suffolk.gov.uk There are no charges for any of the events listed above, and please remember that all training is open to all volunteers, not just your core members.