

Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit

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Please ask for

Daisy Walton

My reference

SECC 2

Date: 24/10/2022

Your reference

DW/SECC

Dear Parish Clerk/Chairman

Somerset Emergency Community Contacts

I am writing to all Parish Councils, Town Councils and Parish Meetings in Somerset to ask for your help to develop a database of Somerset Emergency Community Contacts (SECC), who can be used as a first point of contact when an emergency is happening in your area. We are also looking to check already registered SECC's to make sure they are up to date.

One of our main concerns from the flooding in 2013/2014 was that some of the affected communities were unsure who to contact within local government about the emergency. The Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Partnership was tasked to take action on this concern and would like to invite Parishes and Towns across Somerset to nominate up to 3 trusted people to act as these Contacts. The nominated Contacts must be able to speak with authority for your Council, community or geographical areas. The Contacts should be able to give current information about how an emergency is affecting your area and any problems arising where help may be needed.

The main role of the Somerset Emergency Community Contact is:-

- To be a first point of contact during emergencies
- To liaison with Parish/Town Councils
- Be able to liaise with local residents with identified roles, i.e. neighbourhood watch, flood wardens, village agents
- Be able to identify and pass information about vulnerable residents
- Identify severe and dangerous road conditions restricting transport
- Gathering, receiving and passing information from and to community
- To have good communications via access to phones, email and internet
- Be available to contact within the parish.

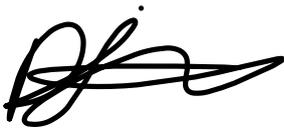
I have attached a link to our website where you can find out more information [2. Emergency Community Contacts – Somerset Prepared](#). Please also complete our SECC form here to nominate your SECC: [Somerset Emergency Community Contacts Registration Form – Somerset Prepared](#). If you already have registered SECC's please check names and contact details and use the same form as above to update.

This network of Contacts will be registered on a database in the Civil Contingencies Unit and will be made available for use by the County and District Councils, emergency services and public utilities. The information from Contacts will provide these agencies with a better understanding of the conditions being experienced on the ground during severe weather, flooding, power cuts and other emergencies. The emergency services may have to prioritise those in greatest need and could be delayed. By advance planning your Parish Council or Town can assist co-ordinated local response activities to alleviate problems in the short term and reduce the impact of an emergency on your community. The Contacts can be recorded in these Plans to help build your community resilience.

The Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit and other agencies are continuing to work with communities in Somerset to enhance their resilience and these Contacts will be one part of the work being carried out. The Civil Contingencies Unit has worked with the communities that flooded to help them produce emergency plans to become more resilient in the future. Our community resilience website is now available at www.somersetprepared.org.uk . This website has other information to prepare your community plans, etc.

If your Council/Meeting would like more information on this project or community resilience, please call myself on 07929 751612 or email above or Lesley Knight, Senior Civil Contingencies Officer (01823) 358067 or lesley.knight@somerset.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Daisy Walton
Civil Contingencies Officer