

BIRLING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN updated May 2026

This PLAN will be used during a **major emergency** and when there is a threat to disruption or a degree of risk to the safety and wellbeing of local residents.

The activation of the plan will occur before, during or after the emergency services have been alerted and involved in its operation will be aligned to and in support of that of the emergency services. The Community Resilience Plan is designed to support the work of the official emergency responders, not to replace it.

The aim of the community plan is to increase short-term community resilience in response to an emergency occurring in the local area.

Why?

To enable the community to respond effectively to an emergency that occurs within the local area
To identify resources and key contacts within the community that can assist the emergency services and local authority (Tonbridge & Malling)
To identify hazards and possible communication measures within the community
To be aware of vulnerable people within the community

SCOPE

This resilience plan has been developed to support emergency response to community wide major incidents rather than individual household issues. A community wide event can be characterised as:

An event that affects typically multiple households, be it associated with people, their properties, access to them or the services they use.
Typically requiring the engagement of multiple emergency services such as police, utilities or Tonbridge & Malling emergency response
Being beyond the capability of any one household to resolve
Been caused by an event from outside the property, e.g. flood water entering from outside the property.

What it is not included

Individual households e.g. storm damage unless there are some extenuating circumstances, e.g. the people impacted are classed as vulnerable; the cause is by circumstances out in the wider community environment.

Health matters unless required by the Borough Council or the emergency services.

General short term operational failures to access utilities or services e.g typical power cut.

The Parish Council and other involved local bodies are committed to delivering this plan although some of this support is to be delivered by local volunteers. Those volunteers will endeavour, subject to their skills and availabilities, to take reasonable measures to achieve the plan objectives. The roles and responsibilities of Parish Councillors are contained in the Hazard section of this plan.

The Parish Council will form an Emergency Group to alert the authorities to potential emergency and establish communication with the Emergency Services to support them in managing the emergency.

GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS

PROCEDURE TO RAISE ALERT

Emergency arises		Action
Is there an immediate risk to life or property YES →	Ring 999 →	Follow any advice given
Is the emergency affecting multiple people / properties → YES ↓	NO Do you need additional help →	Follow any advice given
Is it between 9pm and 9am NO ↓	YES →	Ring one of the following numbers
Do you have access to the internet YES ↓	NO →	Ring one of the numbers above
Can you use next door NO ↓	YES →	Send an urgent Alert using next door
Send an email to clerk@birlingparishcouncil.gov.uk		

Sample Community Emergency Group Meeting

AGENDA

Date

Time

Location

Attendees

- 1 What is the current situation?
- 2 Location of the Emergency
 - Vulnerable area
 - Main access Route
- 3 Type of Emergency
 - Is there a threat to life?
 - Has power, gas or water been affected?
- 4 Are there any vulnerable people involved? Eg elderly, families with children
- 5 What resources are needed?
 - Food or Water
 - Off road vehicles
 - Blankets or Shelter
- 6 Establishing contact with the emergency services
- 7 How can we support the emergency services?
- 8 What actions can we safely take?
- 9 Which responsible Cllr will lead for the agreed actions?

- 10 Are there any issues?

HAZARD MANAGEMENT

Categories and potential Risks

Birlinging Parish Council Hazard Guide

Emergency Services - Category 1 Responders	Utilities - Category 2 Responders	Borough and County Services	Village Resources
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Key **H** High priority, **M** second priority may or may not be involved **L** unlikely to be involved or information only

Hazard area	Police	Fire & Rescue	Ambulance	Environmental Agency	Power	British Gas	Water	Openreach	Adult & Social Care	Children & Young People	Housing Solutions	Church	Village Hall	Public House	Parish Council
Flooding	M	H		M	H				L	L	H	H	M	M	H
Severe snow and ice	M			M											H
Severe Storms	M	H	L		H			M							M
Heatwave			H												M
Interruption of utilities				M	H	H	H	H							H
Chemical Spills	H	H	M	H											H
Major Road Accident	H	H	H									H		H	M
Pandemic			M						M						H

DRAFT – Proposed Community Emergency Group & Responsibilities

CATEGORY 1 – EMERGENCY SERVICES

Proposed Lead Cllr – Jacquie Westwood

To be the **main contact with Emergency Services** in any emergency and keep all parties informed of actions.

