

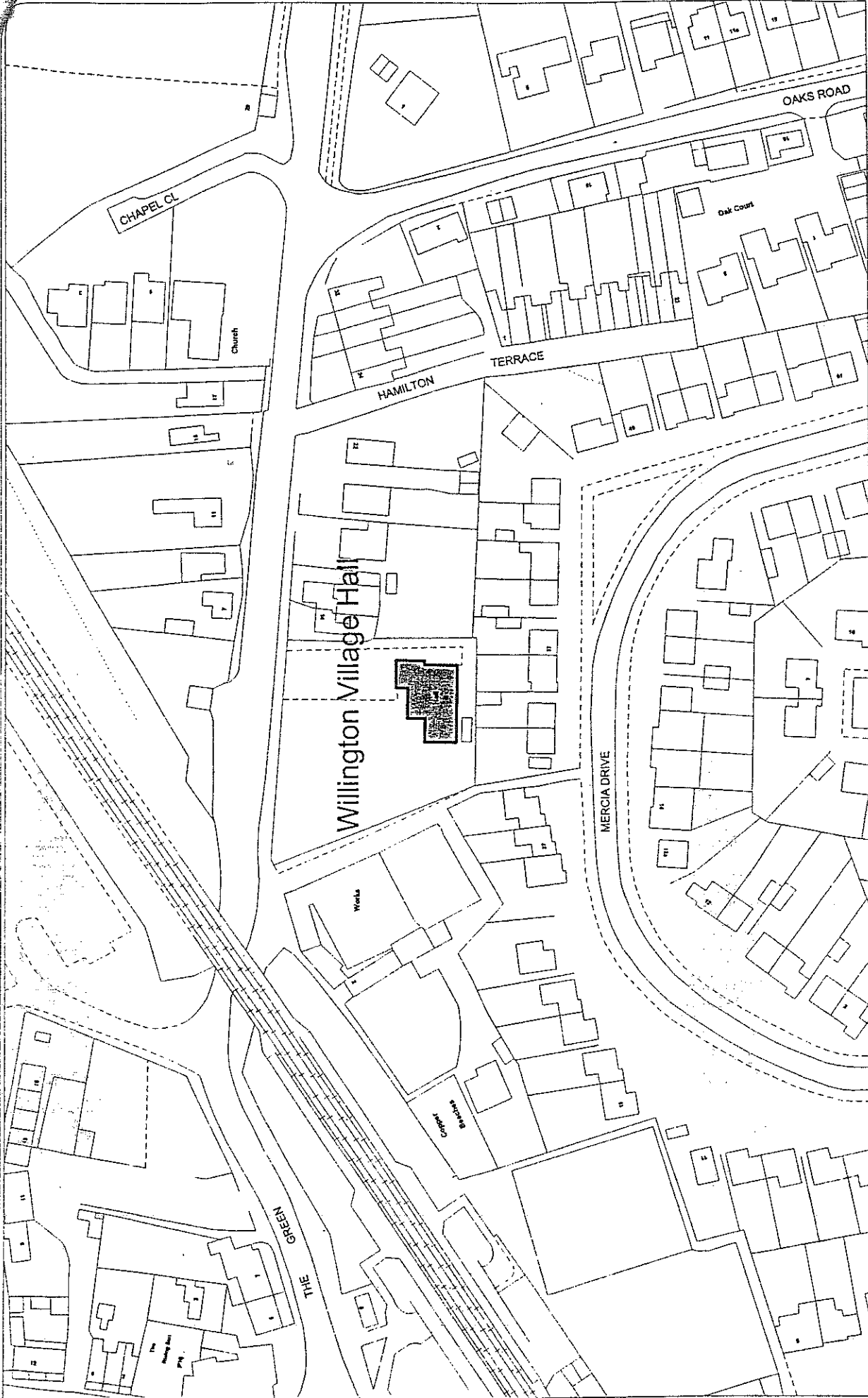
REPTON AREA MEETING

AGENDA AND REPORTS

WEDNESDAY, 8TH AUGUST 2001

**WILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL,
TWYFORD ROAD,
WILLINGTON**

7.00 p.m.



Date Plotted 31 8 1999

User :

Scale 1:1250

Plot centred at 428620 320833

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SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPTON AREA MEETING

(covering Bretby, Hartshorne, Newton
Solney, Repton, Willington and
Woodville)

**Meeting to be held at Willington Village Hall,
Twyford Road, Willington,
on Wednesday, 8th August 2001
at 7.00 p.m.**

(Light Refreshments will be available at 6.30 p.m.)

