

## **Summary of the Devon Communities Together Resilience Meeting 26/09/24, Crediton Rugby Club.**

There were talks from The Red Cross, The Environment Agency, Crediton Lions, Digital Voice and Lymptstone Parish Council.

Items of interest for Newton St Cyres:

- 1) Have we included pandemic planning in our resilience plans?
- 2) Crediton Lions are running a free scheme we may want to support as a Parish Council. It's called 'Message in a Bottle'. This is a service for vulnerable people who may need contact with the emergency services. The bottle in question is a plastic container. Inside is a form to complete that gives all relevant medical information and next of kin. Of course, you can use any form you wish – not just theirs. The bottle then goes in the fridge and you attach a sticker to the outside of the fridge and near the front door. When emergency services see the sticker, they know there is a bottle in the fridge for them! Lions provides the bottle free of charge. I thought we might be able to make them available through coffee mornings and the Adonai kitchen. I have a couple of bottles if you wish to see them. What do you think?
- 3) Digital voice spoke about support for the digital transfer of BT landlines. This needs to happen because the existing copper system is failing. In most cases, the line will be of higher quality, and there will be improved scam protection.
  - a. For many people who already have satisfactory broadband speeds, their existing phone will plug straight into their router. They will keep the same number; the cost remains the same and most phones are compatible. If your router has no connection for a phone, you will be provided with one free of charge.
  - b. If you have no broadband connection or the speed is less than 3.5 Mbps, then you will retain the copper connection to the house and the switch will be made at the exchange. You will therefore notice nothing!
  - c. One major drawback is that the system will not work in a power cut. If this worries you, batteries can be bought quite cheaply that go between the mains and the router.
  - d. If you are over 75, or in some way vulnerable, an engineer will visit to manage the transfer, free of charge. They can also provide a battery free of charge so that you can maintain the alarm system that many vulnerable people have. Digital Voice are trying to find out who needs this support. They have already contacted providers of alarm services for list, but you can add your name to the list by dialing 150 and explaining the problem.

I think we could do with an article in the Newton Wonder on this, unless we already have had one.

- 4) I have spoken to Tom Dauben of the Environment Agency and he has promised to signpost me to some suitable information about maintaining the Shuttern Brook. He also suggested that tree planting along the Creedy could be largely cost neutral if the farmer concerned was able to access the Stewardship scheme. Tom also volunteered to visit us, and that might be good but only if we can get the Quicke and the Brownes involved. More on this when I've had a chance to follow up on his suggestions.