Community Emergency Planning in Lancaster

Mark Bartlett
Civil Contingencies
Lancaster City Council
mbartlett@Lancaster.gov.uk
01524 582680
Lancaster District
Community Emergency Plans

• Tried and tested in other parts of UK – North Yorkshire Moors, Dartmoor etc.
• Templates borrowed and ‘Lancasterised’
• Initial approaches to Lancaster district communities & parish councils in 2007 turned down except.......... 
• **Sunderland Point**
Sunderland Point
Sunderland Point - issues
Flood defences – Sunderland Point
Sunderland Point – Dec 2013
Sunderland Point

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<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Sunderland Point</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan owner</td>
<td>Veronica Gilchrist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Version</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>1st October 2008</td>
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At the minimum, the plan owner and nominated Community Contacts should keep a hard copy of this document available for use if the plan is activated.

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Sunderland Point Community Emergency Plan

• Has evolved over time - Initially covered residents actions in emergency – tested at table-top.
• Modified after a hovercraft “Casevac” - Version 2.
• Modified again after motorists rescued from causeway at high tide – Version 3.
• Covers responder actions as well as residents.
• Regular updates
• Version 3.2 published January 2017
Storm Desmond – the game changer - What happened?

- 579 properties flooded in Lancaster area during Storm Desmond.
- River Lune peak flow 1742cumecs (m3/seconds) the highest flow ever recorded on the Lune and any English river.
- Business park and industrial estate flooded – businesses badly affected
- Electricity substation flooded from the Lune - 55,000 properties without power for nearly 48 hours –some for longer
- City centre flooded from surface water (mostly) - Areas most affected around bus station, fire station and Sainsburys.
- Two major river bridges hit by shipping container from Halton Army Camp – alternative Lancaster to Morecambe route via Carnforth (14.5 miles instead of 3.5) until inspected. Slipway also seriously damaged.
Community Emergency Plans – lets try again!

- Feb 2016: Letters to all parish & smaller councils in district offering to talk about Community Emergency Plans.
- March 2016: First links with Community Foundation for Lancashire – Flooding Appeal
- March to July 2016: Spoke at 18 council meetings.

- July 2016: First community resilience grants awarded
- Autumn 2016 – First plans completed for Caton & North Quernmore (Joint Plan) and Overton. Further resilience grants including first urban awards.
- Grants used for: electrical work in halls, generators, PPE, torches, storage cupboards, general emergency equipment etc.
Resilience Grant
Borwick and Priest Hutton Group
Community Emergency Groups – 2017 achievements

• Training package completed. Incident log and task sheet pads printed.

• Joint meeting of groups held – introductions, contacts, mutual assistance

• Plans published for further six rural communities

• Exercise Moorgarh – pre-winter test of plans

• Planning continues in more locations – some nearing completion.
Lancaster Community Emergency Plans – October 2017

- **Complete**: Carnforth, Caton & North Quernmore, Halton with Aughton, Ireby with Leck, Nether Kellett, Overton, Slyne with Hest, Sunderland Point, Warton.

- **Nearly complete**: Borwick & Priest Hutton, Over Kellett, Silverdale, Ridge Estate

- **Work in progress**: St. Thomas’ Church Lancaster, Wennington & Melling,
Case Study – Over Kellett Power Cut

Challenges

• Community Emergency Plan wasn’t in place

• Contact numbers of the Team hadn’t been shared

• Limited awareness of CEP Group within wider community
What went well….

• “Once we’d met at our Rest Centre we were able to plan a fast and relatively effective response”

• “Members of our group knew each other and were able to come up with a basic response plan and equip ourselves accordingly”

• ‘Spontaneous Volunteers’ were used to good effect

• Able to update affected residents personally with ENWL reference number

• Able to charge phones to ensure residents had phones / internet access during darkness.

• Able to offer flasks etc

• “ENWL were impressed with our response / co-ordination and arranged subsequent meeting with group”

• No injuries or near misses !
Local plans owned by local communities
Any Questions?