Members:

District Councillors: Councillor Taylor (Chair) and Councillors Bell, Bladen, Evens, Sherratt and Mrs. Wheeler

County Councillor: Councillor Jones.



BUSINESS

1. To note the appointment of Councillor Taylor as Chair at the Annual Council Meeting.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Appointment of Vice-Chair.
4. To note the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th February 2001 (copy herewith).
5. Chair's Announcements (if any).
6. Report back on issues raised at the last Meeting.
7. Public Question time and suggestions for future local discussion items.
8. Date of Next Meeting – to be advised.

Community Items

9. Community Response Plan for Civil Emergencies (copy herewith).
10. Best Value.
11. Consultation exercise on the modernisation of local government in South Derbyshire.
12. Repton to Willington Road Speed Limit (item requested by Mr Deboo).
13. Mobile Telephone Masts (information item)(copy herewith).

REPTON AREA MEETING

20th February 2001

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Councillor Taylor (Chair) and Councillors Bell, Bladen, Evens, Hood, Richards, Sherratt, Mrs. Wheeler and Whyman.
F. B. McArdle, G. Hague and D. Cook.

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Alan Jones (Vice-Chair).

Parish Council Representatives

Mr. R. Morrow (Willington Parish Council) and Mr. R. Statham (Woodville Parish Council).

Members of the Public

A. Atkin (Newton Solney Parish Council), C. J. Bailey (Woodville Parish Council), Rosemary Booth, B. R. Bowman, G. Brunt, Jenny Burley, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cownie, D. J. Deboo, Mr. S. Edwards, S. M. Evans (Repton Parish Council), Alan Gifford (Willington Parish Council), A. Gillespie, M. G. Groom, H. D. Harrison, Richard House (South Derbyshire Credit Union), D. M. Kerry, Mr. A. B. Kimber, Cathryn Manifold, J. A. Newman, David Oatley, Diane Oatley (Woodville Parish Council), N. J. Parry, Mrs. P. G. Riley (Woodville Parish Council), Mrs. G. Sharp, A. Skipper (Repton Parish Council), Mrs. L. Smith, Mrs. S. M. Smith (Woodville Parish Council), Dennis Tagg, R. H. White and Peter Yates.

Derbyshire Constabulary

A. Hurrell (Divisional Commander).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Mr. Vincent, Mr. D. Adams (Hartshorne Parish Council), Mrs. Joanna Stamford and Mrs. Sue Ellis.

RA/19. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th October 2000 were noted.

RA/20. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that due to the implementation of the Government's Modernisation of Local Government Agenda, the District Council had not yet fixed the dates of Meetings from June onwards and accordingly, the date of the next Area Meeting would be confirmed to attendees in due course.

RA/21. **PRESENTATION ON THE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW - REGENERATION OF WOODVILLE**

Gill Hague, South Derbyshire District Council's Local Plans Manager gave a presentation on the Local Plan Review and the possible implications for

Woodville. She outlined what the local plan was intended for and how members of the public could get involved in its policies and allocations. The purpose of the local plan was to direct and control development and the use of land throughout the District for a period of ten years. It focused on areas such as the built and natural environment, housing, shopping, employment, leisure and transport. It was reported that the local plan was currently under review and a new plan should be formally adopted by the end of the year 2002.

Gill Hague reported that the Plan had ten objectives and three of those objectives were particularly relevant to Woodville - 'maximising the use of suitable brownfield land for housing and employment uses and reduce the need to travel; safeguarding existing employment and; assisting the regeneration of the Woodville area'. She advised that an Urban Capacity Study had been undertaken that identified potential redevelopment sites of residential development within the existing built up area. Further work was necessary to determine whether some of the sites would be better put to other uses such as employment, in order to support a balanced community.

It was reported that the next stage of work on the Local Plan was a search sequence which would identify brownfield sites on the edge of the urban area. As part of the regeneration of the Swadlincote Town Centre, a community workshop was held and the Council wished to hold a similar workshop in Woodville during April 2001. Gill Hague reported that anyone on the Area Meeting attendance list with a Woodville address would be invited to attend the workshop.

