

**THE OFFLINE ACTION GROUP**

V3

Written by

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When the internet goes down permanently, a newly formed local action group agrees to be filmed as they try to guide the community through the crisis, while slowly revealing they are barely one step ahead of everyone else.



FADE IN:

1 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, MAIN HALL, DAY 1

A modest local hall. Stackable chairs. Folding tables. A tea urn. A laptop connected to a projector.

A printer slowly produces copies on a side table.

On the wall, a printed sign reads: FIRST COMMUNITY RESILIENCE MEETING, STAY CALM. STAY LOCAL.

MARTIN BELL, Chair and Acting Community Lead, 50s, smart-casual, pleased with the seriousness of the situation, straightens a pile of printed agendas.

JANET PRICE, Deputy Chair and Procedure Officer, 60s, precise, clipboard in hand, lays out name badges.

GARY TOWNSEND, Technical Liaison, 40s, fleece, glasses, local computer man energy, checks the projector cable.

KELLY MARSH, Community Wellbeing Lead, 30s, warm, earnest, formerly an online wellness coach, places a pile of printed sheets on the table.

Janet sees the heading.

BREATHING THROUGH THE OFFLINE TRANSITION

JANET  
That isn't on the agenda.

KELLY  
It's emotional support.

JANET  
Emotional support is item four.

KELLY  
I thought we could weave it through.

JANET  
We have not approved weaving.

Martin steps in, smoothing the air.

MARTIN  
Right. Good. Let's remember, people are coming here for reassurance.

The printer jams.

Everyone looks at Gary.

GARY  
That's not internet related.

CUT TO:

2 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, SIDE ROOM, TALKING HEAD, DAY 2

Martin sits in a chair against a plain wall. The documentary setup is basic but tidy. He has positioned himself carefully, as though trying not to look as if he has positioned himself carefully.

MARTIN  
When the internet first went down, people assumed it was temporary. A glitch. An outage. Maybe a day or two. But then, as things developed, it became clear that leadership was needed.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
And that leadership came from you?

Martin smiles modestly.

MARTIN  
Well, from the group.

A beat.

MARTIN (CONT'D)  
Which I chair.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
Had you led anything like this before?

MARTIN  
Not in a formal emergency context, no. But I did chair the residents' parking consultation in 2018, which became quite heated.

A beat.

MARTIN (CONT'D)  
So I do have experience of conflict, strong feeling, and badly arranged chairs.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
 What do you think people need from you  
 tonight?

Martin considers this. He wants the answer to sound noble.

MARTIN  
 Calm. Clarity. A sense that somebody  
 has hold of the situation.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
 Do you?

A tiny pause.

MARTIN  
 I have hold of the meeting.

CUT TO:

3

INT. COMMUNITY HALL, SIDE ROOM, TALKING HEAD, DAY

3

Janet sits with her clipboard on her lap. Her name badge is  
 perfectly straight.

JANET  
 In uncertain times, people need  
 structure. They need process. They  
 need a clear way of raising points.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
 Do they need answers?

Janet considers this.

JANET  
 In the correct section, yes.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
 Why are the minutes so important?

JANET  
 Because if something is not recorded,  
 it becomes opinion. And at the moment,  
 we have quite enough opinion.

A beat.

JANET (CONT'D)  
 People say things. Then other people  
 repeat them slightly differently.  
 (MORE)

JANET (CONT'D)

Then suddenly Croydon has been sealed off and someone is stockpiling tinned peaches.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Has Croydon been sealed off?

JANET

Not according to the minutes.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Do the minutes know?

Janet does not like the question.

JANET

The minutes know what has been properly stated.

A small pause.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Are you worried?

JANET

No.

A beat.

JANET (CONT'D)

Concerned. Worried is not on the agenda.

CUT TO:

4

INT. COMMUNITY HALL, SIDE ROOM, TALKING HEAD, DAY

4

Gary leans slightly too close to camera. He has the manner of a man who has explained HDMI ports to a lot of people.

GARY

People say "the internet's gone", but technically that's not very helpful. Could be routing. Could be DNS. Could be backbone infrastructure. Could be firmware.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Globally?

Gary pauses.

GARY  
Potentially.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
Are people looking to you for answers?

