

Stutton Support Network - General Meeting 21st May 2018

Updates

Community transport

As a result of our representations to the Integrated Neighbourhood Team (which brings together health and social services people for our area), we are hoping that a fortnightly shopping trip to Manningtree Co-op using a wheelchair accessible community transport service will start at the beginning of July. Ten people have expressed an interest in using this service - if you know of anyone who might be interested please let us know. The Network will need to provide a couple of volunteers to accompany people.

Combatting social isolation

As we've discussed before we are hoping to increase our activities to help reduce the social isolation that some people in our village experience. You may remember we had a discussion at our previous meeting about how we might use the community cafe and our role in combatting social isolation was an important part of the Shop's case for grant funding. A couple of people suggested that we get involved in something called Meet Up Mondays - which is an initiative that started in South London but has been taken up in quite a big way in Suffolk. We thought we might try and have a monthly 'Meet Up Monday' and so we had the first one last week which was very successful. The Co-ordinating Group provided lifts and also served people coffee, tea and cake (so the Shop volunteers don't have to do this). If anyone else would like to get involved please let us know. We plan to have another one on the 4th June - if you know of anyone who might be interested in coming let us know.

Requests

Our Network started in October 2014 and during the first year we had an average of 24 requests per month. We are now running at about 30 requests per month. As before they are mostly requests for lifts, usually to the GP, the hospital, or for shopping. We are hoping that the fortnightly trips to Manningtree Co-op will reduce the demand for shopping trips. Oak House continues to account for a considerable proportion of requests and the staff at Oak House are very grateful for the help that the Network provides. It would seem that we are one of the more active good neighbour schemes in this part of Suffolk.

GDPR - General Data Protection Regulations

You will all have received an email from Jenny about our need to comply with this new legislation which is coming in this week. It sounds a bit over the top but Ian and Jenny went on training about it and were told that it does apply to

organisations such as ours and that we have to get people to opt in - to explicitly agree - to us holding their details (addresses, phone numbers, email addresses). We also have to keep secure the information we hold about requests. If anyone hasn't returned the privacy notice please do so - if you have difficulty emailing the document with your name on it just send Jenny an email in reply saying you're happy for us to keep your personal data on file.

Neighbourhood Plan

You may have heard that the Parish Council have decided to do a Neighbourhood Plan. The general purpose of such a Plan is so that local communities can have more say in what development there is in their area in future. There is a core group of people who have started to do work on this and, from July, there will be open meetings of this group - anyone can come along and contribute. They will be on the third Monday of every month in the Village Hall. We feel a Neighbourhood Plan is relevant to us as a good neighbour scheme because it should be about a wider vision of what we value about our community and what we want it to be like in the future.