Communities learn how to cope in an emergency.

### EHDC's Community Resilience event offered guidance and advice on how to respond to a local emergency.

Community leaders and members of the public gathered last week to learn more about how to organise a response to an emergency in their locality.

The Community Resilience conference was held at Petersfield Festival Hall, on Thursday 27 April.

The event featured presentations from a range of expert organisations, such as the Red Cross and the Environment Agency, which gave advice on how to set up your own emergency network.

A representative of the Rowlands Castle & Finch dean Flood Action Group gave first-hand experience of the impacts of flooding on a local community and the importance of being ready to respond.

The event was run in partnership by EHDC, Hampshire County Council and the Local Resilience Framework.

Rebecca Mundy, EHDC's Safety and Emergency Planning Officer, said: "You never know when an emergency might occur in your community, so it's really important to have the means to respond in a coherent and considered way.

"This Community Resilience event was a fantastic way to get local people thinking about what they need to do to be as ready as possible in case the unexpected happens."

If you want more information about how to prepare your community in an emergency please contact Rebecca Mundy: [rebecca.mundy@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.mundy@easthants.gov.uk)

I attended this meeting and report the following:

East Hants District Council have launched a scheme to encourage local communities to use local skills and services held by residents to identify possible emergencies that could occur in their community.

Emergencies that are more common have local authority plans in place, but small villages and communities may not have a specific and tailored plan that would meet their individual requirements.

The Idea is to help Parish Councils and volunteers to carry out risk assessments for their location and plan for incidents or events that may happen infrequently and have a significant impact on the community concerned.

Some of the incidents or events suggested having contingency planning for includes:

1. Flooding.
2. Weather extremes.
3. Un planned Lengthy Utility outages.
4. Pandemic
5. Major incidents occurring including transport, industry, agriculture plus many more.
6. Terrorism.
7. Civil unrest.
8. Shortages of food etc.
9. Wildfire.

The list could contain many more situations or occurrences that may require some form of contingency planning. Each area has their own set of issues to be considered, such as major rail or road links, military installations etc.

In East Tisted there are a number od possible events that we should and can plan for.

The local authority has a range of services, workshops, advisors and specialist who can work with us to formulate our village emergency contingency plan and maintain it to ensure validity and readiness if required.

As an example, we could have a fire in one of the thatched properties in the village, the resources and time required to fight a thatched roof fire normally involves up to 100 firemen and take 24 hours plus to fully resolve.

Over the past few years, we have suffered utility failures lasting many days. Given our location and demographic, this is one of the more common and significant challenges we face.

Other factors are becoming a concern. Tensions between countries around the world could escalate further and directly affect our community.

Our physical location in Hampshire places us very close to numerous military installations and assets which could conceivably be targets for Aggressive nations.

A good start is listing the range of facilities readily available such as village assets, Village Halls, large, covered areas such as enclosed barn, ease of access and egress. Storage, and much more.

During prolonged Utility outages how can we help our neighbours, can we provide large scale catering for our elderly demographic, do we have a basic medical intervention capability.

Transport availability, 4 wd.

The council suggest we start with our own home plan, have a grab bag available with basic requirements, Medications, contact details, water etc. Mobile charging device for your mobile phones. (See example).

The Fire and rescue service suggest having an evacuation plan for your home including ways out of the building if doors are blocked, practice this plan or talk it through with your family.

This is not just a very large subject but can be sensitive in many ways, the idea is to help communities plan and not to cause concern.

I am sure we all know that 80% OF WHAT WE PLAN FOR NEVER HAPPENS. We need to cover the other 20 %

One thing I learnt in RAF Service was Fail to plan-Plan to fail.

There is so much help and advice available from local authorities, emergency services and Utility companies who are only too glad to come and discuss and possibility help identify our requirements.

I would like to recommend to the Parish Council, Estates and villagers to discuss this and seriously consider what we can do, or should do, in East Tisted and how we will go about it.