

STOWUPLAND GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2026

Stowupland Good Neighbours was formed 20 years ago following the 2005 Parish Plan. Stowupland residents demonstrated a need for help with transport to local surgeries/hospitals as well as assistance with small household and gardening tasks.

Over the years our band of very willing volunteers has responded positively to the many requests for help and forged friendships with a wide range of residents of all ages. The majority of our transport requests are to Ipswich and West Suffolk Hospitals where parking can be a nightmare. Some of our passengers require assistance and chaperoning during their hospital visit so it is vital our volunteers can swiftly navigate the pressures and the over demand of parking places. Happy to report that our volunteers rise to the occasion beautifully.

Unfortunately during the year the Pre-School decided to close the weekly Baby & Toddler sessions in the Village Hall. Good Neighbours has supplied volunteers for the last 20 years and it was a very sad last session.

We have had a small increase in our volunteer numbers, but we are always keen to find new Good Neighbours.

We rely on donations from our users, so we are very grateful to the Parish Council for their grant towards our running costs (Insurance and Mobile Phone).

Finally, I would like to thank our volunteers, past and present for their commitment and enthusiasm in helping Stowupland residents.

Catherine Welham