

AMERG meeting report from December 9 th. 2021

In response to events that have taken place recently, IE Substantial Power Cut in the whole of Alston Moor.

CD — —-Now in the Recovery Phase .Has been in discussions with the Cumbria Resilience Team Adviser. Phone communications need to be definitely improved. , especially with with North West Electric. A Community Newsletter update needs to be signed off , then will be distributed to all households, as well as Posters and other forms of media communication.

Electricity North West will contact people all who have been cut off re claims for such (although there is a link from their website on how to apply) . Times when electric went off in each area needs verifying.

Note, that the Fire Station always has power.

AM does have an Emergency Plan , alongside CCC Resilience, sitting on a shelf at CCC . This programme needs updating.

However, as usual, the residents of AM went into action and pulled together helping out where and when necessary.

Levels of help :—- Strategic - Only kicks in on 3 rd day.

Tactical - All emergency services made aware and senior people get together and formulate of whom goes where and what's needed and when.

Operational- Boots on the ground.

Everyone is aware of room for improvement . Lessons learnt and rectified for (dare I say) next time.

Major Incident was declared on the Sunday.

Members Reports:— —- EG - Garrigill— . Problem was that the electric was off for so long and it was bitter cold with temperatures as low as -5 . No communication from anyone outside the village , NWE phone line just had the same message repeated” electric back on at 4 pm and if not then not that day. Some reports from an engineer but not helpful” .Eventually got hold of CCC CD on the Sunday late afternoon, for info and advice. As usual residents helped out where they could. Neighbours looked in on the elderly and provided , hot water , soup , drinks, hot water bottles .hot meals and company. Not all of the elderly accepted the help offered, and a couple seen by the Police having not answered the door to anyone else were taken into hospital for their own safety. Some people had coal fires or a log burner but No cooker, others had cooking facilities but no heating, a few people had generators but also some had no water because they needed a pump that works off electric to pump the water up from the village to their residence. Once electric came on in other areas there were offers of generators especially for the village hall that only had a gas hob that people could go and heat water up or make hot drinks and cook , but no heating or electric. A small generator was bought and connected for the heating but then the electric came back on an hour later.

There were a number of very vulnerable people , but the police looked in on some, others had Carers that continued to work , family helped out , but all in all it was the neighbours. A big thank you to all.

The gangs of Engineers did Stirling work to get the village connected on the Tuesday (bar one property) , so a big thank you to them also.

After the event a number of people went shopping and bought camp fire equipment for cooking and lighting , to be prepared for the next time..

However, Councillor EG contacted the Trustees of the VH and other Garrigill Councillors to arrange a meeting early January to discuss an Emergency Plan for the village which would include an emergency box, analogue phone, and a number of representatives so the whole of the village would be covered even if the snow caused problems, perhaps a much bigger generator to fire up all of the electrics in the hall required. A further suggestion was a questionnaire of residents to see how they faired throughout.

/RM for Alston —- He drove the car whilst SM went and checked on residents. . Some parts of Alston had supplies connected quickly, but not the Lowbyer area. Masonic Hall had hot food , heating and lighting. Members of the Emergency Services as well as EDC and CCC were available there. CCC CD was co- ordinating resources.

Since hospital had full electricity a discussion ensued as to whether this could be used in future emergencies. CD to investigate. Perhaps a generator for TH and or Masonic Hall.

KH for Nenthead — Much the same as Garrigill. Also, have decided to have a meeting to discuss a plan for Nenthead and surrounding area. Quick discussion re village generator , packs of emergency equipment .Important to let everyone know what's happening and what help is available. Did have a representative from ENW to give assistance to most vulnerable in the area (did not have a list of names and was on her own).

Did have a hot food van, however, this van was also supposed to come to Garrigill but person running the van couldn't get a phone signal on his mobile phone to contact local Councillor (how ironic !) Also had people donating generators when not needed by themselves. Perhaps a telephone tree for communication is needed through analogue. But, a CB system may be better for the future.

Representatives to help with communication to include areas of Galligill, Nentsberry, Haggs Bank .

AMERG discussions :— — As with last year, a card with relevant emergency information on to be developed and posted through everyone's letter boxes.

A suggestion of getting the biggest ,high spec, generator as possible for GVH / N.Hive and have an electrician involved. Remember to keep the diesel topped up for emergencies.

Pay phones in VH/Hive / TH .People were reminded that there are pay phones in Nenthead and Garrigill that do work.

CB Radio/ Walkie Talkies.

Grants may be available to help in buying equipment - CD to investigate.

Vulnerable didn't get a phone all from ENW which was frightening for them , having no information.

Prescription delivery still ongoing for the vulnerable on the Moor.

Actions:— Each area organising own piece of work.

Next meeting 14 th January 2022 at 4.30 pm