The programme for the production of the local plan was outlined which involved a first draft being produced by June 2001 which would be the subject of a formal consultation exercise. Changes would then be negotiated between the Council and objectors and the plan subjected to a further consultation stage and a probable public inquiry. Members of the public were urged to look out for press articles asking for community involvement in this regard.

The Chief Executive outlined that this framework gave the community a chance to get involved in the making and shaping of the local plan.

D. Oatley referred to the 'Hepworths' planning application and asked whether this would be dealt with by the current or the new local plan. In response, it was reported that there were sufficient allocations in the current local plan to meet the District's housing requirements. The new plan should firstly identify large new development sites and that planning permission should then follow. The Council would have to look first at brownfield sites, thus this site might well meet the Government guidance. However, the Council might have to ask for an extension of time to consider this application so that it did not prejudice the preparation of the Local Plan. Gill Hague advised that any development at Woodville should integrate with any development already in existence.

A resident expressed concern regarding the traffic movements in Woodville which it was felt would be enhanced by the Ashby by-pass. Gill Hague advised that traffic was an issue which would be taken into account when producing the local plan but the Council would be required to consult the

Highway Authority and additional documentation addressing transport issues would have to be produced by developers.

S. Edwards referred to a recent press article stating that there were to be 1,000 new homes built on the Willington Power Station site and asked for further information. The Chief Executive advised that the local plan was a plan for development and therefore the Council did not respond to the media and developers on this basis. The Chief Executive suggested that residents had confidence in the local plan and had an input into its production.

R. Statham advised that Woodville had in the past lost some of its industry and it was hoped that the Council would be looking at conserving industry in the area. He felt that industrial units should be kept to provide labour for the Woodville area.

RA/22. **PRESENTATION ON THE MODERNISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

Councillor B. Whyman, the Deputy Leader of the District Council made a presentation to residents on the four options available to the Council for modernising local government in South Derbyshire, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000. The present system was outlined together with the four options, namely a Cabinet of Councillors with a Leader, a directly elected Mayor with a Cabinet of Councillors, a directly elected Mayor with a Council Manager or a modernised Committee structure. Common features in each of the four options were outlined together with the specifics of each option, with arguments for and against. The Council would continue to raise awareness of the options and between February and April, would be seeking views on which of the four options would be best for South Derbyshire. A decision on the option would be made by the full Council after an analysis of all responses and these proposals must be submitted to the Secretary of State by the end of June 2001. It was intended to implement the new system as soon as possible and legislation required implementation by May 2002.

A. Gifford questioned whether Parish Councils would be consulted again to incorporate the fourth option and was advised that it was intended to do this. Mr. Deboo asked who developed such a review and was advised that it was a central Government initiative and the most important decision which the community and the Council would have to make since local Government reorganisation in 1974. The Chief Executive advised that this review presented a more transparent way of delivering local Government services and that option four gave small Councils the opportunity to modernise.

RA/23. **PROPOSED CREDIT UNION - MONEY SPIDER**

Mr. R. House of the South Derbyshire Credit Union attended the Meeting and made a presentation on this matter. He advised that a Credit Union was a financial co-operative run and owned by the members, providing a savings and loans facility. Members who shared a common bond would be eligible to join and in this case, membership would be exclusive to those people who lived or worked in South Derbyshire. Members would be able to save as much or as little as they could afford on a regular basis. They could contribute by visiting a collection point nearby, staffed by volunteer cashiers,

or directly through the bank by standing order. Borrowing would be made possible by the pooling of members' savings.

In order to be eligible to apply for a loan, a member must have been a regular saver for a short period and may borrow up to double the value of their savings. The interest on the loan was charged at only 1% per month on the reducing balance and every payment made would reduce the members' interest.

Credit Unions were bound by the Credit Union Act 1979 and had to be registered. They were monitored continually by the Registry of Friendly Societies, a Government agency and Credit Unions must also have in place insurance to safeguard Members' funds against potential theft or fraud. Further information on this matter could be obtained from the South Derbyshire CVS at Grove Street, Swadlincote on 01283 550163.

RA/24. **PRESENTATION ON THE FUTURE POLICING IN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

Mr. A. Hurrell, Divisional Commander of Derbyshire Constabulary attended the Meeting and outlined proposals for changing policing arrangements in the area. The proposals are outlined in the letter attached at Annexe 'A' to these Minutes and Mr. Hurrell offered to attend a further meeting in due course to report on progress.

