



DALTON WITH NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Emergency Plan



2026

Plan Owner

Dalton with Newton Town Council

Primary Contact (Emergency Liaison)

Town Clerk

Dalton with Newton Town Council

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The Town Clerk acts as the primary liaison with Westmorland and Furness Council and other responding agencies in the event of an emergency.

Emergency Services

In an emergency, members of the public should always contact the Emergency Services by dialling **999**.

Plan Status

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Emergency Plan – The aim of this document is to increase resilience within the local community before, during and after an emergency.

1. Introduction & Purpose

1.1 Introduction

This Emergency Plan outlines the procedures, roles, and responsibilities of Dalton with Newton Town Council in preparing for, responding to, and supporting recovery from major incidents or emergencies that may impact the community. Although the Council is not an operational emergency-response authority, its close connection to the community places it in a vital supporting role. The plan aims to ensure that the Council can provide effective coordination, communication, and assistance to residents, volunteer groups, and partner agencies.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to set out the structure and approach the Town Council will adopt during a range of emergency situations. The Council's role focuses on supporting the local community, gathering and sharing information, helping to identify local needs, liaising with principal authorities and emergency services, and facilitating practical support where appropriate. The plan provides guidance to councillors, volunteers, and partner organisations on how the Council will operate before, during, and after an emergency.

It is not the role of the community to take on the responsibilities of Emergency Services and Westmorland and Furness Council e.g. to save life. Community Members are not asked to put themselves at risk or to cope for long hours alone, without external support.

This Emergency Plan forms part of the Town Council's wider emergency and resilience documentation. Detailed risk assessments, recovery arrangements and confidential contact information are held separately to ensure flexibility, data protection and effective response.

1.3 Scope

This plan covers incidents within the geographic boundaries of Dalton-in-Furness and Newton-in-Furness. It applies to any situation where an emergency has actual or potential impacts on the community, including but not limited to severe weather, infrastructure failures, public health concerns, or major disruptions affecting local residents and businesses.

2. Legal & Regulatory Context

2.1 Civil Contingencies Act 2004

Under the Civil Contingencies Act, town and parish councils are **not** classified as Category 1 or Category 2 emergency responders. This means the Council has no statutory duty to respond to emergencies or maintain emergency plans. However, councils are encouraged to support community resilience by offering local knowledge, coordination, and communication.

2.2 Local Government Act 1972

This Act provides the Council with general powers to act in the interests of community wellbeing. These powers enable the Council to assist residents during emergencies, provided that actions are reasonable, proportionate, and within financial and legal constraints.

2.3 Health & Safety and Insurance Requirements

All activities undertaken by councillors or volunteers on behalf of the Town Council must be appropriately risk-assessed. Volunteers must only take part on an optional basis and should not place themselves in danger. The Council must ensure that any supported activities fall within the scope of its insurance policies and do not involve tasks more suited to trained emergency responders.

3. Objectives & Scope of the Plan

The core objectives of the Emergency Plan are: - Minimise risk to life and property by supporting emergency services and enabling residents to receive timely information. - Assist the emergency services, principal authorities, and relevant agencies by providing local intelligence and practical support where appropriate. - Provide communication and coordination between residents, volunteers, and partner agencies. - Support vulnerable residents by helping identify needs and mobilising community resources. - Aid community recovery by coordinating local volunteers, supporting information sharing, and assisting with cleanup operations.

4. Roles & Responsibilities

Town Council

- Act as a communication hub between the community, emergency services, and local authorities.
- Coordinate local support, including signposting residents to services and mobilising voluntary groups.
- Maintain contact lists for key personnel, organisations, and facilities.
- Provide local knowledge such as vulnerable locations, community assets, or areas at higher risk.
- Support welfare arrangements, including check-ins on vulnerable residents where appropriate.
- The Town Council does not maintain a central register of vulnerable residents; information may be shared with the Council by partner agencies where appropriate and in accordance with data protection requirements.

