

Foreword: This paper is the result of a HIRA sub-committee discussing (August 2017) Hayling Island's particular needs against a 'worst case' scenario of the Island's only bridge being unuseable as a result of an unspecified incident. The sub-committee are of the opinion that preparation for such an event may cover a wide range of incidents that could prevent normal access to the Island for 0-48 hours or more after the incident in question. Points 1 & 2 below provide the legal basis for HIRA's proposals which are submitted to Stuart Pinkney, Havant Borough Council's lead on HBC's emergency response for the area including Hayling Island.

- A East Hampshire District Council & Havant Borough Council Emergency Response Plan
<https://www.havant.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/EPU EP Plan EHDC %26 sanitised.pdf> HBC 2015

Implementation date: Sept 1st 2015, Review date: March 31st 2016

This document and its links provide flowcharts for suitable steps in emergency management across a wide geo-political area.

- B Civil Contingencies Act 2004 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Contingencies_Act_2004 Part 1 places a legal obligation upon emergency services and local authorities (defined as "Category 1 responders" under the Act) to assess the risk of, plan, and exercise for emergencies, as well as to undertake Business continuity Management. Cat. 1 Responders are also responsible for warning and informing the public in relation to emergencies. Finally, local authorities are required to provide business continuity advice to local businesses. It also places legal obligations for increased co-operation and information sharing between different emergency services and also to non-emergency services that might have a role in an emergency such as electric companies (non-emergency services are defined as "Category 2 responders" under the Act).

Government <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-resilience-framework-for-practitioners/the-context-for-community-resilience>

"guidance for the context for community resilience" published October 2016 defines: Resilience to emergencies and disasters is about being aware of risks that might impact the individual, or the continuity of a business, and planning and preparing for them to minimise the impact and disruption.

Item 4 refers to "Preparedness by communications to build cohesive networks, raise community awareness on a peer-to-peer basis, provide events, exercised plans & systems, ongoing assessment." There is also "support from government".

- C Objective for Hayling's Emergency Plan: to provide for effective communication and the management of essential services on Hayling itself until there is a practical response from the mainland.

Questions and Answers for Stuart Pinkney's consideration and responses

1. Who is the key person responsible for a) recognizing any emergency incident & its level of impact b) effecting the practical responses immediately or as soon as the incident is known? What skills and facilities does/must this person have and how will their role be communicated to Hayling residents? Answer: Stuart Pinkney; is he full-time? Who is his Deputy? What are their emergency contacts & exactly who has them on Hayling? How will this team communicate instructions/questions with Hayling contacts?

Requirements:

- i) A Glossary for all the acronyms and abbreviations used in the Plan.
- ii) All names & telephone numbers of necessary contacts must be reviewed annually and they must accept the need for availability within 1 hour. BT can be used to break through current calls but a % of Islanders frequently do not get mobile service. How will this be addressed in advance?
- iii) There must be identified categories of contacts in case of immediate needs eg under Transport, Medical etc
- iv) Time of day category required for eg school term times will have all school/educational/term time contact details; employment eg major work bases on Island & off such as Langstone Techn Park so that Hayling employees do not attempt to drive to the bridge.
- v) Media Management is essential and should be delegated immediately to a team member not dealing directly with practical responders. Radio & News Stations to include Sky (noted as often first on a scene) must provide best emergency news contacts' names & numbers to disseminate both accurate and relevant details both to support Islanders & to prevent ignorant/erroneous social media reports. HBC website & key HBC team's Facebook contacts eg HIRA has a FB & web page & email for members, and to ensure coverage current Councillors' especially those with FB should be made aware of their role in broadcasting information. Councillors' made so aware need to notify Mr. Pinkney's team when they are unavailable. The Police's Hampshire Alert emergency number essential as many receive their Alerts.
- vi) Prevent panic: see i-v above. Mains electricity failure: in this event, maintain communication with islanders as best possible. The Islanders would be reliant on petrol electric generators, cars with power take-off for smartphones and other battery appliances. The two metre band that normally runs off batteries hand held or mounted in a car would provide adequate communications off the Island. Taxis on Hayling are fitted with radios which could possibly be used in conjunction with their base as a control, but these would have to be checked and listed in the Plan.
- vii) Islanders must be active and informed participants in an annual exercise to take place at various designated sites that might be essential for a range of incidents but focusing on bridge loss. HIADS theatrical skills could be put to suitable use as mock casualties. This exercise must effectively test the Plan's resilience. Question: Has there ever been a full scale exercise to assess people's movement in a worst case scenario? If so, when & where because even a first responder and others living for decades on the Island are unaware of any such exercise. Where is the post event written report?
- viii) Is the mains water pressure sufficient for fire engines? Has the mains pipe's standard dimensions been compromised by internal flexible upgrading?
- ix) Are any/all the sewage pumps dual electrical & manual? If not, can they be upgraded? If manual possible, the people capable of doing this task who live on Hayling must be identified in the Plan, their contact details & understanding of their emergency role made explicit.
- x) The essential workers for: fire, police, medical, ?other staff living on Hayling need to be identified, their details taken & their agreement/understanding of their role in an emergency. Importantly, since Havant BC has given Norse control of its manual staff, how will the Emergency Plan team access such key workers and who will pay them? Equally, if Petersfield is the site for Hampshire County & Havant Borough Council's repairs/works equipment, how these are to be brought to Hayling if the bridge is out of use plus at least 2 emergency contact names/numbers must be explicit in the Plan.

