

## **SHOTLEY & ERWARTON GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME**

### **Shotley Parish Council 2014**

#### **Annual Meeting Report**

The Shotley & Erwarton Good Neighbours Scheme (“The Scheme”) is a not for profit organisation with a governing Constitution. It was launched on the 6th April 2005 and is managed by a Committee who are elected annually. The Scheme is one of some thirty set up within the County.

The Aims of the Scheme are “To provide short term help to the residents of Shotley and Erwarton such as transport, domestic support, and household assistance, with the use of local volunteers. Also to encourage self-help and friendship within the community”

We currently have 25 volunteers who are all subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, either by the Scheme initiating a check, or confirmation of a recent check having been carried out by some other organisation. DBS is the checking vehicle that has replaced Criminal Records Bureau checks. As it was a new service all our volunteers were checked.

Persons requiring assistance from the Scheme contact us via our mobile telephone which is held by a Committee Member (the Duty Officer) on a two week rota basis. When a request is received the Duty Officer contacts volunteers to ascertain who will be able to deal with the request.

In our Financial Year ended 31st July 2013 we carried out 215 tasks for clients and, by the end of May, will have carried out some 220 tasks in the ten months since 1st August 2013. Thus on average we are currently carrying out four to five tasks a week. We only provide short term help; clients contact us each time they have a request as we do not offer regular services. We also do not provide an emergency service.

The majority of the tasks are the provision of transport for such purposes as Ipswich Hospital visits where the client may be attending an Outpatients Clinic or visiting a relation, collecting prescriptions and providing transport to and from the Shotley Surgery. Other tasks have included shopping trips, befriending, simple DIY tasks, etc. No charge is made for journeys within the two villages, but the client is expected to pay the volunteer driver 40p per mile for trips outside of that area. For trips to the Ipswich Hospital and return we suggest a payment of £12. On such trips the volunteer driver waits and, if required, assists the client to the clinic they are attending. The mileage fee is the only payment a volunteer receives.

We “advertise” our services by means of notices on the Notice Boards in the two villages, and at the Surgery and also in each issue of The Shotley Noticeboard, for which publicity we are grateful to the publishers. We would appreciate any help in promoting awareness of the Scheme and we really would welcome drivers available Mondays to Fridays. With our current volunteer roster drivers carry out two/three trips a month, but several of us are getting very creaky and younger blood would ensure the continuation of the Scheme to run us around!

Richard Davis  
Hon Treasurer  
27th May 2014