

Strachur District Community Emergency Plan

Produced by
Strachur & District Community Council
April 2014
(Revised October 2023)

If you are in immediate danger, call 999 or 112

Introduction

This plan is designed as a simple tool to assist the Strachur District Community to undertake a coordinated response to an emergency incident within its local area and in collaboration with the emergency services and other emergency responders.

This plan is to be regarded as a backup or supplement to Argyll & Bute Council's Emergency Plan. Argyll & Bute Council's Resilience Team should always be notified about situations where it is deemed appropriate to activate the Strachur District Community Plan (see page 4).

The aim of this plan is to help minimise disruption arising from an incident, ensure vulnerable individuals are supported and that normality is restored as soon as possible after such an event.

The document is in three sections –

Section 1 contains a 'Risk Register', which will be updated annually, and a guide of key actions to be taken in the event of an emergency and a summary of some of the kinds of incidents and emergencies that may occur in the Strachur area.

Section 2 explains how Strachur Memorial Hall might be used to best effect in the case of a major power outage.

Section 3 contains a list of key contact details for Community Council members, local Emergency Responder volunteers, local medical, fire and police teams, key holders for village facilities and those with resources necessary in tackling an emergency situation (generators, four-wheel drives, tractors, chainsaws etc.)

All emergency situations highlighted in this plan will be risk assessed and will consist of a low risk to individuals who volunteer to help in times of crisis. **No individual will be expected, at any time, to partake in high-risk activity that may lead to injury.** In general, this plan will provide current information on emergency accommodation, emergency food contingencies, equipment and skills location, key locations and information on the community and community organisations.

This plan will enable the community to:

- **Identify – what is the risk**
- **Identify – what resources do we possess to counter the risk**
- **Identify – if existing resources are insufficient what additional resources are required and where do they come from**

Strachur & District Community – An Overview

Located close to Loch Fyne, the Strachur District community consists of around 780 individuals in approximately 330 households. The Community also includes St Catherines, Glenbranter, Invernoaden, Strathlachlan, Leachd, Newton and Leanach; these are all small settlements outwith the Strachur Village boundaries but within the Parish of Strachur and Strathlachlan. The community is made up of young families, young individuals and older retired couples or individuals.

The main hub of the village is within the Clachan area where the Clachan Bar, the Church and much of the housing for the community are located. The Clachan is set back from but adjacent to the A815, which provides the main routes to both Glasgow and Dunoon.

There is also a fringe of residential dwellings strung along the Bay area for about a kilometre in the direction of Glendaruel. This is also the location of the Bay Cottage shop, tearoom and Post Office. In terms of resources the Village is well served and has:

- A surgery with doctor, practice nurse and dispensing facilities.
- The Strachur Memorial Hall – consists of two good-sized halls, a committee room, toilets and a fully equipped kitchen. The Hall could potentially serve as a shelter area, rally point, assembly area and storage facility for the Community's emergency equipment.
- The Creggans Inn Hotel – could provide shelter as well as facilities for cooking and heating.
- The Clachan Bar – could provide limited shelter; act as an assembly point given its location in the heart of the Clachan.
- Pavilion at the Community Sports Field – could provide shelter as well as toilet facilities, cooking and re-heating resources.
- A local Fire Station – manned by an auxiliary fire crew of local men and women.
- A local, combined Post Office, Shop and tearoom in the Bay area (the Bay Cottage). The shop could provide essential food resources and the tearoom additional facilities for heating and cooking.
- The Filling Station – located on A815, provides food resources, fuel and propane gas canisters.

Those employed within the community cover a diverse range of occupations but in the main, within the locality:

- Forestry work – Forestry & Land Scotland, Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park or private woodlands
- Haulage – haulage consists mainly of timber and construction supplies
- Farming – generally sheep or cattle farming
- Construction – miscellaneous small to medium firms
- Farm Fishery – at the local Salmon company located in Cairndow
- Seasonal hospitality work – waiting, admin, front of house within local hotel / restaurant businesses / chalet cleaning and change over supervision

Strachur is located close to Dunoon where there are other employment opportunities.

The local Primary school has a school roll of approximately 30, which includes a pre-5 unit. The boundary for the catchment area for the Primary School is as far as Strathlachlan, Cairndow and approximately halfway down Lock Eck. Secondary schooling takes place at Dunoon Grammar School.