Draft Plan inaccuracy: Hayling Police Station has closed. Police operate out of a small Office that is not open for the public, & is based at the rear of the Library, Elm Grove. Also, Police have 2 launches, 2 inflatables based at Hamble about a 20 min journey away subject to sea conditions, & there are MOD Police launches in the dockyard. All these must be checked for availability with Police & MOD. Page 4 Beachlands Office is no longer regularly staffed nor open and Hayling's resilience depends upon any necessary facilities being based and available on Hayling Island.

Hovercraft: Chichester & Langstone Harbour Masters already allow hovercraft for emergency use but they must be made aware of, included as named contacts in this Plan and the Plan must include their ongoing agreement to their involvement.

Helicopters: HIOWAA cannot provide 2-6 am but does have a Doctor on it – must check/confirm with HIOWAA. Plan must state that Air Traffic Control is aware of the Plan and possible use of helicopters as more than 2 require their control.

- xi) Islanders need to have a leaflet stating their personal responsibilities in the event of an emergency during which the Island receives no general supplies for at least 24 hours. Therefore: basic candles, torch batteries, bottled water, canned goods, additional own family eg baby needs kept & routinely checked as surplus. The sub-committee understand that supermarkets stock only as needed and are unlikely to stock additionally without financial support. This makes individual/family self-reliance essential.
- xii) Good Neighbours: there are many elderly, infirm, disabled and vulnerable Islanders who would rely on a good neighbor to keep them informed, advise them & assist them in times of an emergency. This needs to go into the Plan and circulated together with all information so that everyone is aware.
- xiii) Reference is made to the "Local Residence Forum": exactly who comprises this and on what basis?
- xiv) Has Havant BC's Emergency Response team considered the planned management of the Solent Oil spillage and its relevance to Hayling Island in the event of such an emergency? The HIRA sub-committee consider that many elements of our suggestions would be applicable to such an incident.
- xv) Possible suitable sites for public congregation/support eg food/cooking/resting/information gathering:
 - Hayling Island Sailing Club (Chichester Harbour)
 - Mengeham Rythe Sailing Club (as above)
 - Hayling Island Golf Club (Sea Front, south coast)
 - Langstone Hotel (Chichester Harbour)
 - Northney Hall & Church
 - All Schools (Mill Rythe Junior and Infant Schools, Mengham Junior and Infant Schools, Hayling College)
 - Eastoke Community Centre
 - Hayling Island Community Centre, West Town
 - United Reformed Church (Hollow Lane)
 - Royal British Legion, Legion Rd. off Elm Grove
 - St. Mary's Church, Church Rd., St. Patrick's Church Manor Road, Elim Church Elm Grove
 - All Pubs & restaurants: Maypole & Yew Tree both A3023, Ferryboat Inn, Newtown House Hotel, West Town Hotel, Barley Mow (all 3 West Town), Royal Shades Sea Front, Coastguard Pub, Olive Tree both Sea Front, cafes in Mengham & West Town.
 - HIADS (Hayling Island Amateur Dramatic Society) Station Rd, west Town south end of Billy Trail & occupies fully modernized previous railway & goods building with auditorium, stage, café facilities.

A number of holiday sites suitability & facilities to be checked with their owners: for example: Sinah Warren (southwest), Mill Rythe Holiday Village, Oven Campsite, Hayling Island Holiday Park, Lakeside Coastal Village, Fishery Lane.

- xvi) There are numerous holiday mobile homes occupied throughout the year & any Emergency Plan must have these identified & visited/checked for updated emergency contact numbers by those managing the sites so that these people can also be notified as necessary.
- xvii) Additional contact groups that should be involved/in discussion from now on re the Plan and whose emergency contact names/numbers need to be on the Plan include:
Hayling Lions; the Blind Club; Hayling Businessman's Club (not Round Table); Hayling RNLI; Portsmouth (Eastney) RNLI; HM Coastguard Onshore Rescue Team; U3A (about 800 members, email & website); Neighbourhood Watch groups (linked perhaps with the Police); 2 Langstone Cutters Clubs 1 based at Northney Marina; all Marinas (Northney, Sparkes, Wilson's Boatyard, Hayling Yacht Co. all on the east coast), Ferry owners & yard on southwest, Langstone Harbour); Scouts/Guides with extensive network and Hall; all farmers with tractors & 4x4s eg Stoke Fruit Farm & Northney Farm; Coastguard has 24 hour availability contract with Bristows; Dental Practices at Elm Grove & Rails Lane; 2 Medical Practices on Elm Grove; 2 Undertakers in Mengham.

Considerations:

The Shetland Islands, for example, have already produced detailed and robust Emergency Response Plans such that Island householders not only know their own responsibilities but can actually fold their Plans' leaflets to the relevant Emergency. These Plans demonstrate that the responses are viable and this gives the public the confidence required to ensure that their communities are prepared and resilient which is the stated Government objective.

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