RA/25. **BENEFIT BACKLOG**

Residents were advised that last year, the Council reported a backlog in dealing with benefit claims and whilst some progress had been made, claimants were still having to wait a while to have their claims processed. As a result, it had been decided that from Wednesday, 31st January 2001, the Benefits Office in the Civic Offices at Swadlincote would not be open on Wednesdays to deal with either personal or telephone enquiries. This would allow staff to concentrate on reducing the backlog for the entire day each week. The cash office would continue to open as normal from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays for the payment of rent and Council Tax and to deal with enquiries on these subjects.

A combination of factors, including the introduction of legislation requiring Councils to review hundreds of existing cases each month, had caused the delay. In addition, Officers also had to carry out even more stringent checks on claims as part of a national clampdown on benefit fraud. It was noted that this was a national problem with some Councils reporting delays of up to three months.

RA/26. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A resident made reference to a recent night flight ban which had been imposed at Heathrow Airport due to generated aircraft noise. He reported that the East Midlands Airport generated more night time noise than both Heathrow and Gatwick Airports and queried what the Council's view was on this issue. He was advised by the Chief Executive that this issue was to be discussed at the Meeting of the Council's Planning and Economic Development Committee on 22nd February 2001.

Repton Area - 20.2.01

It was reported that the next agenda would include an item on the Derbyshire County Council's Community Response Plan for Civil Emergencies. A resident asked for an information item on mobile telephone masts and Mr. Deboo requested that an item on the Repton to Willington Road speed limit be placed on the agenda.

The Chair thanked all for attending and declared the Meeting closed.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 9.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPTON AREA MEETING

**(Covering Bretby, Hartshorne, Newton Solney,
Repton, Willington and Woodville)**

REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING

At the Repton Area Meeting held on 20th February 2001 at the Goseley Community Centre, a number of issues were raised. These issues are listed below, together with progress made to date:-

ISSUES	PROGRESS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
1. Mobile Telephone Masts	Information item on this Agenda	Adrian Kirkham (Tel: 595743)
2. Repton to Willington Road Speed Limit	Item on this Agenda, as requested by Mr Deboo.	Debbie Cook (Tel: 595709)

THE TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL OF

Insert Town/Parish name:

COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN FOR CIVIL EMERGENCIES

Produced by:

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils
Derbyshire County Council
Derbyshire Constabulary
Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust

THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN

This Community Response Plan has been produced by the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils in conjunction with Derbyshire County Council's Emergency Planning Division. The three emergency services have also been consulted.

Set out below is some useful advice to help you complete and maintain the document:

1. Keep copies of the document to a minimum eg three copies, one each for the nominated co-ordinators (see page 4) one copy kept as a record by the Clerk to the Council.
2. Keep the Plan up to date, check and review contents at least once a year.
3. Record the information clearly, handwritten documents are acceptable but must be legible.
4. As many people now use mobile telephones it could be advisable to include these numbers in addition to home telephone numbers.
5. Do not automatically assume that people will be happy to have their personal details included in the Plan. You are strongly urged to consult individuals to seek their agreement and ask them to sign the approval sheet on page 21.
6. Treat the document as confidential and store it in a secure location.
7. If an emergency occurs your first action should always be to contact the emergency services by dialling 999.

EMERGENCY SITUATION

It is vital that in the event of an emergency situation affecting all or part of the Parish/Town area the initial action is to telephone 999.

Emergency Services

If contact with Derbyshire Constabulary, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service and East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust is not possible or the response is likely to be substantially delayed this Plan should be used to assist local response until help arrives.

Assembly Point

All members of the community willing to help should gather at:

(Location of assembly point)

CIRCULATION LIST

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILS

The Local Authority Councils of Derbyshire at County and District level have resources which can be made available in response to an emergency situation.

These authorities should be contacted via Derbyshire Constabulary Police Headquarters with regard to emergency alerting:

Working hours	Derbyshire County Council's Emergency Planning Division	01629 585394
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Out of office hours	Ask for Local Authority Duty Emergency Planning Officer. Please leave a contact name and number and your call will be returned	01773 570100
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Further advice on preparation of this Community Response Plan can also be obtained from:

Working hours	Derbyshire County Council's Emergency Planning Division	01629 585394
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EMERGENCY - CAN YOU COPE?

