

KcC Emergency Plan

I was asked by Edwina to have a look at our Emergency Plan and can report as follows:

1. Keith Fawkner-Simpson who is our lead man at Suffolk Resilience has proved exceptionally helpful. I was concerned about the potential costs of using the upstairs village hall as our respite centre, there being several issues that would need addressing each of which has a not inconsequential cost attached:
 - a. Disabled Toilets
 - b. Access
 - c. Emergency exit in the event of an in-hall emergency
 - i. Lift must be assumed to be inoperable
 - ii. Use an Evac-Chair/Chairs with sledge runners for use on stairs (we are of the opinion that the age/health profile of our community would actually render these impractical)
 - iii. Various other matters revealed in Liz Flights Health and Safety survey.
2. We have obtained agreement with Suffolk Resilience to switch the planned Respite Centre from the Main Hall to the Meeting Room; the size is quite OK and in normal times, according to their calculations, would seat up to 30 people or could sleep 6, which for our size of community is OK.
 - a. The only major problem with this is the disabled toilet facilities and our architect has drawn up what seems to be the most economical solution and I attach hereto a copy of the plan that Tim Buxbaum produced. It does mean the Post Office wall would need to be moved slightly to give the legally required 1.5mtrs width in the toilet. The Chair of KVH is in contact with the Post Office to ascertain their future plans, we are not at this stage asking them about moving their wall, let's first make sure their intention is to remain committed to the village.

So we continue to develop the plan, now centred on the Meeting Room. We have a small team without whom none of this work would get done and I would like to thank Liz Flight for her invaluable involvement, knowledge and help plus of course Mary Clarke (KVH Chair) and Councillor Simon Ransome with his insight into matters practical.

Somewhere out there, there will be funds for this project however sadly I am not well versed in sourcing and have emailed our East Suffolk Councillor, 23rd March, hoping for some guidance, once we have that we may be able to move forward.

I had in fact hoped by this time to have the project 'buttoned up' and ready to hand back to the PC but that is not going to happen yet awhile. If the PC wishes I will gladly continue working, with the others, on this project with the intention of final and practical plan.

chris burslem
22nd March 2021