CATEGORY 2 - UTILITIES

Proposed Lead Cllr – Stuart Hirst

Main contact with suppliers of services to enable temporary alternative provision leading to reconnection of services

Communications

Proposed Lead Cllr – Hayley Wright

Should an emergency occur **lead the communications** with residents to advise them of action to be taken by whom and when.

If needed organise volunteers to assist police in door knocking to check on safety of elderly residents

BOROUGH & COUNTY SERVICES

Liaison with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Proposed Lead Cllr – Neil Hewitt

To be main contact & liaise over Housing and other issues as required e.g. breakdown of utility services leading to loss of power, water etc.

Children and Young People

Proposed Lead Cllr - Daren Yates

Provide project-based activities for Primary school Children should Ryarsh County Primary School be inaccessible/closed.

Liaise with Kent County Council as required.

VILLAGE FACILITIES

Church

Proposed Lead Cllr -Helen Padgham

Potential Location to house several residents.

Basic Heating available and power. Spacious space if required to house/sleep many residents.

Issues – Water to be provided externally and no lavatories.

CONFIRMED AS AVAILABLE

Village Hall

Proposed Lead Cllr – Guy Nevill

Location of the Defibrillator

Seek permission for emergency use from Village Hall Charitable Trust

Could provide power, water, toilets, kitchen, crockery and cooking facilities.

Issues - Could not accommodate a large number of residents. School accommodation would need to be suspended and Hall cleared.

CONFIRMED AS AVAILABLE with the proviso that the NURSERY SCHOOL does not remain operational due to the nature of the emergency

PUBLIC HOUSE

Proposed Lead Cllr – Neil Hewitt

Seek permission for PH to be available for emergency use to provide a warm setting, toilets, hot drinks and food (provided at normal commercial rates), subject to health and safety issues (such as the availability of adequate lighting e.g. in the event of a power cut).

