

Arkengarthdale Community Emergency Plan - Community Update

Over the last 12 months, the Arkengarthdale Community Emergency Group (ACEG) of volunteers have been working hard to develop a Community Emergency Plan that would support the needs of both the communities of Arkengarthdale Parish and of supporting agencies, during an emergency situation such as the floods of 2019.

The plan aims to provide a method of warning and informing and keeping our community updated with any relevant information, prior to, during or after an event, to provide support as a community where we can with volunteers undertaking neighbourly acts, to provide a hub, rest or welfare facility as required and to act as a conduit to other responding agencies.

So, where we are currently ...

The Arkengarthdale Community Emergency Team & Volunteers WhatsApp group has now been running since November 2023 and has 36 members.

The group has been used effectively on a number of occasions to provide information on weather warnings and updates, information from other agencies, for example Northern Power, Floodline, the Met Office and also live time updates from within our community in relation to events such as power outages, river levels, trees down etc.

In April and July last year, we had 6 people from within our Parish attend a First Aid Course equivalent to a First Aid At Work. This course was funded by Hudson House.

The ACEG has been working closely with our Parish Council, Cllr Yvonne Peacock and the Resilience & Emergency Team at North Yorkshire Council to develop a Plan, establish governance and accountability, a Charter to establish the role and structure of the group, a Service Level Agreement between Parish Council and the ACEG, to enable us to work together effectively.

In March this year, a final draft Community Emergency Plan was endorsed on behalf of our community by Parish Council. The plan has been lodged with North Yorkshire Council.

A Charter and Service Level Agreement have now been agreed and signed by both parties.

Copies of the Plan, Charter and Service Level Agreement will be held on the Parish Council Website and accessible to all.

The structure of the ACEG was voted on by its members and agreed as follows:

Chair - Deb Southwell
Vice Chair - Pam Wickham
Secretary - Amanda Fuller
Finance - Pam Wickham
Equipment - Bob Southwell
Member - John Ruthven

Mike Pears and Mark Wickham remain as interested parties.

A risk assessment has been established and work is ongoing to provide all volunteers with adequate insurance via the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme whilst engaged on any activity at initiated by the plan.

Grant funding has been provided by Cllr Yvonne Peacock for the initial set up costs to enable us to provide a Hub/Rest Centre for the Community and a Control Point to enable liaison with appropriate agencies.

Items have now been purchased by the ACEG to support this function.

Grant funding has again been provided by Cllr Yvonne Peacock to enable to group to purchase two-way radios to aid communication deficiencies during an event.

Two radios were provided by North Yorkshire Council and the ACEG are currently testing in various locations around the parish to test for blind spots and ascertain if fit for purpose prior to making any purchase.

Further funding is available to the group if required and authorised, held by Parish Council in their Community Emergency account.

The Sports Committee have also very kindly set aside some funds which may be utilised during an emergency.

Next on the horizon

For the ACEG to test and validate the plan.

To consider purchase of any further equipment and two-way radios.

To finalise the Liability Insurance agreement with NWS.

To raise awareness within the community and to encourage involvement.

If anyone is not currently on the Community Emergency Team & Volunteers WhatsApp group and would like to be added, please provide your name and mobile number to arkengarthdaleemergency@outlook.com

Deb Southwell
ACEG Chair

01 August 2025