Emergency Services

- Lead on incident response, public safety, evacuation, and operational decision-making.
- Provide instructions and tactical direction that the Council and community must follow.

Volunteers & Community Groups

- Conduct welfare checks, provide reassurance, and assist in distributing information.
- Support with clean-up operations following an incident, subject to risk assessment.
- Assist in the management of community spaces when used as temporary welfare or information points.

5. Risk Assessment & Key Risks

Dalton-in-Furness and the surrounding area may face a range of risks, including: - Severe Weather / Flooding (**see Appendix A**) – High winds, snow and surface water flooding. - Transport Accidents – Road collisions or railway disruptions that could affect access routes. - Public Health Emergencies – Infectious disease outbreaks, contamination events, or environmental hazards. - Utility Failures – Power outages, water supply issues, gas disruptions, or telecommunications failures. - Fires – Residential, commercial, or woodland fires impacting public safety and air quality.

The Council will maintain awareness of local risks and update this plan as required. A detailed risk assessment and risk matrix is maintained separately, reviewed regularly, and supports the implementation of this plan.

6. Activation & Escalation Procedure

The Plan may be activated by Dalton Community Resilience Group when:

- An emergency has occurred
- Warnings are received prior to an anticipated emergency
- Emergency services response has potential to be delayed, or when support is sought.
- Dalton's Community Response Group deems an action would help locally, during an emergency, for example a power outage, or experiencing flooding.
- Key group members can assess the situation locally and will contact Emergency Services and Westmorland and Furness Council.

Dalton Community Resilience Group (CRG)

For the purpose of this plan, the Dalton Community Resilience Group (CRG) refers to the group of councillors and local volunteers identified to support coordination and communication during an emergency.

Activation of this plan will be coordinated by the Clerk to the Council, acting as Emergency Liaison, in consultation with available members of the CRG where possible.

7. Communication Plan

Communication during an emergency may include: - Public communication via the Council website, social media platforms, noticeboards, and local radio. - Internal communication through a councillor cascade system, WhatsApp groups, email, or direct phone calls. - Liaison with partner agencies to ensure consistent and accurate messaging.

Contact information will be retained separately, with access for only key group members.

8. Community Resources & Places of Safety

Westmorland and Furness Council is responsible for establishing an Emergency Assistance Centre (EAC) during a major emergency. An EAC would normally be operated by Council staff and is primarily used to provide a place of safety and support for affected

residents. Many schools, churches and community buildings are pre-identified for this purpose.

In a widespread emergency or disaster, where there is significant disruption to utilities, buildings, trees or the highway network across the county, Emergency Services will prioritise the most urgent incidents. In these circumstances, the local community may be the most immediate source of assistance and support.

Dalton with Newton Town Council will maintain a list of potential local venues, including contact details and any relevant access or usage arrangements, which may be suitable for use during an emergency.

9. Recovery & Stand-Down

Following an incident, the Council will: - Support residents by signposting services, coordinating volunteers, and providing relevant information. - Assist in the organisation of cleanup efforts, working with volunteers and local groups. - Participate in debriefing sessions with partner agencies. - Update this Emergency Plan based on lessons learned.

Recovery activities will be supported in line with the Council's Community Recovery arrangements, which are maintained separately and may be activated following an emergency, once immediate response activity has stood down.

10. Emergency Contact Information

Organisation	Phone	Website
Emergency Services	999	
Police: (non-emergency)	101	www.cumbria.police.uk
NHS	111	
Furness General Hospital	01229 870870	

Westmorland and Furness Council: General Enquiries/Out of Hours	0300 373 3300	https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/
Adult social care team	0300 373 3301	https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/safeguarding-adults
Concerns for a child	0300 373 2724	https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/children-and-families/concerns-about-child
Highways/Roads	0300 373 3306	https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-transport/streets-roads-and-pavements
Environment Agency / Flood Line	0345 988 188	https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/
Met Office (forecast & weather warnings)		www.metoffice.gov.uk
Electricity Northwest (electricity)	015 (power cut) 0800 195 4141	www.enwl.co.uk
National Grid (gas/carbon monoxide)	0800 111 999	www.nationalgridgas.com/safety-and-emergencies