In Conclusion

Based on the information collated, we can ascertain the following conclusions:

- In keeping with many rural communities the village is a robust community benefiting from varied resources – human and mechanical – at its disposal
- However, the ability to mobilise resources is limited and the emergency plan is not prescriptive but based on what can realistically be achieved by the community
- Speed of response can only be based on the speed of receipt of intelligence and information and the ability of the Community Council to share and activate the relevant procedures
- The plan therefore concentrates on what is a reasonable response and not an aspirational one
- There is a need to distinguish where the Emergency Services will take the lead in coordinating and managing the emergency response and those where the villagers can safely sort out or initiate a recovery or assistance procedure.

The main priority, however, is personal safety. Individuals should **never** put themselves at risk in any of the Risk Assessed scenarios. If an individual is unsure how to proceed, they should desist and take further advice from Emergency Service responders.

FIRST STEPS IN AN EMERGENCY

1	Call 999
2	Ensure you are in no immediate danger
3	Contact Convener of Community Council to discuss the situation (contact details on page 9)
4	CC Convener discusses with one or more other Community Councillors whether to activate plan
5	If agreed, CC Convener begins to activate the plan by contacting relevant parties (e.g. Hall Exec. Comm.)
6	CC Convener alerts Argyll & Bute Council Resilience Team: Mon – Fri, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., call 01436 658728/29 Out of hours, call 101 and Police will contact Team through the Council Emergency Standby number

Section 1 – Local Risk Assessment

Risk – Disruption to Utilities / Likelihood – moderate risk rising to high during winter

Situation	Utilities disrupted in planned or unseen circumstances. In former case utilities companies should provide adequate notice and alternative arrangements put in place. In the event of a sudden and unexpected disruption contact must be first made to the relevant utility company
Steps to Counter Risk	Ensure contact list for all local services agencies are up to date and widely circulated.
Action in Case of Event	If village-wide occurrence, notify relevant utilities companies. If there is a major and lengthy power outage or major issue with mains water supply, volunteers may be required to check on vulnerable individuals and families to ensure adequate food, water and heating supplies are available and supply them where necessary. The Hall now has the facility to take power from a SSE generator making it a more potent contact point for the collection and distribution of warm food, water and blankets as well as being a control centre for the emergency services.
Relevant contacts	As per contact list – emergency contact numbers for utilities companies.

Risk – Disruption caused by landslip, flooding, storm damage, heavy snow / Likelihood – moderate risk, rising to high during winter months

Situation	Adverse weather causing fallen trees, landslip, and snow drifts, flooding which could severely impair access and egress from the village. As the village is well stocked with food resources within reasonable walking distance of most households, the major issue will be the more vulnerable members of the community who may need additional support and/or medical attention.
Steps to Counter Risk	Awareness of resources and their location – chainsaws, snow shovels, 4-wheel drives, tractors. Awareness of those with local knowledge on vulnerable individuals and volunteer cooks/delivery drivers.
Action in Case of Event	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Immediately collate names and contact details of the vulnerable and contact them b) Maintain communication and liaison with police re road closures etc. c) Consider use of 4-wheel drives for patient transport and standby drivers d) Ensure those relying on food deliveries are kept informed of road closures e) Advise local surgery and hospital of any medical issues or crucial appointments
Relevant contacts	All those with adverse weather resources and/or local knowledge of village community

Risk – Disruption to Internal Village Road Network / Likelihood – moderate risk

Situation	Could be caused by snow, landslide, flooding, RTI or traffic jam caused by contractor vehicles, escaped animals on road. – Moderate risk
Steps to Counter Risk	In severe weather liaise with council to ensure roads are properly gritted, kerbside and roadside drains are kept clear and maintained, ensure supply of sandbags, snow shovels are kept locally.
Action in Case of Event	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assist with Traffic control or assist Police b) Assist with snow clearance if feasible c) Notify police immediately if diversions are necessary d) Notify Council Roads Dept. e) Assist with first aid if required f) Liaise with vulnerable individuals to check on welfare if cut off by the situation
Relevant contacts	As per contacts list

Risk – Major RTI on A815, disruption to external village road network, village cut off / likelihood – moderate risk rising to high during winter months