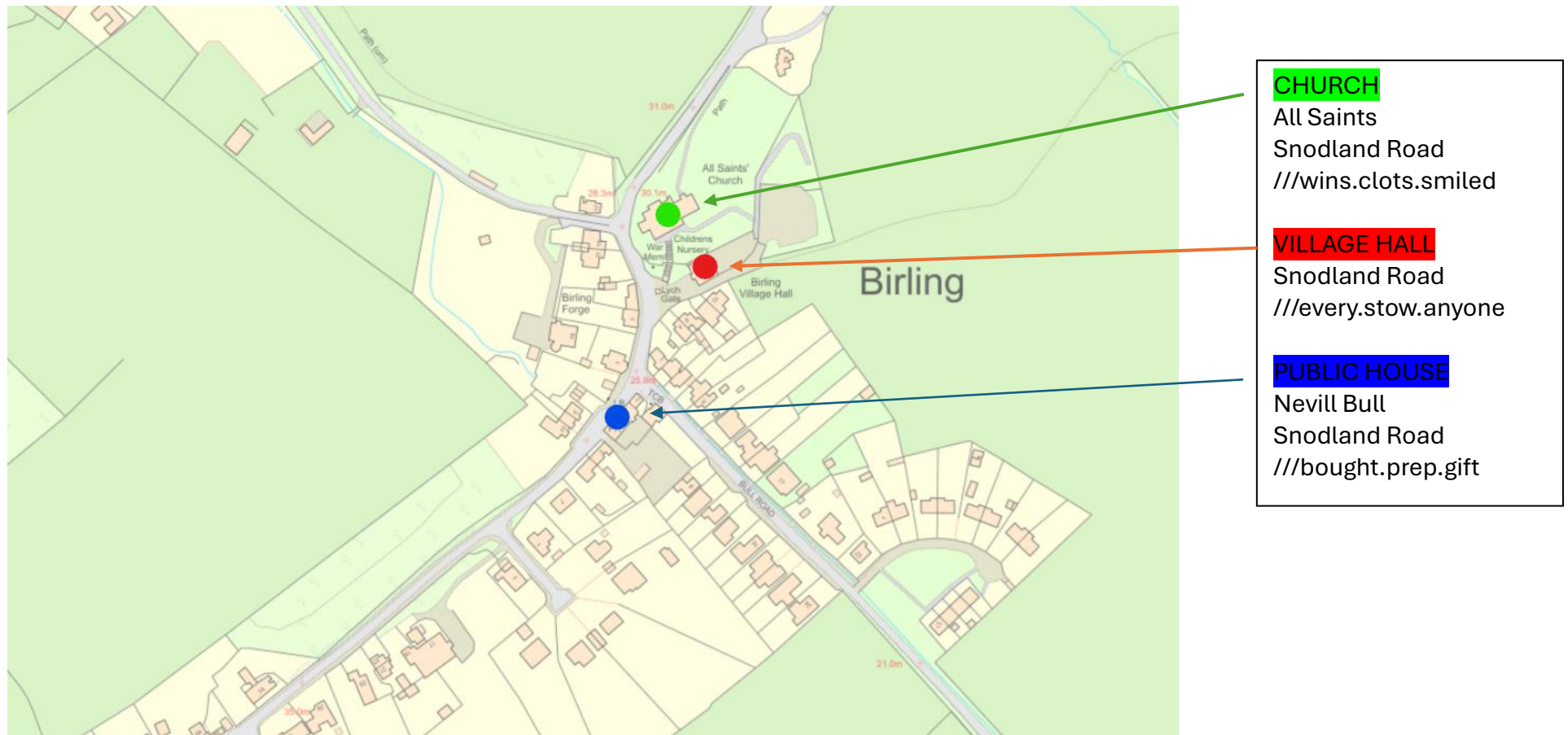
PARISH COUNCIL

Co-ordination and recording

Proposed Lead – Birling Parish Clerk

To liaise with Chair to call Emergency meetings, log activities, and organise supplies/other actions

MAP OF BIRLING AND LOCATION OF FACILITIES



EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS - CURRENT LIST

BIRLING PARISH COUNCIL – EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

Birling Parish Council	Kent Police
Chair: Jacquie Westwood 01732 848192 Parish Clerk: Julie Miller 07769 254176	Emergency 999 Non emergency 101 Crimestoppers 0800 555111 Anti Terrorist 0800 789 321
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	Fire & Rescue Service
01732 844522 central.services@tmbc.gov.uk	01622 692121 Free Advice 0800 923 7000
Hospitals	Flood - Environmental Agency
Maidstone 01622 729000 Pembury 01892 823535 Sevenoaks Minor Injuries 01732470200	Floodline 24 hour 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188 Advice 0345 988 1188
Health Advice	Gas
West Malling Group Practice 01732 870212 NHS 111	National Emergency 0800 111 999 Emergency boiler repair 0800 783 8866
Snow – Yellow Salt Bins in Birling	Water
Stangate Road Ryarsh Road x2 Birling Park Extra Supplies - Ley Farm Cottage	SE Water 0333 000 0002

(Phone Chair BPC)	
HGVs Blocking Road in Birling	Electricity – Power cut
Photo Number Plate Take Name of Company Phone Police	Text POWER and your postcode to 80876 Email: ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut Phone 0800 31 63 105 Phone from mobile 0333 202 2023 (24 hrs) Extra support available for those needed medical support – form available on line or from Parish Clerk Apply on line www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority or Email psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk
Nevill Bull Public House	Oil & Chemical Spills & Leaks
01732849045	0845 6259 8900