Make a 999 call to summon the emergency services.

When disaster strikes the emergency services want **clear, concise information as soon as possible**. Try to use the time available awaiting their response to obtain information as follows:

on arrival at the scene:

- Survey (the scene(s) there may be several).
- Assess (the situation).
- Disseminate (what has happened to the emergency services and your co-ordinator).

Ensure that the following information is gathered:

- Casualties (approximately number of fatal, injured or uninjured).
- Hazards (chemicals, fire, gas, fuel spillage, debris etc).
- Access (best routes in, blockage, parking, rendezvous point).
- Location (exact or description via known landmarks, etc).
- Emergency services (others required?).
- Type (brief details of what has happened/is involved).

Last resort - If there is any difficulty in contacting 999 try the individual services as follows:

Derbyshire Police Headquarters	01773 570100
Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters	01332 771221
East Midlands Ambulance Services NHS Trust Headquarters	01332 365831

Until help arrives and without endangering yourself or other local people contact the appropriate members of the community listed in the Plan and ask to report to the agreed assembly point.

CO-ORDINATORS

Two prominent, active, capable and reliable local persons should be identified to co-ordinate the local response. These should be recorded.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

HAZARDS AND THREATS IN THE COMMUNITY AREA

Local areas are prone to particular hazards and threats which are best known to the local people and best identified by them.

Record here known hazards and threats.

HAZARD	LOCATION	CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

PEOPLE AT RISK IN THE COMMUNITY AREA

Record here those people that are known to be at risk in the community area, such as elderly people, people with a disability, schools, special schools, special homes, care in the community hostels.

ADDRESS	LOCATION	CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

MEDICAL

Doctors (including retired)

Record here doctors, practising and retired, in the community area.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

Qualified Nurses, British Red Cross, St John Ambulance (including retired medical persons)

Record here known qualified practising and retired medical persons other than doctors, in the community area.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

Other Trained First Aiders

Record here known, trained first aiders in the community area.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

Chemists (including retired)

Record here practising and retired dispensing chemists in the community area.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

EMERGENCY SERVICES

DERBYSHIRE CONSTABULARY

NB: Information held on the Police Service and/or their personnel within the community should be used to aid the local response, not as a first point of contact for the emergency services. Always dial 999 as your initial action.

Police Station

Record here the nearest Police Station.

ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS

Police Officers

Record here serving Police officers in the community area.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

Former Police Officers

Record here former/retired Police officers in the community area.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

DERBYSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

NB: Information held on the Fire Service and/or their personnel within the community should be used to aid the local response, not as a first point of contact for the emergency services. Always dial 999 as your initial action.

Fire Station

Record here the nearest Fire Station.

ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS

Firefighting Resources and Location

Record here any local industry/company with firefighting capability.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

Serving Firefighters

Record here serving firefighters in the community area.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

Former Firefighters

Record here former/retired firefighters in the community area.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

EAST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICES NHS TRUST

NB: Information held on the Ambulance Service and/or their personnel within the community should be used to aid the local response, not as a first point of contact for the emergency services. Always dial 999 as your initial action.

Ambulance Station

Record here the nearest Ambulance Station including industry facilities.

ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS

Serving Paramedics/Ambulance Personnel

Record here serving paramedics in the community area.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

Retired Paramedics/Ambulance Personnel

Record here retired paramedics/ambulance personnel in the community area.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

MISCELLANEOUS**VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

Record here local members of voluntary organisations eg WRVS.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

CLERGY

Record here the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the local clergy.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

FARMERS

Record here the names of local farmers who have resources that would be of assistance to the community in an emergency situation.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

VETERINARY

Record here the details of veterinary practitioners in the community.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Record here persons who live in the community area and hold a radio amateur licence.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

BOAT OWNERS

In communities where flooding could be a hazard, record here boat owners who would give help in a flood/water rescue situation.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

TEMPORARY SHELTER

Record here accommodation that would be suitable for persons requiring temporary shelter until help arrives eg schools, halls, hostels, churches etc.

KEY HOLDERS NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

ACCOMMODATION FOR CASUALTIES

Record here accommodation that would be suitable for casualties until help arrives.