GARY  
A bit, yes. Historically, if something stopped working, I could usually fix it. Wi-Fi, printers, smart TVs, someone's phone doing that thing where all the icons go massive.

A beat.

GARY (CONT'D)  
So people do tend to look at me.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
And can you fix this?

Gary takes that in.

GARY  
Not yet.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
What have you tried?

GARY  
Locally?

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
Yes.

GARY  
Rebooting the router. Different router. Different cable. Wired connection. Old laptop. New laptop. Phone hotspot, which obviously didn't help. Then I tried the neighbour's router.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
Did he know?

Gary hesitates.

GARY  
Eventually.

CUT TO:

5

INT. COMMUNITY HALL, SIDE ROOM, TALKING HEAD, DAY

5

Kelly smiles gently. She has the calm, practised tone of someone who once spoke to a ring light every morning.

KELLY

People are experiencing digital grief. The loss of contact, the loss of information, the loss of being witnessed.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Being witnessed?

KELLY

Yes. That sense that your life is being... received somewhere.

A small pause. She realises she may have said more than intended.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Not in a needy way. Just, as humans, we're relational beings.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

How has the outage affected you personally?

KELLY

Well, obviously I don't want to centre myself.

A beat.

KELLY (CONT'D)

But my entire practice was online.

Another beat.

KELLY (CONT'D)

And my mailing list. And my booking system. And my morning lives.

She catches herself, re-grounds.

KELLY (CONT'D)

So in many ways, this is an invitation to return to embodied community.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Do you miss your followers?

Kelly smiles.

KELLY

Before the outage, I had just under  
eighteen thousand followers.

A beat.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Not that numbers matter.

A second beat.

KELLY (CONT'D)

But obviously each number was a  
person.

CUT TO:

6 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, MAIN HALL, DAY

6

Residents begin arriving. A small crowd. Polite, worried,  
curious.

Among them is EILEEN PARKER, 70s, calm, observant, practical.  
She carries a shopping bag and takes in the room without fuss.

Martin greets people at the door.

MARTIN

Welcome. Thank you for coming. Agendas  
on the table. Tea at the back. Please  
sign in.

RESIDENT

What are we signing in for?

Martin glances at Janet.

JANET

Attendance.

RESIDENT

Why?

JANET

The minutes.

The resident signs, still unconvinced.

CUT TO:

7

OINT. COMMUNOITY HALL, MAIN HALL, DAY

7

The meeting is now underway.

Martin stands at the front. Janet sits beside him. Kelly sits with supportive posture. Gary hovers near the laptop.

The projector shows: THE OFFLINE ACTION GROUP  
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE MEETING

Martin clears his throat.

MARTIN

Good evening, everyone. Thank you for attending what I think we can all agree is an important first step in our shared journey through this challenging time.

We have Janet overseeing procedure, Gary handling technical liaison, and Kelly supporting community wellbeing.

Polite silence.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

As you know, the internet has now been unavailable for, depending on when you personally noticed, somewhere between eighteen and twenty-four days.

OLDER MAN

Twenty-five.

JANET

Twenty-five is not confirmed.

OLDER MAN

It is in my house.

Janet makes a note.

MARTIN

The important thing is that we are here. Together. Locally. In person. As a community.

Kelly nods, moved by the word.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Tonight, The Offline Action Group will present our Offline Survival Plan.

Janet stiffens.

JANET  
Framework.

MARTIN  
Yes. Our Offline Survival Framework.

YOUNG MUM  
The poster says plan.

Everyone looks at the poster. It does. Martin smiles.

MARTIN  
Yes. The language has evolved.

CUT TO:

8 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, MAIN HALL, DAY 8

Gary changes the slide.

The screen shows:

LOCAL COMMUNICATION

Janet stands.

JANET  
In the absence of email, messaging  
apps and online community pages, we  
propose a structured local  
communication system.

She gestures to a blank noticeboard on an easel.

JANET (CONT'D)  
This will be our central information  
point.

YOUNG MUM  
Where will it be?

JANET  
Here.

YOUNG MUM  
But I only came here because someone  
told me there was a meeting.

JANET  
Yes. That is one of the issues  
currently under review.

RESIDENT  
How will people know when it's  
updated?

JANET  
We will announce updates.

RESIDENT  
Where?

