

WHPC Meeting 2nd April 2024
Item 24/120

Report on Devon Prepared Conference 22 March 2024

Developing an Emergency Plan for West Hill is one of the objectives of the Parish Council so I attended the conference to learn lessons from other councils and agencies that may help us in the development of our plan.

Most of the discussion focussed on flood risk and preventative measures but there were some general points and experiences that may help in developing a more general community resilience plan.

There were presentations from:-

- Devon Communities Together
- Devon County Council
- Environment Agency
- Kingsbridge Town Council
- Devon Neighbourhood Highways Officer

The presentations were followed by round table discussions and workshops on Mobilising Community Resilience Facilities and Engaging the Community in the planning.

The key learnings from the day were:-

- An Emergency or Community Resilience Plan takes time to compile and has to be reviewed and amended based on experience.
- Protecting vulnerable people is a key objective but everybody had experienced difficulty in identifying those vulnerable people.
- Some limited financial assistance is available to produce leaflets and purchase some emergency equipment.
- Engaging the community is important but hard to achieve – until an emergency happens!
- Help and advice is available from Emergency Planning departments and Devon Communities Together.
- Councils and communities that have developed plans were very willing to share their experiences with us as we develop our plan.

F Pullman