

Emergency plan update

As agreed at our meeting of Wednesday 8th July, agenda item 26/121, work to produce the Broadwas and Cotheridge Emergency Plan has begun. Councillors Worrall, Cullen and Hensher met on 2nd September 2026 to agree an approach and timelines.

Progress so far

Over the summer, contact has been made with the emergency planning team at Wychavon District Council and their advice sought on how to include the effects of the recent heatwaves in the risk register.

Guidance to households regarding how to prepare for an emergency has been added to the parish website.

Approach

We now have a working group consisting of the three Councillors mentioned. We had a very fruitful discussion about the value of such a plan but want to make it clear to residents that this exercise is about developing resilience (indeed, West Mercia is home to the *resilience* forum for our area). We are not anticipating any imminent threats but ensuring that we as households and a community are well placed to look after ourselves and each other, and support emergency services should an incident occur.

What is clear from the guidance is that all Councillors will have to be members of the Emergency Management Team if they are able. We need representation across the parish from people resident in the parish. As there are only 5 of us, we don't have a large pool to draw on!

A detailed plan is being formulated but there are number of tasks to address within the emergency plan document which can run concurrently:

1. Helping households to be prepared by developing guidance and a checklist building on advice already published but is more user friendly and attractive than that included in the emergency plan template circulated in July. This is likely to require budget or grant money as we would like this to be an engaging document potentially accompanied by a small, useful item for emergencies such as a wind-up torch. Target date: November 2026
2. Identifying suitable rest stations or refuges around the parish, engaging those responsible for the buildings and assessing the facilities and suitability. We will also locate and talk to owners of helpful resources (tractors and generators come to mind) for their agreement to be included in our plan.
3. Reviewing the risk register and ensuring that it captures risks as we see them with the appropriate mitigants. This is a multi-stage process as the working group will present the Parish Council with a draft to work through. Once the Parish Council has agreed it, we will share it with Wychavon for their input.

4. Engaging stakeholders in the wider community. These will include volunteer groups (who could supplement the Emergency Management Team) and neighbouring parishes. We will also consider how to use the website, Facebook and Footprints to keep residents informed along the way.
5. Sourcing maps of the Parish as we will need a few to help us plot our refuges, locate risks etc.
6. Collate the document for Parish Council approval and onwards to Wychavon. Target date of January 2027.

The working group will meet again at the end of the month and will provide updates at Parish Council meetings thereafter in addition to scheduling items from the above list for detailed discussion and approval. Other Councillors are of course, welcome to join the working group and to share their thoughts on our approach.

If you wish to read more on this subject, there is some excellent material online:

National:

[National Risk Register 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

[Prepare - Prepare](#)

Local:

[West Mercia Local Resilience Forum | West Mercia Police](#)

[Emergency Planning - Malvern Hills District Council](#)

Shirley Hensher

Parish Councillor