**NORTH BERWICK COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN**

**SUMMARY**

North Berwick’s Community Emergency Response Plan outlines how, in an emergency, the Community can support the efforts of statutory responder agencies including East Lothian Council, the ‘blue lights’ and the Scottish Government. In an emergency, responder agencies will prioritise the public at greatest risk or who are most vulnerable and the community can play a critical role in supporting any such response by preventing problems escalating and providing care where it is required most urgently.

At the heart of how we as a community respond to an emergency is our ability to help ourselves and each other, share our local intelligence and knowledge and mobilise people and equipment. As a community we need to be aware of the risks we face and the assets we can draw on - people, skills and tools. We also need to work together to keep our community safe.

The North Berwick Community Emergency Plan includes a:

* Local Risk Assessment - including risks of flooding, severe weather, utility failure, fire, communication breakdown, rail crash and missing persons.
* Local Assets Register - outlining the key locations, organisations, skills and resources available in the community. It includes rest centres, toilets, volunteers, transport, information, Carers & health staff and equipment

A copy of the plan, with personal information removed, can be viewed on the Community Centre website: [Newsletters & Plans | North Berwick Community Council](http://northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk/newsletters/)

The Emergency Plan is overseen by a Community Emergency Coordinator, with the support of a Deputy, who will work with a coordinating group made up of North Berwick GP Practice, North Berwick Community Centre (the official rest centre), North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership and East Lothian Council. The group will include other organisations relevant to a particular emergency, eg power providers.

The Emergency Plan was invoked for the first time in March 2018 in response to a Red Weather warning when severe snow seriously disrupted life in North Berwick. Statutory services required community support to protect life and limb, maintain essential health and social care services, and ensure the safety and comfort of our neighbours and families. The community response was outstanding; people drove essential health and social care staff to and from work; cleared snow; visited neighbours with essential supplies and a friendly face and shared intelligence and information about roads, food supplies and issues we needed to address. **Truly a great team effort.**

We learnt a lot from our first emergency and we want to be even better prepared for the next one. To do this, we need the support of the community.

You can help by telling us:

* How you can help in future, for example providing transport for people and supplies; providing equipment from snow shovels to electric saws; telling us what’s happening in your area; supporting neighbours and helping to spread information through your networks.
* Sharing your experiences of ‘The Beast from the East’ and your ideas what you think should happen in future.

You can fill in a paper form in the library, community centre and health centre or access the survey online using this link: [OUR COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY: LEARNING FROM OUR EXPERIENCE Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2LKNMF6)

You can also sign up as a possible helper in a future emergency - don’t worry! We would only contact you to see if you could help, you’re not committed.

If you want to know more, please contact: [nbcommunityday2018@gmail.com](mailto:nbcommunityday2018@gmail.com)