Janet pauses.

JANET  
On the board.

A small murmur. Eileen watches quietly.

CUT TO:

9 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, MAIN HALL, DAY 9

Gary stands with a printed sheet.

GARY  
We also propose a phone tree. One  
person phones three people, those  
three people each phone three more, and  
so on.

TEENAGER  
Like going viral.

The room goes still.

KELLY  
Maybe not that phrase.

YOUNG MUM  
What if the calls don't connect?

GARY  
Then you try again.

YOUNG MUM  
I have tried again. My daughter's  
number is in my phone, but it just  
won't go through. I don't know if it's  
her phone, the network, or where she  
is.

OLDER MAN  
I've got a landline.

MARTIN

Excellent.

OLDER MAN

But I don't know anyone else who has.

RESIDENT

Most of the people in my phone aren't local. I could ring fifty numbers and still not know who can actually help round here.

GARY

Right. So there may be a local mapping issue.

JANET

We can capture that.

OLDER MAN

I need to contact the pharmacy. My wife's only got two days of tablets left.

The mood shifts.

Martin tries to stay composed.

MARTIN

Right. Yes. That is exactly the sort of practical issue this group is here to capture.

OLDER MAN

Can you help?

Martin hesitates.

MARTIN

We can certainly capture it.

The older man stares at him.

CUT TO:

10

INT. COMMUNITY HALL, MAIN HALL, DAY

10

Kelly rises gently.

KELLY

Before we go further, I think we need to acknowledge what this is doing emotionally.

Janet checks the agenda.

JANET  
That's item four.

Kelly turns to the room.

KELLY  
Many of us are grieving. Not just the internet, but the version of ourselves we had online.

TEENAGER  
I just want Spotify back.

KELLY  
That's valid.

RESIDENT  
Is this the bit about prescriptions?

JANET  
No, prescriptions are not formally an item.

The room becomes restless.

CUT TO:

11 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, MAIN HALL, DAY

11

Martin steps forward quickly.

MARTIN  
Thank you, Kelly. Very grounding.  
We'll now move to reliable information.

Gary changes the slide.

The screen shows RUMOUR CONTROL PROTOCOL

MARTIN (CONT'D)  
One of the greatest risks at the moment is misinformation.

RESIDENT  
How do we know what's misinformation?

MARTIN  
Exactly.

A pause.

MARTIN (CONT'D)  
That's the challenge.

YOUNG MUM  
My neighbour says the internet is  
still working in Croydon.

OLDER MAN  
I heard Croydon's been sealed off.

The room reacts.

MARTIN  
Sorry, who said Croydon's been sealed  
off?

OLDER MAN  
A man outside the butcher's.

JANET  
Name?

OLDER MAN  
I don't know. He had a hat.

GARY  
Croydon being sealed off seems  
unlikely.

RESIDENT  
Can you check?

Everyone looks at Gary.

Gary looks at his laptop.

GARY  
No.

A silence.

MARTIN  
This is exactly why the protocol is  
important. Unverified information  
should not be shared until it has been  
verified by the group.

YOUNG MUM  
How will the group verify it?

Martin looks at his notes.

MARTIN  
That process is currently in  
development.

CUT TO:

12 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, MAIN HALL, DAY

12

The room is restless. People mutter to one another. Martin senses control slipping.

MARTIN  
Right. I think this might be a good  
moment for a short refreshment  
break. Tea is at the back. Please  
use the time to reflect on any  
questions you'd like formally  
captured.

JANET  
Twenty minutes.

MARTIN  
Yes. Twenty minutes.

JANET  
Actual twenty, or approximate twenty?

MARTIN  
Actual twenty.

JANET  
Then we resume at seven forty-two.

MARTIN  
Seven forty-five feels clearer.

JANET  
It is less accurate.

Residents stand, stretch, collect tea and talk quietly. The room loosens.

The Older Man hovers near the tea table, unsure who to ask about the pharmacy.

The Young Mum stares at her phone, willing the call to connect.

Gary checks the printer.

Kelly offers someone a biscuit with both hands, as though it is emotional support.

Eileen watches the room, noticing the problems the committee has missed.

The documentary crew quietly pulls Martin towards the side room.

