

# Waldringfield Emergencies Co-ordinator Report

Britain and particularly Suffolk is fortunate enough to be remarkably safe from forest fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides and we have superb emergencies services, but it is prudent to have considered what might happen and how we would respond.

**Obviously first step** is usually is dial 999 or 101 if less urgent and summon professionals. But just in case they are swamped or delayed, let's envisage what might specifically threaten Waldringfield:

1. **Flood risk from tidal surges** coinciding at high water at Spring tides. As per EA & others would like a chance of 1 in 500 years but what can be afforded? **5M contour. 1st line defence and should we work towards a 2<sup>nd</sup> line over next 20 years?**
2. **Other risks** seem to be
  - a. **Storm-drain blockages** ~ map drain holes & sluices prone to blockage;
  - b. **Fires** ~ **Evidently** from Broom Stubbs fire there was some doubt about the location of Fire Hydrants, so they are plotted them on this map.
  - c. **Fallen trees** blocking roads ~list volunteers who have chainsaws etc and tractors for clearance;
  - d. **Electricity outages**; list emergency phone numbers and also map village transformers & fuses but NOT for amateur action!
  - e. **Oil spills & Ice** on road: List volunteers + traffic cones, warning lights & road closed signs for immediate deployment. **Grit bins** & list volunteers to SCC as their insurance then covers
  - f. **Boat or aircraft crashes & mud rescue**: List contact numbers for air/sea rescue, Volunteer, Harbourmaster and HM Coast Guard.
  - g. The **unexpected**, which we all know is what actually happens most often! So who can provide camp beds, blankets, tea and soup if we did need to turn the Village or church hall in to a temporary shelter \_ AND WHERE IS THE KEY?
3. **But most likely seems to be** delays finding particular homes as they are mostly named not numbered.
  - a. I therefore listed all Waldringfield properties by house name and asked selected individuals to act as neighbourhood watchers to confirm each group of ten or so properties, noting their usual occupants and especially any who are vulnerable due to age or disability. Plus volunteers with relevant training or resources
  - b. Once complete, I intend handing relevant sections of the list to each neighbourhood watcher A print-out is on the board over there. Please feel free to add or delete and also to let me know if you would prefer to be left off the list.

I first posted a notice on Waldringfielders as suggested by Mr Steve James, to which one resident replied *"We are at the stage when it is re-assuring that neighbours may keep an eye on us, to whom we can turn if needed."* Others have similarly felt this is a good idea, but one couple expressed discomfort at a possibly 'Big Brother' step. Indeed the County & District Community Resilience team warned of such sensitivities especially in towns today, but I envisage the lists and accompanying maps as a simple preparation by a caring community.

Considering surveillance CCTV, let me read a clipping **LEEDS**: Four men have been jailed after they were caught setting out and returning from a burglary on a security camera set up by one of the gang at his home.

Neil Winship