

CLAYDON & BARHAM
GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME
SUMMARY REPORT

This report is a brief summary presented to Claydon and Whitton Parish Council. As one of our supporters this last year we are happy to report how the Good Neighbour Scheme has operated since its establishment in September 2020.

When the pandemic came, our community, like many others responded in a way that is to be celebrated.

The need to support those who were shielding and isolated, that had no one to call on was the main aim of what started as the 'coronavirus support group.' Members of the community stepped up, in the main, to get essential shopping and prescriptions to people in need.

After the first lockdown eased, some of those involved in this support group came together to think about how this could be sustainable. As we all know, people were isolated before the pandemic and will continue to be after.

In July 2020 an initial meeting was held and the idea of 'transitioning' the Coronavirus support group into a 'Good Neighbour scheme' was proposed. It was decided to engage the community and gain input into what the need may be. All members of the community were invited to feedback through a community survey, what need they feel they could/do/will have and/or if they could help, what that could be. The results were collated and shopping along with prescription collection were the main trends of need and offer at that time.

In September 2020, the Claydon and Barham committee was established from those expressing interest and all the necessary policies were adopted.

We have been very grateful for the *funding received and paid direct for things such as our insurance and DBS checks. Due to restrictions the scheme was unable to secure a Bank account until March 2021.

In these 6 months a team of 13 volunteers have carried out nearly 30 practical tasks within our community helping 12 individuals. Along with signposting some appropriately for ongoing support to such things as 'Home but not alone' and community transport.

We communicate and connect with the community around through our Facebook group, Monthly articles in the 'In touch Magazine' and raising our profile through holding some community competitions, such as the 'Easter Bunny Window' competition.

As we move forward, we hope to have the continued moderate financial support from the two Parish councils, which aids us in utilising the ongoing community spirit. It has been noted by us how many of the public have expressed how proud they are to live in this community, and we look forward to exploring new ideas that will harness that spirit and allow it to flourish.

'We may not live next to each other, but we are all each other's neighbours.'

Chair. Claydon and Barham Good Neighbour Scheme.

*the full accounts can be viewed on request.