

Case Study – Hovingham Snow Clearing Policy & Community Resilience Scheme

Background

Hovingham is a village within the district of Ryedale with a small population. In February 2010, an active member of Hovingham Environmental Action Group contacted North Yorkshire County Council Emergency Planning Unit (EPU) requesting some information on emergency planning and how they could make their community more prepared by creating their own emergency plans. Their aim was to look at snow clearance during winter and then progress to a general community emergency plan which has a focus on flooding.

Summary

Following the initial meeting in Hovingham it was decided that the aim was to keep the main pathways clear through the village so that people could access the local facilities with relative safety.

The plan was written and finalised before the winter period and meant that Hovingham was successful in being chosen as one of the seven parishes for the pilot winter maintenance scheme by NYCC. The pilot scheme focussed on snow clearing and gritting by volunteers in the community. NYCC provided training and equipment to all pilot parishes (one in each District of North Yorkshire) to enable them to do this.

Hovingham are currently finalising their Community Resilience Scheme and plan to hold a public event in Spring 2012 to inform their community about the plan and other emergency planning issues.

Who was involved?

A member of the Hovingham Environmental Action Group (EAG) was the key instigator and main author of the plan with input and support from the Parish Council.

What were the Outcomes?

- The plan was activated during the winter of 2010/11 and was successful in keeping the main paths in Hovingham clear.
- At one point up to 22 volunteers were recruited to participate in the scheme, meaning that there was sufficient numbers of people willing to take turns in clearing snow and gritting as necessary.
- The village paths were kept clear in line with the plan and the community better able to continue their day to day business.

Key Learning Points

- Although a plan is created, it still relies upon the volunteers participating on the day.
- Teamwork is essential.
- A proactive leader must be chosen well in advance of any snowfall to direct activities and ensure all plans are in place
- Contacts lists – a cascade system is much more effective than a single person ringing around
- Designate priority routes and stick to them
- Gritting is essential, as is removal of thin ice as much as is possible

Next Steps

- The success of the Snow Clearance Plan has meant Hovingham are confident and keen to progress with a Community Resilience Scheme which focuses on flooding.
- To promote it, Hovingham are planning a public event for Spring 2012.

Further information

Hovingham are willing to share their experience and knowledge with other Town/Parish Councils, on the basis that in return you credit any work used. If you would like to contact them, then please use the contact details below.

Contact details

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