



Media release

20 October 2011

## **Emergency planners help Potton Scouts prepare for emergencies**

Emergency planners helped a group of scouts prepare for emergencies this week, as part of the What Would You Do If...? campaign to help local residents plan for emergencies such as floods, fires and flu pandemics.

Mark Conway and Iain Berry, both emergency planners from Central Bedfordshire Council, part of the Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum, helped explorer scouts aged 14-18 think about how they would manage if an emergency in Potton occurred. The scout group were given a real-life scenario and with the help of a board game they were asked how they would manage evacuees, the emergency services and the media.

Mark Conway from the What Would You Do If...? campaign explains: "We're trying to help communities become more resilient and the best way to do this is to meet residents and encourage them think about what they would do during an emergency.

"To help locals prepare for emergency situations, residents can take very simple steps such as adding an emergency contact in their phone, putting together an evacuation plan for their families and creating an emergency kit for their homes. These measures take minutes but can prove invaluable should a disaster occur."

Scout leader Samuel Gravestock adds: "Being prepared is central to the scouts so having representatives from the What Would You Do If..? campaign was ideal. Our scouts really got to grips with the complexities of an emergency situation such as a flood and what measures they could take to help the emergency services and protect their own families and communities. I would definitely recommend this session to other groups of young people."

If you are interested in developing a community emergency plan for your community group please email [admin@athene-communications.co.uk](mailto:admin@athene-communications.co.uk)

For more information about emergency planning advice go to <http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk/>

Residents can receive updates and also share their own emergency planning advice on

[http://twitter.com/#!/what\\_would](http://twitter.com/#!/what_would) and <http://www.facebook.com/whatwouldyoudoif>

## Ends

### Notes to editors:

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1. BLLRF was formed in 2004, bringing together the key agencies required to respond to emergencies.

Comprising local agencies including the emergency services, local authorities, National Health Service (NHS) and the voluntary and community sector, the forum was created to ensure the best possible plans are in place should a major emergency occur.

BLLRF's vision is to make Bedfordshire and Luton the best-prepared place for any emergency. Through the '*What would you do if...?*' campaign, the forum aims to promote the importance of being prepared and ensure people living and working within the county feel safe. For more information visit [www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk](http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk)

2. Bedfordshire residents are most at risk of the following emergencies:

- [Flu pandemic](#)
- [Major river flooding](#)
- Low temperatures or heavy snow
- [Transport accident involving fuel or explosives](#)
- [Fuel supply disruption](#)

3. Sign up as an emergency volunteer by joining the Bedfordshire and Luton Emergency Volunteers Executive Committee (BLEVEC). This is a local partnership of charities, community groups and volunteers who work together as part of BLLRF to prepare for, and respond to emergencies. For more information please email [membership@bllrf.org.uk](mailto:membership@bllrf.org.uk) or call us on 07716 744923.