

Good Neighbourhood Scheme Meeting

24th August 2015

Attendees: -

St. Dubricius Whitchurch, Parochial Church Council: - Sue Morris, John Sparks, Jen Hazell, Margaret Leach, Stephen Borthwick (P.C.C. & Neighbourhood Steering Group), Jenny Sparks,

Parishioner: - Jim Newcomb,

St. Swithin's, Ganarew Colin Sheperd

Whitchurch and Ganarew Parish Counsel: - Geoff Hiscock (Neighbourhood Steering Group), Graham Litson (Neighbourhood Steering Group), Derrick Williams, Roger Smith.

Agenda

The meeting was chaired by Stephen Borthwick who explained the meeting was intended to identify what was currently taking place in respect to supporting a good neighbourhood community scheme. Stephen also explained that almost all are representatives of Whitchurch and Ganarew Parish Council and local church Parochial Parish Councils.

Discussion also focused on loneliness, its effect on the whole of our community, young and old alike and our ways of combatting it.

What do we know is happening now?

- Church Community Lunches: *People who are on their own (and not necessarily connected with Church) can join others for lunch (obtained from Woods of Whitchurch) and be involved with others in similar situations. The intent is to nurture introductions and provide opportunities for friendship. The meals are provided on a donation not charge basis. Currently supports approximately 20 attendees but could readily expand to 40.*
- Church Big Breakfast *Used as a fund raising exercise as well as care support for local people wanting to meet and join in discussion.*
- Tea Afternoons /- Open Gardens /- Auctions *Used as fund raising sessions but results and profit are put to community good actions.*
- Reminiscence Sessions *To invite local people, often with long experience to engage in conversation / discussion of past events. Homemade cakes plus tea and coffee are donated.*
- Meal Deliveries *Meals at a reasonable price are obtained from Woods of Whitchurch and Wiltshire Farm Foods.*
- Arriva Transport *Car transport to and from hospitals / medical appointments are supplied by NHS funding.*
- Prescription Delivery *Most doctors / Pharmacies provide this service that is supported by use of email / website facilities to order prescription. The administration of this facility is sometimes too complicated for some people.*
- Film Shows *Shown in the Memorial village hall of an evening. Without the support of transport and the aid of a fit person many parishioners are unable to participate. Opportunities for the future expansion of this activity need to be considered.*

- Computer Classes *This facility has been available but needs technical support for the future. Could be opportunity for future revival. Simple /limited use of Facebook for our community could be used in the future. The Doward residents have their own website/ Facebook page which can be replicated for other areas if requested and support was available.*

- Mini Bus Transport *Monthly pickup dates are available for transport to local facilities - Contact Alison Fletcher 01987 567165 for more detail.*

What might happen in the future?

- Maintain and expand what we do now.

- Book Club /Library *Supply of books to local people unable to get to a library. The deployment of 3 RED TELEPHONE boxes will be put to use as a lending point for donated books /book exchange. A local community library run by volunteers would also be a benefit for young and old.*

- Form filling + other administration *Would be of help and assistance to people who find the bureaucracy of form filling / telephone directory calls difficult.*

Notes and Actions

The Parish Newsletter, now on a quarterly production, will include a section for Neighbourhood Community issues.

The school weekly newsletter should also be utilised to cover some Neighbourhood Community issues. Need to include young families as well as the more mature members of the community.

Progress with these ideas needs a core group to meet, discuss and suggest a new Good Neighbourhood Scheme. Volunteers included - Roger Smith, Stephen Borthwick, Jim Newcomb. Jenny Sparkes, Sue Morris/Margaret Leach and Graham Litson. It ought to be convened and meet asap.