Situation	The A815 is the only main through route on this part of the Cowal peninsula; this area of Cowal gets many visitors throughout the year and experiences a high volume of heavy good vehicular traffic. The A815 running adjacent to Loch Eck is especially vulnerable to closure in the event of a major RTI. In the likelihood of an event the 'blue light' emergency services (police, fire brigade and ambulance) would be in control of any incident and would initiate and coordinate the immediate emergency response. However, there may be a time when additional assistance is requested from the Strachur community and wherever possible available individuals should be ready to assist.
Steps to Counter Risk	Be aware of the Emergency Action plan. Ensure copies are lodged with the relevant emergency services. Be aware of the location of any key resources that may be required – high vis tabards, loud hailer, torches, foil blankets etc.
Action in Case of Event	If requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assist with evacuation b) Assist with control of casualty station until ambulance/paramedics arrive at scene c) Keep visitors/casualties safe until transport and/or medical help arrives d) Ensure access/egress for emergency vehicles e) Provision of emergency accommodation, waiting/rest/food area in local Hall f) Reception and documents are for casualty's particulars g) Make a 'roll call' of village responders to ensure everyone is accounted for during a hectic time
Relevant contacts	All emergency Services As per contact sheets

Risk – Major Incident outside Village, provision of assistance – low to moderate risk

Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assistance requested by emergency services b) Initiative taken by community members first on the scene
Steps to Counter Risk	Ensure contact list is available throughout key locations in the village
Action in Case of Event	As required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Notification of police if not already present b) Set up traffic control c) First aid provision if necessary d) Issue high vis gear e) Prepare Village Hall if required for shelter and refreshments
Relevant contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Community Council members b) Hall Executive Committee c) Local Surgery/Doctor/Practice Nurse

Risk – Community Wide Medical Emergency / Likelihood – low risk

Situation	Refers to highly infectious and potentially lethal illness such as typhoid, botulism and some extreme seasonal and highly contagious diseases such as Norovirus
Steps to Counter Risk	Up to date medical information available in surgery regarding this. Encouraging personal hygiene especially at public events (hand washing etc.). Ensuring clean supplies of drinking water available to community. Rigorous Food Safety policies and procedures in place at Hall for catered local events
Action in Case of Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Seek medical advice from Doctor, SNHS, Dunoon Hospital b) Movement may be curtailed, may lead to food issues c) Food runs especially for vulnerable or ill individuals made by volunteers in protective clothing and face masks as a minimum
Relevant contacts	SNHS, Dunoon Hospital, Doctor, Practice Nurses Check local and national media for updates

Risk – Major Incident at Primary School / Likelihood – low risk

Steps to Counter Risk	Seek out a copy of the School and Council policies for an emergency, probably online.
Action in Case of Event	<p>If necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assist with evacuation b) Assist with control of casualty station until ambulances arrive c) Ensure access and egress to school maintained for emergency vehicles d) Assist with Roll Call e) Keep pupils safe until collected f) Assist with parents and keep them calm wherever possible g) Tell parent to park at Sports field and wait at the pavilion
Relevant contacts	As per contact list

Risk – Conflagration / likelihood – medium risk

Situation	House or houses seriously damaged by fire
Steps to Counter Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Liaise with local Fire Service in raising and maintaining fire awareness within the community b) Encourage local businesses to have regular fire inspections c) Encourage use of domestic smoke alarms, fire extinguishers
Action in Case of Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Contact emergency services immediately b) Safely manage evacuation as necessary c) Open Hall as refuge for those affected and contact volunteers for hall management, feeding, emergency clothing etc. d) Contact surgery and warn Dunoon Hospital A&E of possible casualty situation e) Standby all local First Aiders
Relevant contacts	As per contacts sheets – emergency services, Community Council, Hall Executive Committee

Section 2 – The Memorial Hall

It is to be expected that the Memorial Hall will become the centre of any collective action in the event of an emergency. Authority to open the Hall rests with the Executive Committee and any person or emergency service should approach the membership of the Executive in the order laid out below in Key Contacts to agree the terms and nature of the service to be provided by the Hall.

The Hall is now equipped with switch gear to enable an SSE generator to be fitted to allow the full functioning of the Hall in the event of a significant power outage. The Executive Committee will be responsible for the activation of this facility by making contact with SSE.

