Resilience Policy

BARFORD, SHERBOURNE & WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL POLICY

Reviewed: 9th March 2026

Next Review: March 2027

RESILIENCE: BARFORD, SHERBOURNE & WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL POLICY

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

Our Resilience Policy is a foundation document for the Joint Parish Council to ensure that we can offer support to our communities in the event of any severe disruption or emergency. The aim being to return to a new normality in conjunction with the supporting agencies.

An effective resilience policy for the JPC will ensure we are:

- Aware of the risks we face;
- Are prepared that where a disruptive event or sudden emergency does occur, that
    - We have a plan in place to respond, to communicate and liaise with colleagues, the emergency services and other agencies to enhance the response and to increase the mitigation processes where possible
    - We are able to integrate our response, recovery and business continuity processes to ensure we have the ability to recover
    - We establish a coordinated management framework during and out of normal business hours
    - We have identified, in conjunction with local agencies, those risks we believe will have the biggest impact on our communities in order to direct our response and local, albeit limited, assets appropriately.

Whilst we can take a risk assessed approach in preparing for potential disruptions, incidents can rarely be predicted. What we can do is to focus our response plan on the consequences of a disruption or emergency rather than the cause.

Common consequences of a disruption can include everything from a loss of one or more of our utilities through to a sudden emergency event within the parish areas, or a longer-term public health event. The key to resolution of any disruption being effective management and good communications.

Our plan framework is to provide us with a basis for the management and delivery of our assets in a disruption of any scale. This is to ensure that the emergency and other supporting services are assisted in deciding what may be the most vulnerable areas within communities, and we have a voice in the priorities of such support where appropriate.

The membership of the JPC is responsible for the efficacy of our resilience framework and embedding the plans and processes and defining their initial roles and responsibilities within the plan.

Preparation, good communication and clear roles and responsibilities are vital to the success of any response to a disruption. It is essential that we maintain an active part in the development of our plan.

The government national resilience framework, which supports the joint agency and emergency services working arrangements, places an expectation on all those who may be involved in any major disruption to have a resilience framework which will integrate with any joint agency emergency response.

Chair

Joint Parish Council

RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK

THE ‘MINOR DISRUPTION’

This occurs on a more frequent basis than major emergencies or disruptions and requires management through monitoring to minimise impact and keeping awareness of possible escalation.
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THE ‘RISING TIDE’ DISRUPTION

This is where a potential event or disruption is recognised as having the capability to increase in scale, duration and impact and where we have decided to monitor the situation and associated risks, and to respond before the disruption escalates.

THE ‘SUDDEN IMPACT’ DISRUPTION

This occurs without warning and escalates very quickly into a situation where resources and management are required immediately to support whatever response has been identified.

OUR APPROACH TO RESILIENCE

Resilience is our ability to anticipate, respond, adapt and recover from any emergency or other disruptive event. It has several components:

ANALYSING THE RISKS

In order to anticipate and mitigate the consequences of disruptions, we need to be capable of reviewing our local risks in conjunction with the county risk register and develop an understanding of both the direct and the indirect consequences in advance where possible.

PREPAREDNESS

Those members that may have to respond to disruptive events need to be properly prepared, including having clarity of roles and responsibilities, response arrangements and rehearsing / testing response arrangements periodically.

PLANNING AND RESPONSE

The response comprises of two closely related overlapping challenges, which are:

- The main disruption management response – defining and awareness of the immediate effects
- Consequence or impact management – Where we can assist in a mitigation process with the supporting agencies that we have basic advice and knowledge available to pass to those agencies where necessary

KEY PRINCIPLES - COMMUNICATION

Effective communications need to function at all levels to ensure dissemination of information.

COORDINATION

Cooperation and coordination at our planning level is based on mutual trust and understanding and will facilitate information sharing and deliver effective solutions to arising issues in any disruption.
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POSSIBLE RISKS

Can include:

- Large scale fires, long term severe weather, flooding or other events which cause casualties, denial of access and/or loss of property
- Widespread or prolonged loss of utilities
- Widespread health emergencies including pandemics
- Significant IT failure including broadband

It should be noted that the above risks are unlikely to be experienced on a singular basis but will often combine in a detrimental way to affect our communities. Our ability to assess the scale, duration and impact is fundamental to the ability to prioritise our response.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING

The aim and purpose of a "Business Continuity Plan" should be grounded within our existing functions and familiar ways of working. It requires us to recognise that there is a need to adapt some arrangements to ensure a joined-up response and management of disruptions.

This would likely involve schools, village shops, citizens interest groups and their meeting locations, church and associated religious support activity, and all other functions which will assist in the restoration of community cohesion and morale.

MEDIA COORDINATION

In a major emergency or widespread disruption of events, the Media impact can be overwhelming, intrusive and highly disruptive to our community. It is essential that the community voice is heard and included in any coordinated response by the emergency services and supporting agencies. Failure to be included or consulted in any coordinated media response can result in long term damaging impacts. The JPC is to ensure that such consultation and input is acknowledged by the response agencies' joint Media Coordination Team.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chair is responsible for:

- The Resilience Policy Statement and associated plan.
- Chairing the JPC Resilience response team including the appointment of a Deputy
- Control and coordination of limited assets

Members are responsible for:

- Identification of Risks
- Supporting the response plans
- Being 'seen' to be active within the community, wearing high visibility gilets where necessary with Parish Council titles visible
- Functional responses including managing and tasking of volunteer networks, liaison functions, advice on viability of access to response locations such as rest centres, water distribution locations etc
- Communications within the community
- Assisting with Business Continuity Planning for critical activities and community sites (School, Church, Village shops,
- Plan reviews and testing
- Awareness training
- Liaison with support services and agencies
- Annual review of the resilience framework and supporting documents gaining assurance that the arrangements are up to date, and fit for purpose