

## **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GOES LIVE ON 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL:**

### **SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

**The Community Resilience publicity campaign** goes live on **2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL, NEXT WEEK**, headed up by Ian Wilson, the North Somerset Council Emergency Manager. The first Community Resilience trial, based on a flooding emergency, was at Congresbury last year.

The Community Resilience web address is <http://communityresilience-ns.org.uk> where you can find more information, and sign up to register your interest.

Winscombe and Sandford Parish Councillors Cresten Boase and Steve Bridges are signed up to attend the community resilience workshops currently being run, and will be reporting back to the full Parish Council about these.

More information about Community Resilience in Winscombe and Sandford will be given out either at Parish Council meetings and/or at public meetings to be held after the 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Notice of meetings is given on the Parish Council and other noticeboards, and on the parish council and village websites [www.winscombeandsandfordpc.org.uk](http://www.winscombeandsandfordpc.org.uk) and [www.winscombeandsandford.org.uk](http://www.winscombeandsandford.org.uk)

- **What is community resilience?**

How could you help yourself, your family and community prepare, respond and recover from an emergency?

- **How does this link with the emergency services?**

Community resilience is about giving communities the information, tools and training to be resilient at the local level, and to work in a way that complements the emergency services. In some circumstances the scale of the incident can overwhelm the emergency services. Working together is essential when coping with a wide-scale event.

- **What does Community Resilience North Somerset aim to deliver?**

The aim is to establish informed, risk aware, self-reliant communities that are capable of independently sustaining their community or complementing the work of emergency responders during localised or major events. Working to set up a network of community resilience volunteers, the project will identify and address local risks such as **flooding, traffic, severe weather, epidemics or power failure**.

Community Resilience North Somerset is providing the tools and resources to enable and empower the local community and Parish Councils to identify local risks, to develop plans and mitigation strategies that will increase the resilience of individual households, businesses and the wider community. Ultimately, it is intended to establish Community Resilience North Somerset as an integral part of the Avon & Somerset Local Resilience Forum.

- **Why are you working directly with Town & Parish Councils?**

Town and Parish Councils represent their communities at the local level. They are ideally placed to understand community needs, identify and engage with existing local community groups and provide the support so necessary during the development of Community Resilience. The approach is flexible and provides opportunity for smaller Parishes to develop joint arrangements and for larger Towns to establish Community Resilience around Wards, established communities or other practicable solutions.

Town and Parish Councils are encouraged to facilitate development of Community Resilience within their area of responsibility. This does not necessarily imply that they should take ownership; but they would likely want to retain some oversight, especially if the network is delivered entirely by volunteer groups unaligned to the council. The more actively engaged the greater the benefit .

- **How do Community Groups fit into the network?**

Many existing Community and Faith Groups have already been consulted and the project very much welcomes their contribution to Community Resilience. In Congresbury for example the local Congresbury Carers have a natural affinity with the Community Resilience Welfare Team. Existing groups are not taken over by Community Resilience. Rather they will be supported by a far larger voluntary network at the local level and within the wider resilience community.