CUT TO:

13 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, SIDE ROOM, TALKING HEAD, DAY 13

Martin sits slightly less composed than before. His smile is still there, but it is working harder.

MARTIN

I think the room was looking for certainty. Which is understandable. People want to feel that someone has a grip on things.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Do you?

Martin pauses.

MARTIN

I have a grip on the process.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Is that the same thing?

Martin gives a small laugh, buying time.

MARTIN

In a situation like this, process is often the nearest thing to certainty.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Were you comfortable in there?

Martin smiles.

MARTIN

I was comfortable presenting comfort.

CUT TO:

14 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, MAIN HALL, DAY 14

Martin senses control slipping.

MARTIN

I think this is the right moment to introduce the Offline Survival Plan.

Janet gives him a look.

MARTIN (CONT'D)  
Framework. The plan-framework.

Janet places a thick folder on the table.

The cover reads: OFFLINE SURVIVAL PLAN

VERSION 1.0

SUBJECT TO CLARIFICATION.

Martin opens it with ceremony.

The camera moves closer.

First page:

WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

Underneath:

The internet is not working

This is affecting people

Further updates will follow

Martin turns the page.

COMMUNICATION

Noticeboard

Phone tree

Bulletin?

To be confirmed

He turns another page.

HEALTH AND PRESCRIPTIONS

Contact surgeries

Contact pharmacies

Awaiting clarification

He turns another page.

RUMOURS

Do not spread unverified information

Verification process to be agreed

The residents stare.

YOUNG MUM  
Is that the plan?

MARTIN  
It's a living document.

RESIDENT  
It's printed.

MARTIN  
Conceptually living.

OLDER MAN  
So you don't know how I get my wife's  
prescription?

Martin looks around.

No one rescues him.

MARTIN  
No.

A beat.

MARTIN (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry. I don't.

That honesty lands. The room softens, just slightly.

Eileen raises her hand.

MARTIN (CONT'D)  
Yes. Sorry. Your name?

EILEEN  
Eileen Parker. I used to work in the  
post office. Then the school office.  
And I volunteer at the library. Or I  
did. Do. The library's still there.

A small laugh. The room relaxes.

EILEEN (CONT'D)  
You don't need a survival plan  
tonight. You need three lists.

Janet prepares to object.

EILEEN (CONT'D)  
Confirmed information. Requests for  
help. Offers of help.

Janet stops.

EILEEN (CONT'D)  
That gentleman needs a prescription.  
Write it down under requests for help.  
Someone here may know the pharmacy.

A WOMAN raises her hand.

WOMAN  
I work there Tuesdays.

EILEEN  
There we are.

The older man looks relieved.

Eileen turns to the young mum.

EILEEN (CONT'D)  
You need ways of reaching people. So  
we start with what people actually  
know. Numbers, addresses, workplaces,  
relatives, neighbours. Not perfect.  
Not complete. Just what's useful.  
Build it day by day.

Gary starts typing.

EILEEN (CONT'D)  
Noticeboard here is fine, but you need  
copies where people already go. Shop  
window. Surgery. Library door. Church  
porch. Same update, same time each  
day.

Janet writes quickly now.

EILEEN (CONT'D)  
And don't call it rumour control.  
Sounds like you're in charge of the  
truth. Have one section for confirmed  
information and one for unconfirmed  
reports. People can understand the  
difference.

The room shifts.

RESIDENT

I can deliver notices. I've got a bike.

WOMAN

I can speak to the pharmacy.

YOUNG MUM

I can help type things up.

GARY

I can print the first version now.

JANET

Use a clear font.

GARY

I was going to.

JANET

Not Comic Sans.

Gary is offended.

GARY

I wasn't going to use Comic Sans.

Martin watches as the room begins to organise around him.

Kelly smiles.

KELLY

This feels much more grounded.

EILEEN

It's just admin, love.

CUT TO:

15

INT. COMMUNITY HALL, SIDE ROOM, TALKING HEAD, EVENING

15

Eileen sits calmly. She has not changed much since the meeting. If anything, she seems slightly amused by the fuss.

EILEEN

People think the internet invented community. It didn't. It just made some things faster. Not always better. Just faster.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

What did you make of the action group?

Eileen thinks about this kindly.

EILEEN  
They've got a lot of paper.

A beat.

