

# EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN 2015 - 2023



## CASE STUDY

### ENABLING COMMUNITIES

# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANS

One of the planned actions within our East Suffolk Business Plan was to encourage and support more communities to develop local Community Emergency Plans.

[eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-business-plan](http://eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-business-plan)



 [customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

 01394 383789 (Suffolk Coastal) / 01502 562111 (Waveney)



Beccles Library, Blyburgate, Beccles  
Felixstowe Library, Crescent Road, Felixstowe  
Marina Centre, Marina, Lowestoft  
Woodbridge Library, New Street, Woodbridge

# ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT MORE COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP LOCAL COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANS



## WHAT WE DID?

As one of the specific actions listed in the East Suffolk Business Plan, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have, and continue to, encourage our communities to develop local Community Emergency Plans.

The Councils' Emergency Planning Officers work with local communities providing practical support and guidance to those wishing to establish emergency plans.

There are now 17 Community Emergency Planning Groups in East Suffolk with completed local emergency plans. These groups provide a rich and informative forum for sharing and generating ideas, capturing local resources and utilising the skills of local residents, in support of their community, particularly when facing a challenging situation.

Any communities wishing to form a Community Emergency Group or create an Emergency Plan can contact the Councils' Emergency Planning Team on [emergency.planning@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:emergency.planning@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

## WHY WE DID IT?

Local communities have an important role to play during an emergency as they have a clear understanding of the risks and resources within their area. Community Emergency Plans help communities to better cope in the event of an emergency when the major emergency services are likely to be stretched. We believe that Community Emergency Plans give the community confidence that they can respond to an emergency, and help support vulnerable members of their community. Experience shows that those who have spent time planning and preparing for this are able to recover more quickly.



17 COMMUNITY  
EMERGENCY PLANNING  
GROUPS IN PLACE



## THE DIFFERENCE THIS MADE?

In January 2017, in anticipation of a tidal surge, the Community Emergency Planning Groups for Snape, Kessingland, Aldeburgh and Southwold took the decision to implement their local plan and opened up their village halls as reception centres for people evacuated from their homes. Supported by the Emergency Services and Local Authority, they set about obtaining suitable provisions, assisted with local evacuations, provided situational awareness and accommodated a number of local residents. In Snape, one local resident installed a live link to the Environment Agency's information on tides and flooding on the village's website so local residents could keep themselves apprised of the situation.

In another instance, a local community raised funds to equip their village hall with a telephone line, internet connection and an external emergency power connection.