United Utilities (Water incl. sewerage flooding)	0345 672 3723	www.unitedutilities.com/emergencies
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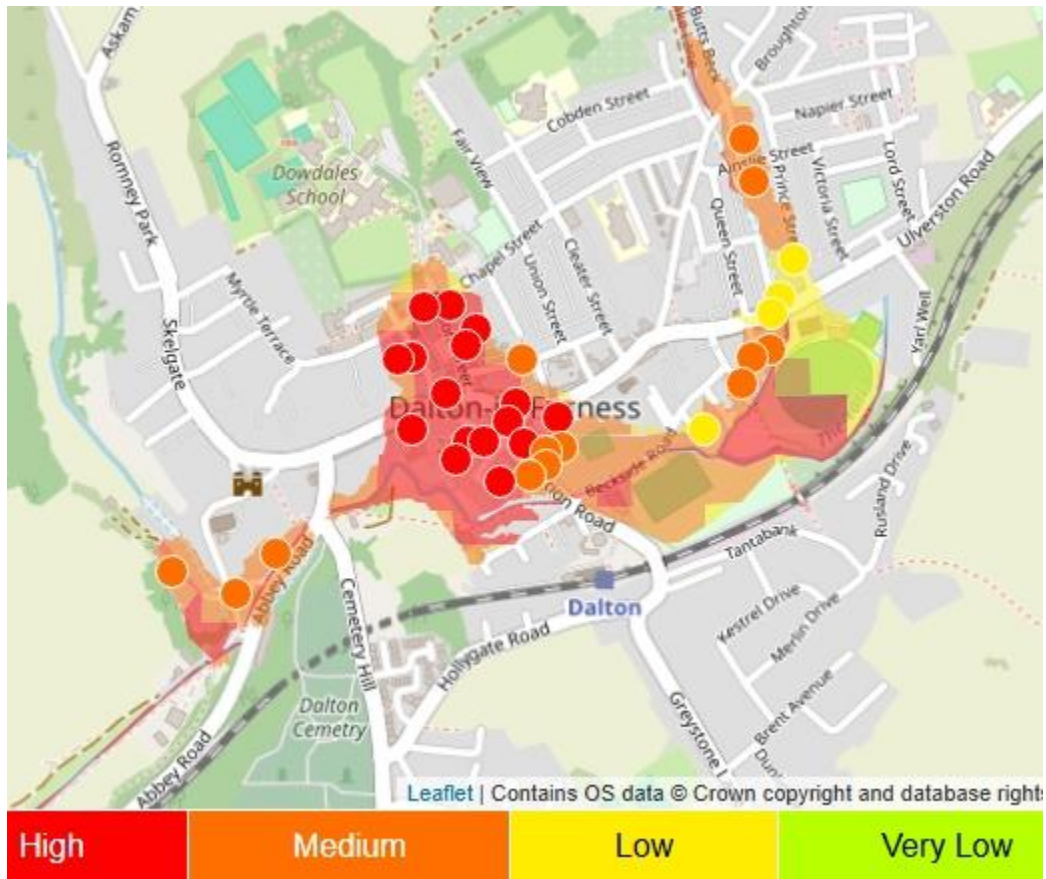
11. Plan Review & Update

Dalton with Newton Town Council’s Community Emergency Plan and associated contact information will be reviewed annually to ensure details remain accurate and up to date.

The plan may also be reviewed and updated following an emergency incident, a training exercise, or where there are significant changes to personnel, facilities or local risks.

Responsibility for maintaining and updating the plan rests with the Clerk to the Council, with any substantive changes reported to the Town Council for noting or approval as appropriate.

Appendix A – Indicative Flood Risk Areas



This map is provided for contextual awareness only and is based on publicly available flood risk information. Actual flood extents will vary depending on the nature, severity and duration of an incident. This map does not replace official warnings or instructions issued by the Emergency Services or Environment Agency.