EILEEN (CONT'D)  
Paper's useful, if you put the right things on it.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
Why did you step in?

EILEEN  
Because people were starting to ask real questions, and nobody was writing them down.

A small pause.

EILEEN (CONT'D)  
You can't help everyone all at once. But you can ask, "What do you need?" and "Who here can do something about it?" That's usually a good start.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
Do you think the action group will manage?

Eileen glances towards the main hall.

EILEEN  
With help.

CUT TO:

16	INT. COMMUNITY HALL, MAIN HALL, EVENING	16
	The meeting has ended, but the room is now active.	
	The noticeboard has three printed headings:	
	Confirmed information	
	Requests for help	
	Offers of help	
	A cardboard box sits underneath.	
	Messages	

Gary types at the laptop. Janet supervises. Kelly helps the young mum fill out a form. The pharmacy woman speaks with the older man.

Martin approaches Eileen.

MARTIN  
Thank you. That was extremely helpful.

EILEEN  
You're welcome.

MARTIN  
Would you consider joining the steering group?

EILEEN  
No.

Martin nods.

MARTIN  
Right.

EILEEN  
But I'll come tomorrow.

Martin accepts this as a win.

CUT TO:

17 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, SIDE ROOM, TALKING HEAD, EVENING 17

The Older Man sits in the interview chair. He is still holding one of the printed agendas, folded in half.

OLDER MAN  
I came because my wife's got two days of tablets left, and normally I'd sort it online. Or phone, if I had to. But the surgery line's always busy, and I didn't know what else to do.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
Did the meeting help?

The Older Man looks down at the folded agenda.

OLDER MAN  
I don't know what the group does, exactly.

A beat.

OLDER MAN (CONT'D)  
There was a lot about frameworks.

He thinks.

OLDER MAN (CONT'D)  
But that lady from the pharmacy's  
going to help me in the morning, so...  
that's something, isn't it?

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
Do you feel more reassured?

OLDER MAN  
A bit. Not because there's a plan.

A small shrug.

OLDER MAN (CONT'D)  
Because there's a person.

CUT TO:

18 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, SIDE ROOM, TALKING HEAD, EVENING 18

The young mum sits in the interview chair. She holds a form  
with a few notes on it.

YOUNG MUM  
I've got my daughter's number. That's  
not the problem. The problem is it  
doesn't connect.

A beat.

YOUNG MUM (CONT'D)  
Normally I'd have about six other ways  
of reaching her. Messages, email,  
socials, her dad, school groups,  
location sharing. All of it.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
And now?

YOUNG MUM  
Now it's just a number that rings and  
rings.

A small pause.

YOUNG MUM (CONT'D)  
But three people are helping me work  
around it.

(MORE)

YOUNG MUM (CONT'D)

One of them knows someone in Manchester. Someone else has a cousin near where she lives.

She gives a small, slightly surprised smile.

YOUNG MUM (CONT'D)

It's slower. But it's something.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Do you feel better?

YOUNG MUM

A bit. Not because they knew what they were doing.

A small look towards the main hall.

YOUNG MUM (CONT'D)

More because nobody knew what they were doing together.

CUT TO:

19 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, SIDE ROOM, TALKING HEAD, EVENING 19

A resident sits in the interview chair. Dry, amused, not easily impressed.

RESIDENT

They're a bit much, aren't they? The committee.

A beat.

RESIDENT (CONT'D)

I mean, there was a badge for procedure.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Did you think they were helpful?

The Resident considers this fairly.

RESIDENT

Not at first. At first it felt like one of those meetings where people talk about action for an hour before anyone does any.

A small shrug.

RESIDENT (CONT'D)

But then Eileen got up, and suddenly everyone knew what the meeting was supposed to be.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Which was?

RESIDENT

Finding out who needed help, and who could help them.

A beat.

RESIDENT (CONT'D)

Which, to be fair, is better than most meetings I went to when the internet was working.

CUT TO:

20

INT. COMMUNITY HALL, SIDE ROOM, TALKING HEAD, EVENING

20

Martin sits in the interview chair, visibly restored. He has the air of a man who has survived a difficult moment and already begun turning it into a leadership anecdote.

