# **Building Resilience Together Resilience Summit**

## What is a resilience summit?

A resilience summit is an event that brings together the community and wider resilience partners to engage with the topic of resilience. It can be used as a starting point for developing resilience initiatives such as a community resilience hub or can be used to connect and engage more widely during the process. The core purpose is to get the community’s inputs, buy in, experiences, perspectives, so that any community resilience activities are based on community need and experience.

## Why is it important?

For any community resilience initiatives to be successful, the community must be engaged, feel ownership and have a say. The resilience summit offers an opportunity to have this open dialogue and to allow for different perspectives, experiences, priorities to be shared. It is important that the summit is held at a point where these insights can influence the next steps, with these insights taken on board and actioned, and that the summit is engaged with in a way that is open, honest and safe.

## How to set up a resilience summit?

There is no exact science as all communities are different, but here are some suggestions to help! You need to arrange your summit in a way that feels right for you, your community’s needs and the best way to facilitate engagement and collaboration. Our recommendation would be to treat it like an event, arrange it in person if possible. You can also call it what you want. ‘Resilience Summit’ resonated well with the BRT project partners but that isn’t fixed, you can use a name that feels relevant to you.

## Logistics and attendees:

Recommendations:

* Pick a location and a time of day that enables people to attend. A location that is known and trusted, and a time that works for people’s different commitments, such as the early evening.
* If possible, have the event in person and ideally host it at a venue that is soon to become a community resilience hub.
* Send a survey beforehand to attendees to gauge their understanding of resilience and community risks.
* Promote the event beforehand (allow a minimum of 6 weeks before the event). Consider how you are promoting the event, perhaps share a digital flyer and leave hard copies in local strategic places. Also activate your networks for it to be shared further and wider.
* Have refreshments and snacks available to facilitate socialisation.
* During the event, consider the best use of the space to facilitate open discussions as well as small group dialogues. We suggest having tables and chairs set-up in a cabaret style with a central position for key speakers to engage with the whole group.

Suggested attendees:

Community members and residents - Existing community volunteers and community groups - Local Authority - Emergency Planning team - Local Resilience Forum, Emergency Services - Community Voluntary Sector organisations – faith organisations - Relevant local charities and local businesses.

## Proposed Agenda items and activities:

Pick and choose what feels relevant, you don’t need to include everything.

**Introductions:** hub leading team, partners, and community groups/members

**Scene setting:** thinking more broadly discuss why are you here, what is the reason for the summit. You may want to reference specific hazards, a particular historical event in the community, a specific topic or a specific overarching aim such as setting up a Community Resilience Hub.

**Objectives:** clarify the objectives of your resilience summit. Some possible suggestions: explore community resilience with community members and local partners; share resilience initiatives in development; get more community members and partners involved in the Community Resilience Hub development; gather feedback and suggestions from community members.

**Icebreaker:** Set up an exercise involving thinking/discussing about how prepared the community is to potential emergencies. Suggestion: scenario discuss and regroup (flood warning issued, fire in a local building, heatwave warnings issued, snow forecast). Supporting questions: How prepared is the community? Who is most at risk? Possible community actions?

**Break:** depending on the length of your session make sure you allow time for comfort and coffee breaks.

**Understanding of the local area:** Risks in local area. Events/emergencies history of the local area. Existing resilience initiatives in the local area. Status of the Community Resilience Hub development

**Main discussion:** Concerns and solutions of the community members. Suggestion: two thinking topics displays in the room (e.g. flipcharts) What are your main concerns for the community in term of emergencies. What solutions can you suggest to better prepare for emergencies? Everyone writes contributions on post its to populate the topics.

**Discuss the hub needs:** Suggestion: share a survey asking about training and resources individual feel is needed for a successful hub development (e.g. tick list)

**Call for action:** Get individuals involved by giving a clear action to do immediately (set time aside to do it during the meeting) suggestion: sign-up as a volunteer, log your special skill, log your special equipment, offer training for the community.

**Next steps:** Set up clear next steps to look out for all attendees’ suggestions: share a meeting report, ask to spread the word in the community, send terms of reference to partners involved to clarify roles

**Networking:** these events are a great opportunity to facilitate connections and relationship building. Allow time in your agenda for networking.

**Hub Resources:** Any equipment, storage facilities, available kits available to the community could be displayed for people to see. Think about how partners could contribute to this with their own resources. Opportunity for partners to showcase.