

STOWUPLAND GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2025

Stowupland Good Neighbours lives on. It has been nearly 20 years since we were created following the 2005 Parish Plan. A need for such a scheme was demonstrated by the large number of responses asking for help with their transport to local surgeries and hospitals as well as help with small household and gardening jobs. I am proud to say we have been in existence since 2006 with one or two of our original volunteers still happy to respond to requests for help.

That all sounds good and wholesome but if you look between the lines, a more realistic picture is of a small and continually reducing number of volunteers – all of whom are still enthused by the ethos of the Good Neighbour Scheme but who are also very active in family and community life. Recently we have been unable to act positively to a small number of requests. Whilst we do not like doing this, with an active band of just 7 volunteers, it is often very difficult to match a request to an available volunteer. We are embarking on another recruitment drive and hope it is fruitful.

On the positive side we are very grateful to the Parish Council and local County Councillor for their continued financial support towards our annual insurance and running costs. The scheme operates on a donation basis and our volunteers are at liberty to put those donations towards travel expenses if they so wish.

If anyone would like to know more about the Scheme or become involved please contact me or ring the helpline – we are always in Telstar.