

Updating the Emergency Plan

The Emergency Plan for Kirton & Falkenham needs updating.

It has proved during the past years that there are better ways of activating & running areas of the plan that are not currently included in the plan itself.

During Beast from the East in 2018 (I was away at the time) the plan was not activated either at local or County level, though I understand that actions were taken privately.

During this Covid 19 pandemic, by the time the government had declared it a pandemic & the Suffolk Plan was activated Kirton & Falkenham had already taken action and had the necessary provisions in place. These provisions have continued throughout the three lockdown periods and have worked well, thanks to Julie & her associates.

The plan of 2018 involved letters going to every house in the parishes of Kirton & Falkenham requesting residents to offer various means of assistance if required, this list was extensive but still not a full list of possible needs, it also offered assistance to residents who felt they could be vulnerable & in need of some help in a general emergency situation. These letters resulted in what is now 12 people at 10 addresses who requested to be placed on the assistance list, and in excess of 60 people at 38 addresses offering assistance of various sorts. The responses were patchy with some areas not responding at all.

These lists which comprise Appendices B & C of the plan are out of date and must be deleted.

I believe it is impractical to repeat the exercise of delivering letters to all households in the parishes, especially as this would have to be repeated at intervals to maintain the correct up to date details.

In its place & following the successes of the facebook contacts during this pandemic, I propose the following: -

- 1) Those on the assistance offered list be e-mailed (if there is an e-mail address) and requested to sign up to facebook, if they are not already on it, and 'friend' the Kirton & Falkenham Friends & Neighbours site, they do not need to sign up anybody else and can restrict contact to 'friend only' if needs be, this is in case of any request for assistance through the Emergency Plan, and will be the initial response.
- 2) For those requesting assistance, where known, I propose a letter providing them with contact details of the Co-ordinators / Assistant Co-ordinators, who at this point in time are volunteers from the Parish Council, their details are given in the plan. It is hoped this list can be expanded, listings will include a phone number for the person.

- 3) The local response to any request for assistance be decided locally and initial actions be via facebook, only where a local response is deemed inadequate should Suffolk CC be involved, unless they are the authority issuing the activation order.