

Stutton Support Network: Annual General Meeting 1st September 2015

Present: Jayne Jones, Roberta Garrad, Ian Flower, Avril Park, Penny Fairie, Penny Clarke, Janet White, Susan Hemming, Helena Rodwell, Gay Strutt, Heidi Chartres, Derek Chartres, Paul Lusher, Ann Lusher, Sarah Gray, Sue Hewlett, Nick Pavitt, Jane Pavitt, Fran Flower, Ian Heywood, Jenny Morris.

Apologies: Alison Jones, David Park, Frances Blackwell, David Coleman.

Minutes of AGM 2nd September 2014: The Minutes were agreed. Proposed by Avril Park; Seconded Roberta Garrod.

Chair's Report:

We have 30 volunteers who have all been DBS checked.

During our first year, we have had over 120 requests for support. All of these requests were met, except for one which was from someone in Holbrook and the Person on Call spent some time talking to her and offering advice and information about where to get the help she needed. One request could not be fulfilled at the time requested (a lift for the following day) but - with the agreement of the person concerned - another appointment was made at a later date and a lift arranged.

About three out of every four requests are for transport - to the hospital, dentist, GP surgery, bank, hairdressers, shopping. Ipswich Hospital provides car park permits for volunteers such as our Network and a number of our volunteers now have permits so that lifts to hospital do not incur car parking costs. Other requests include:

- "2 fat pillows from Tesco's"
- collecting prescriptions
- help with letters from banks or utility companies
- taking rubbish to the tip
- visiting
- sitting with someone while a relative goes out
- dog-walking
- garden tasks
- washing for people in hospital.

We have also twice been able to step in to cover a week of visits first thing in the morning when someone's regular support was away. And we've set up a rota of people to go for a walk with someone once a week.

One family who live in Hampshire contacted us for help when their relative living in Oak House was suddenly admitted to hospital. This shows the importance of the Network for family carers, particularly when they don't live locally.

We've also been getting involved with people at Oak House (see below).

Treasurer's report

Jane Pavitt circulated a summary of income and expenditure. Our total income for the year was £2,250, comprised of:

Grants from:

- Parish Council	£310
- Dave Woods Locality Budget	£450
- Stutton Community Council	£10
- Comic Relief Fund	£975

Donations from volunteers & Users: £415.40

(NB donations from volunteers take the form of volunteers foregoing the travel expenses paid by users. We are very grateful for these donations).

In addition, Catt's Trust have given us a grant of £150 to enable anyone in the village to use the service. So far we have used £132 to pay for some people's travel expenses.

Our total outgoings were £1069.97, comprising telephone costs, insurance, DBS checks, hire of hall, production of Volunteer packs, fee for membership of Suffolk Community Action.

Oak House:

Ian Heywood described our efforts to make contact with people at Oak House. We've visited, had lunch, taken people out and Ian also sang at the Open Day. The meeting discussed other ideas and a couple of people volunteered to also get involved.

Dementia session

The meeting was reminded that this session, provided by the Alzheimers Society, will take place on Monday 21st September 6.30-8.30pm in the Village Hall. Participants in the session will be certified as Dementia Friends as a result of attendance.

Help in the event of emergencies such as power cuts:

Ian and Fran have done a spreadsheet of information from the questionnaires distributed around the village which shows who identified they might need

help and who offered help. We have divided the village into 'patches' with people identified as first points of contact for each patch. The idea is that the first points of contact would have information about who needed help/who offered help within their patch and would act as co-ordinators to put people in touch with each other in the event of power cuts/heavy snow etc. The Co-ordinating Group asked for the meeting's views on whether we should put people's names and phone numbers in Roundabout. The meeting agreed that we should, as long as each first point of contact person agreed.

Buzz About:

Penny Clarke raised the issue of Buzz About and the need for more knowledge within our village about the service they provide. It was agreed that the Network should not be in competition with BuzzAbout and supported Penny in her efforts to increase awareness about the service.

Date of next AGM:

Tuesday 6th September 2016.