



CHARD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting to discuss key administration required for forming a Chard resilience group
Tuesday 15th February 2022 18.30

Summary points raised at the above meeting. To be read in conjunction with amended *Draft ToR* document, see *ToR V2* - [link to website](#):

The following people were in attendance:

Facilitating:

Cllr Jason Baker, Mayor of Chard.

Supporting:

Chard Town Council Officers: Paul Russell Town Clerk, Beverley Newman DSO.
Somerset Rivers Authority, Community Engagement Officer, Emma Giffard

Participating Residents:

A total of 28 residents from Chard, Wambrook & Cotley areas.

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

The Mayor welcomed and thanked all those present for attending, gave a summary of the purpose for the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

The Mayor confirmed his facilitation role would be available until the structure of the Resilience group was confirmed. It is hoped this will be by the end of the third pre-arranged start up meetings (March 8th). The Mayor confirmed both his and the Chard Town Council Officer Teams' ongoing support.

2. Discussion of Draft ToR

Before the review and discussion on *Draft ToR*. The Mayor asked those present if they wished to consider the name of the Group.

It was agreed given floods and other adverse weather conditions effect neighboring villages / Parishes the group name will be **The Chard Area Resilience Group** & that *Area refers to*: Chard, Wambrook, Cotley, Chardstock & Tatworth & Forton

A full discussion was held on all points of the *Draft ToR*, amendments were agreed, with the caveat that there may be some additional amendments required as the group develops.

3. Additional comments & discussion points:

- Given Emma's experience and knowledge in supporting Resilience groups the Mayor asked Emma for her initial opinion of the Draft ToR. Emma stated she thought it was very comprehensive.

She then explained the report from the Section 19 review would form part of any 'strategic plan' that the report was due for release at the end of March. Emma further clarified a strategic plan was different from a resilience plan and she would happy to share some existing draft resilience plans. *AP

Ref:ToR V2 **1. Main Purpose of the Resilience Group** 1.3, **2. Objectives** bullet 1, **2. Objectives** bullet 5

- Emma went on to advise that Resilience Groups tended to fall into 2 types;
 - i) Those that have a single function, provide help & support in emergencies
 - ii) Those that have dual function, support in an emergency as well as having an 'Action Group' element. This action element tended to be proactive in working with all relevant agencies in partnership on prevention, and by pressurizing key authorities at regional and national levels.
- Some resident participants commented that their preference was The Chard Area Resilience Group aspiration should include both these functional elements.
- One resident participant gave the additional comment that The Chard Resilience Group members need to be involved at the beginning of developing the strategic plan. There is information to add to the intelligence already gathered, for example it's been established that site maps are incorrect and in addition it is known that storm water is the main problem. A holistic approach is required.
- One resident participant commented that warnings are no help when the floods are 'apocalyptic' as there is no warning of the severity;
'We have nothing tangible to know we're in danger'
- One resident participant commented they had lived in Chard for 12 years with no effects of flooding till last year.

- It was noted that in order to work in Partnership with the relevant agencies the group would need to know who they were and be mindful of both their powers and limitations of their role. Emma said she would identify these individuals for the group **AP**
- One resident participant commented that they did not wish to sound harsh but the meeting needed to stay on track in reviewing the ToR. The Mayor thanked the resident participant for his comments and expressed his agreement.
- Discussion on training the availability and type of dependent on a group member's role / function. Emma confirmed this was available via a number of routes and offered to provide the necessary information on this. **AP**

Ref: **4. Operation**, 4.1

- Discussion on developing a road closure team. Agreement reached this was not something that would be in the gift of The Chard Area Resilience Group due to the legislation on this issue.
 - Emma explained there was a 'pilot' just starting in Martock that involved new signage which she would share the progress with this group.
 - The question was asked – could any required road closure be delegated to the Fire Authority.

Ref: **4. Operation**, 4.3, bullet 3

- It was noted that the creation of an emergency disaster plan would require linking with Chard Town Council's insurance.

Ref: **4. Operation**, 4.3, bullet 4

- It was acknowledged that a de-brief should be part of the process to support volunteers after supporting in an emergency, both straight after the event and at later stage/s. This was key to supporting volunteers' mental well-being and sustaining their group membership.

Ref: **5. Volunteer Teams**, 5.1, bullet 4

- Discussion on the functionality of the Help Team responsibilities. It was decided to review this once The Chard Resilience Group was up and running. However it was noted that there are grants available for kits i.e. High Vis jackets etc. Emma offered to help in this **AP**

Ref: **5. Volunteer Teams**, 5.2,

***AP** = Acton Point

MAYOR:

DATE:

