

Environmental Emergency Plan

This plan has been developed to address the immediate and longer term issues that may arise in the event of an environmental emergency occurring in Cheselbourne, where there is a risk to the health of residents or visitors, livestock, serious damage to property or a serious risk to any aspect of the environment.

This will include emergencies that have the potential to seriously impact on air quality and water course contamination (potable water and natural watercourses).

The role of the Parish Council will be to work in partnership with the emergency services, the Environment Agency and other relevant responders to support local activity, and to sign post persons affected by the emergency to relevant advice and guidance.

The Parish Council will use the identified muster point (Cheselbourne Village Hall) for face to face coordination where appropriate, or remote channels (Team, Zoom etc) if there is an identified threat to life or health.

The call cascade system will be used to inform council members of a requirement to convene.

The primary objective of the environmental emergency plan is to save life, prevent harm and to ensure the residents of Cheselbourne are kept informed of risks posed by the incident and how to mitigate them.

This will be achieved by:

- Working in partnership with the emergency services and Dorset Resilience Forum, where required.
- Sharing information from a local perspective that will assist emergency services and other statutory agencies with dealing effectively with the emergency.
- Facilitating communication with local residents about activity taking place, and how this might affect them.
- Identifying individuals or groups, including wildlife, that are at the highest risk of harm from the emergency
- Supporting humanitarian assistance to persons most at risk or in need by signposting them to the relevant agencies for support
- Providing a local context and a point of contact for longer term recovery activity, ensuring local needs are understood and addressed by statutory agencies, to facilitate an effective recovery
- Collating learning from the incident to develop and enhance future planning activity

This plan will be reviewed annually by members of Cheselbourne Parish Council.

14 May 2023