MARTIN

I think what people saw tonight was leadership in its purest form. Not necessarily having all the answers immediately, but creating the conditions where answers can emerge.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Did Eileen create most of the answers?

Martin accepts the question with a thoughtful nod.

MARTIN

Eileen emerged within the conditions.

A beat.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

So was the plan useful?

MARTIN

Yes. In the sense that it revealed what the plan needed to become.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

It was mostly blank.

MARTIN  
Open. I would say open.

Another small beat.

MARTIN (CONT'D)  
A blank space can be very powerful in  
a community setting.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
Do you think you were prepared?

Martin considers this carefully.

MARTIN  
I think we were prepared to discover  
how unprepared people felt.

CUT TO:

21 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, SIDE ROOM, TALKING HEAD, EVENING 21

Janet sits with her clipboard, slightly tired but alert. Her  
badge is still perfectly straight.

JANET  
There were procedural issues. No  
question. People spoke out of turn,  
items moved without formal agreement,  
and at one point we had offers of help  
before we had fully recorded requests  
for help.

A beat.

JANET (CONT'D)  
Which is not ideal.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
But did it work?

Janet weighs this carefully.

JANET  
In a limited but measurable sense,  
yes.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
What changed?

JANET  
Eileen's three-list proposal gave the  
meeting a usable structure.  
(MORE)

JANET (CONT'D)  
Confirmed information, requests for help, offers of help. Very simple.

A tiny pause.

JANET (CONT'D)  
Arguably too simple. But effective.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
So you were impressed?

JANET  
I wouldn't say impressed.

A beat.

JANET (CONT'D)  
I've noted it favourably.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
And overall?

JANET  
We now have three lists, one message box, and a confirmed information board. So from a minutes perspective, it was productive.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
What is a minutes perspective?

JANET  
The correct one.

CUT TO:

22 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, SIDE ROOM, TALKING HEAD, EVENING 22

Kelly sits in the interview chair. She is still composed, but less performative than before. The evening has affected her more than she expected.

KELLY  
The room moved from digital fragmentation into embodied local presence. Which sounds like something I would have posted before, actually.

A small self-aware smile.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
But I mean it differently now.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
What felt different?

KELLY  
Before, community was something I could measure. Views, comments, replies, shares. You could see it happening, or at least you thought you could.

A beat.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Tonight, it was slower. Messier. Someone needed a prescription. Someone else knew someone at the pharmacy. Someone had a bike. Someone had a printer. No one liked anything. No one shared anything.

She catches herself.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
Well, they shared a pen eventually.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
Do you miss being online?

Kelly holds the question a moment.

KELLY  
Yes.

A beat.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
But I think I'd forgotten that being in a room is also reach.

CUT TO:

23 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, SIDE ROOM, TALKING HEAD, EVENING 23

Gary sits in the interview chair. He looks tired, but slightly happier now he has been useful.

GARY  
I printed the first bulletin. Set up the headings, tightened the spacing, made it readable from about six feet away.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
So you found a role?

Gary thinks about this.

GARY  
Yes. Not the role I expected. I  
thought I'd be helping restore  
connection.

A beat.

GARY (CONT'D)  
Turns out I was helping print it.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)  
Do you think the internet will come  
back?

Gary pauses. This is difficult for him.

GARY  
I don't know.

A beat.

GARY (CONT'D)  
I'm not saying it's a router issue.

Another beat.

GARY (CONT'D)  
I'm saying we shouldn't completely  
rule it out.

CUT TO:

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INT. COMMUNITY HALL, MAIN HALL, EVENING

24

Martin stands proudly beside the noticeboard and message box.

The documentary camera frames him as if he is unveiling a major  
civic project.

MARTIN  
This is the Offline Communications  
Hub. It may look simple, but sometimes  
simple is exactly what a community  
needs.

Behind him, Eileen pins up the first printed bulletin.

Martin notices, shifts slightly to keep himself in shot.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

I do think history will look back on tonight as the moment this community found its offline voice.

A beat.

RESIDENT (O.S.)

Has anyone got a pen that works?

Everyone checks pockets.

Gary pats his fleece.

Janet checks her clipboard.

Kelly offers a pencil.

Eileen calmly reaches into her bag and produces a working pen.

She hands it over.

Martin watches.

A small, reluctant smile.

CUT TO BLACK.