

Stutton Support Network - AGM 23rd October 2018

Updates

Community transport

The fortnightly shopping trips to Manningtree Co-op started in mid-September and are proving a great success. Most of those going are from Oak House but a couple of people from the rest of the village also go and there may be others who go on future trips. They are funded by the East of England Co-op with a small contribution from Suffolk County Council. We have found that ideally we need 4 volunteers to accompany the minibus and usually a worker from Oak House also goes. Oak House are delighted with the arrangement and we think the Co-op is as well. They intend to organise some publicity on one of the trips - there are some good stories to tell: for example, one of the women on the first trip hadn't been shopping for two years.

Unfortunately, the minibus that has been contracted by the Co-op isn't wheelchair accessible. The woman from Suffolk County Council who organised it tried very very hard to get one but couldn't find one local enough. We have been able to take a couple of wheelchair users in cars but we are hoping to sort out a better solution. We also continue to hope that - one day - we might get a proper community transport service for this village. If you ever come across anyone who would be interested in getting involved in this idea please let us know.

Combatting social isolation

We've now been running our Meet Up Mondays on the second Monday of every month in the Community Shop's cafe since June and these are very successful - the Network has paid for the refreshments and organised lifts for those that need it. We intend to hold the next one - on Monday 12th November - in the Hall so that we can accommodate more people. If you know of anyone who would like to come please let them and us know.

Requests

Our Network started in October 2014 and during the first year we had an average of 24 requests per month. The average number of requests grew to 30 per month but has dropped since our last meeting in May and are now running at about 25 a month. In addition we have three regular rotas (for shopping, visiting and dog walking) and two volunteers are running regular get togethers.

Neighbourhood Plan

Many of you will have come to Big Conversation about the Neighbourhood Plan on the 22nd September. The latest news is that the village is now

'designated' so the more detailed process of drawing up a Plan is now starting. Part of that will be doing a Housing Needs survey - what housing is needed in this village, what kind of housing...and where should it be built. But the Plan isn't just about housing, it's also about what kind of village do we want to be and a thriving good neighbour scheme is part of that. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meetings are held on the third Monday of every month, 7pm in the Community Shop, and are open to everyone.