KEY HOLDERS NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

INFRASTRUCTURE

WATER

If main water supplies become disrupted for any reason and the water company cannot be contacted or offer assistance it may become necessary to use alternative sources of water, record sources of water in the community area. Alternative sources are:

Firefighting Water - Types of Source (Stream, Pond, Well)

LOCATION	MEANS OF ACCESS	OWNER OF LAND

Drinking Water

Record here sources of potable water.

LOCATION	MEANS OF ACCESS	OWNER OF LAND

ELECTRICITY

If main electricity supplies become disrupted it may be essential to keep some equipment and heating functioning in the community eg for dialysis, heating for the elderly or infirm, lighting for rest centres and for caring of casualties.

Mains Generators

Record here owners of mains generators.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

ROAD CLEARANCE

Record here sources of heavy lifting equipment JCBs, power saws, chains, ladders, lighting.

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE NUMBER/EMAIL TELEPHONE

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Record here any other useful information to aid your response.

RECOVERY AFTER AN EMERGENCY

Most of the activity by a community in an emergency occurs in support of the emergency services and of the many other agencies that assist in the response. For example, there may be the need for protracted search, rescue activity, damage clearance, investigation, as occurred at Lockerbie, Towyn and in the aftermath of the hurricane in southern England in the late 1980s.

It is not possible to define precisely the extent and nature of post-incident community activity, since this will vary with the severity and nature of the emergency. It is likely, however, that community activity will be in one or more of the following categories:

- Looking after the creature comforts of the emergency services and agency workers eg feeding, sleeping, laundry, rest facilities etc.
- Caring for and supporting the on-going needs of those local people affected by the emergency.
- Memorial services, memorials, gardens or remembrance.
- Newsheets, information boards, manning information points.

It is important that the community considers these activities in advance and decides/agrees the need for community involvement and whether a member or section of the community should be tasked with preparing and inserting guidance in this Plan.

Record likely recovery activities here and the persons that will lead on each activity.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY	LEAD PERSON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils in conjunction with Derbyshire County Council are grateful for the co-operation and assistance of Chesire Emergency Planning Unit in the production of this document.

APPROVAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS DOCUMENT

Record here the names and signatures of people included in the document.

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE

Telecommunications Development.

The exercising of development control in relation to telecommunications development is complex. It is governed by Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 which specifies what does and what does not require the consent of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) in regard to telecommunications development.

Briefly explained masts of over 15 metres or those to be erected within conservation areas and within sites of special scientific interest require planning permission to be granted by the LPA. These applications are subject to the normal procedures exercised by the authority in relation to planning submissions.

Ground based masts of up to 15 metres require the prior approval of the LPA with regard to the siting and appearance of the mast. In these cases the LPA is allowed 42 days in which to consider the submissions made. This allows for consultations to be carried out in accord with the Council's adopted procedures along with a requirement placed upon the site developer to erect a site notice advertising the proposal on or near the site. There is no power to extend the 42 day period and within that period the LPA are required to notify the applicant as to whether its prior approval is required and to notify the applicant of its decision to give or refuse that approval.

Other forms of telecommunications development are subject to a separate, 28 day prior approval procedure. This procedure applies to the construction, alteration or replacement of a mast installed on a building or structure, a public call box, radio equipment housing and certain other ancillary development. There is no mechanism to extend the 28 day period. In this case there is no requirement to undertake publicity and the considerations are similar to those for 42 day notice submissions.

The government encourages code systems operators to mast share with other users and operators are required to show to Local Planning Authorities that the possibility of mast sharing has been fully considered when they make their submission for further masts.

Additionally, operators are encouraged to ensure that any particular mast has as little an impact on the surrounding area as possible and different design solutions are encouraged.

A great deal of concern has been raised over the perceived threat of radiation from mobile phone base stations on the health of residential occupiers, and others, in the vicinity of the mast. In response to this concern the government commissioned a study into the possible health effects posed by mobile phone technology. This was led by Sir William Stewart.

The conclusion of his study was that:

“The balance of evidence indicates that there is no general risk to the health of people living near base stations, on the basis that exposures are expected to be small fractions of the guidelines.”

However, it was added that, in certain cases, people's health may be affected by an insensitive siting of base stations. Therefore, a precautionary principle is encouraged with regard to base stations, such as in cases where they are near schools.

However, in general terms, the LPA is unable to place significant weight on the concerns raised about any perceived health impact created by mobile phone base stations.

Details of the stance of the government with regard to base stations is set out in the document "Mobile Phone Base Stations and Health" produced by the Department of Health.