In the event of a power outage affecting the Hall, this should be immediately reported by phoning 105.

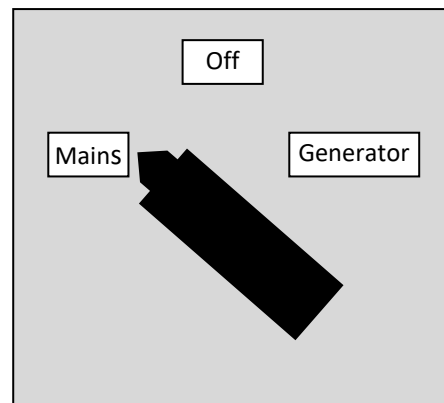
Generator Instructions

If the Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) generator is required to be plugged in after sustained power outage in the area then SSE will provide the appliance (subject to availability) and oversee its powering up.

The generator will be sited to the left of the main entrance and plugged into the hook up in the cream-coloured box by the outside noticeboard. The key for this hook up box is hung on the inside of the meter cupboard door along with a copy of this notice.

The switch over from mains power to generator is made using the large switch on the right-hand side of the meters in the cupboard. Turn the switch clockwise from *MAINS*, through the *OFF* position to the *GENERATOR* position. The reverse is done when mains is restored.

**The principal SSE contact for the generator is:
Mark Westwood 07342 026407; 01738 342248**



In the event of an outage lasting several days it is likely that the Hall will be kept open for most of the day as an emergency centre providing warmth, hot drinks, simple food, phone charging, radio and possibly internet. In order to staff the Hall in this period a rota will be drawn up by the Hall Executive calling on those user groups that can muster drivers and cooks (see below for contact details of the Royal Voluntary Service and The Hub). The aforementioned groups have detailed knowledge of vulnerable individuals who will benefit from outreach work based on the Hall.

Section 3 - Key Contact Details

Strachur & District Community Council

Name	Role	Phone Number	Issued on
Archie Reid	Convener	01369 860681	March 2020
Kirstie Reid	Vice-Convener	01369 860681	December 2022
Isabel McGladdery	Treasurer	01369 860256	March 2020
Iain Wilkie	Secretary	01369 860165	March 2020
Steve Mclaughlin	Comm. Cllr (Co-opted)	steviediver13@gmail.com	October 2023
Lizzie MacDonald	Comm. Cllr (Co-opted)	lizziemacdonald16@gmail.com	October 2023
William McGladdery	Comm. Cllr (Co-opted)	wjmcgladdery@gmail.com	October 2023
Laura Walker	Community Cllr	0789 5525117	June 2022

Memorial Hall Executive Committee

Name	Role	Contact details	Issued on
Barbara Watson	Chair	01369 860253	
Ralph Peters	Vice-Chair	ralph.inspired@gmail.com	
Erin McGladdery	Secretary	smhexcsecretary@strachur.org.uk	
Ian Lowe	Treasurer	smhexctreasurer@strachur.org.uk	
Pam Hall	Bookings Officer	smhbookings@outlook.com	
Charlene McGreavy	Member	charlim179@live.co.uk	
John Conning	Member	jcsbikes@gmail.com	

Local Skills and Resources List

Skill/Resource	Name	Contact details	Location
Strachur Medical Centre	Dr. Robbie Coull	01369 860224	SMC
Nurse Practitioner	Leesa Rushton	01369 860224	SMC
Minister	Rev. Robin Mackenzie	01369 860246	The Manse, Strachur
Electrician	Alasdair Mirrlees	01369 860408	Inversluain
Plumber	Jim Bennett	01369 860780	Leanach
Volunteer Cook	Cathie Montgomery	01369 880508	Adjacent to school
RVS Coordinator (can muster several drivers/cooks, knows vulnerable individuals)	Anne Fiddes	01369 860776	Letters, Strachur
The Hub - minibus, wheelchairs, knowledge of vulnerable individuals	Heather Grier	07718 920945	St. Catherines
SWB Land Rover/Petrol Chainsaw	Ralph Peters (has tickets)	0778 664542 ralph@inspire-results.com	Fyne View (adjacent to Creggans Inn)
Petrol Chainsaw	Jim Davison	01369 860541	Glensluain
4x4-wheel drive/petrol chainsaw/tractor	Neil & Alistair McKechnie (has tickets)	01369 860519	Bay Area, Strachur

