

From:

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I am emailing to advise you of a planned multi agency major incident exercise that is taking place at Wimbleball Lake on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024.

This exercise was planned to originally take place in 2022 however was delayed due to water levels in the lake and has been in the planning phase for 2 years now.

I am bringing this to your attention so that the Parish Council and local residents are aware that on this day there will be a large number of emergency services and rescue services at the Lake, undertaking a search and rescue of persons involved in an incident.

The exercise is anticipated to start from 1000hrs and will gradually build over the day with emergency services arriving on scene, being briefed and given tasks by the service commanders.

We will be mainly focussed within the grounds of the lake perimeter however searching will I am sure take place on external footpaths and roads.

There may be temporary holding of road traffic on that day on the approach road to the lake and Bessons Bridge whilst emergency services turn, set up equipment however it will be kept to a minimum.

We may have support from helicopters depending on availability on the day, however it maybe wise to advise any local residents with horses or anxious pets to be aware that on that day, they may wish to seek shelter those animals during the daylight hours of the exercise.

We will be placing exercise signs out on the day to advise the general public that what they may be witnessing is an exercise, and we will be setting up from the Friday morning with the placement of some equipment in advance.

The exercise was requested by South West Lakes to test their emergency plans and has been built around the emergency services and partner agencies responses to a declared major incident.

If you have any questions I will be pleased to answer them, but would appreciate your support with warning and informing the parish of the exercise, where we would encourage them to avoid the lake area ( lake is closed for the day to allow the exercise to take place).

The option for a couple of observers from the parish council is open to you to observe and see what happens and how such responses are coordinated. If I can have those names in advance and will sending briefing instructions and ensure they have observer tabards as otherwise they maybe mistaken as casualties / role players.

Kind regards

*Simon*

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