Local independent careworker – knows vulnerable individuals in community	Jeannie McKechnie	01369 860519	Bay Area, Strachur
Chainsaws, machinery & tools	Crawford Grier, Karen Gordon	01499 302391	St. Catherines

Key Locations List

Building	Location	Potential use in an emergency	Contact Details
Strachur Memorial Hall	Bottom end of Clachan, just off A815	Shelter, Rally / assembly point / food prep and collection for distribution / defibrillator	Executive Committee, see above
Strachur Medical Practice	On A815, on right heading out of village towards Glasgow	Medical supplies / medical personnel / dispensary / defibrillator	Dr Robbie Coull 01369 860224
The Creggans Inn Hotel	On A815, on right heading out of village towards Glasgow	Shelter / food	Gill McLellan 01369 860279
The Clachan Bar	The Clachan	Shelter	01369 860500
Pavilion, Community Sportsfield	Top end of village, off A815, signposted as 'Sportsfield'	Shelter, Rally / assembly point / food prep & collection for distribution	Jeannie McKechnie 01369 860519
The Fire Station	Half way up A815 hill in Strachur Village, adjacent to filling station	Emergency response vehicle, equipment & auxiliary fire team	01369 860421
The Filling Station	Half way up A815, adjacent to police and fire station	Resources – fuel / oil, food supplies / local information	Arlene/Craig Stirling 01369 860227
Bay Cottage Tearoom, shop and Post Office	In Bay area on A886	Resources – food / food prep / local information	Mike Kelly 01369 860221

Local Utilities/Healthcare/Services

Provider	Service	Contact Details
SSE	Gas and electricity Offer "careline" registration to vulnerable customers – you will need to register. Call 0800 622838 or by text phone 0800 622839	Gas leaks – 0800 111 999 Electricity – 0800 300 999 Report power cut - 105 Generator – Mark Westwood, Customer Relationship Manager South Caledonia Region: 07342 026407 ; 01738 342248
Scottish Water	Water/Sewerage Services	Customer helpline – 0845 601 8855 http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/ Additional Support: You can register by phoning the Customer Helpline on 0845 601 8855 and they will take a note of your name, address and additional requirements which will be added to their confidential Additional Support Register. You can also register online –visit the website and follow the links
BT, Open-reach	Telecoms and broadband	Customer Service 0800 800150
S.E.P.A	Sewerage/ Flooding/ Pollution	Pollution hotline 0800 807060 (24 hour) Floodline 0845 9881188
British Gas	Mains Gas	0800 111 999
Dunoon Hospital (Cowal Comm'ty Hospital)	Medical/ Healthcare Service inc. Dental	01369 704341
Argyll and Bute Council	All local service – roads, lighting, refuse, housing, social services etc.	Out of hours contact numbers during office hours (09:00 – 17:00) visit the website https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/home , or call 01546 605522
	Defibrillators	There are two defibrillators in the area. They are located in: 1. STRACHUR MEDICAL PRACTICE 01369 860224 2. STRACHUR MEMORIAL HALL (exterior wall to left of main entrance) Instructions: NO KEYPAD CODE NEEDED TO ACCESS THE DEFIBRILLATOR 1. Lift the keypad cover 2. Turn the handle on the box to the right – alarm will sound 3. Remove defibrillator 4. Close the box door - alarm will stop 5. Repeat process to return defibrillator To use the defibrillator, follow the instructions it gives to the user when switched on. Notify Strachur Medical Practice in the event that the defibrillator is used in order that replacement pads can be obtained.

		Housing repairs	0800 028 2755	Repairs to housing association homes
		Homelessness	0800 587 7285	Further information on homelessness
		Social work services	01631 566491 or 01631 569712	Social care and health information
		Property maintenance services	0845 601 4073	Use this number to report any problems with council buildings and offices (but not housing association homes)
		Dangerous buildings	Police Scotland - - 101	Further information on dangerous buildings
		Local and minor roads or lighting defects	0800 373 635	Report a fault on the road
		Trunk road defects	0800 028 1414	Report a fault on the BEAR Scotland website

Amendments to Plan

Name	Details of Changes Made	Changed	Date of next revision
Iain Wilkie	Various	27.10.23	