

Health Facilities and Good Neighbour Scheme

The Issues

1. A small but significant minority of our residents have difficulty in getting to health services often or occasionally, whilst others need adaptations to their homes because of health problems.
2. 50% of our residents have identified that they would be interested in a Good Neighbour Scheme.
3. Significant lack of NHS dentists.

Onehouse is well served for health care service of all types. The majority of residents rated the quality of service provided as good or reasonable. However there is a growing problem of being registered with a dentist, 48 out of 458 were not registered. There is concern that the expansion of Stowmarket is putting pressure on healthcare facilities and 47% of residents felt that additional facilities would be required if development should take place in the parish.

As was expected with such a wide range of age groups, some had a health problem/disability which affected their day to day living (43) and a few said that they required adaptations to make their home more suitable.

Even with Stowmarket being in close proximity, a number of residents found they had difficulty in getting to their appointments, with 12-15% often having problems getting to the doctor or hospital. Dental care was also a concern, with 47% expressing difficulty in reaching a dentist.

Good Neighbour Scheme

In response to the question “**Is there a need for a “Good Neighbour” type scheme in Onehouse**” 224 people said, “Yes”. A further 186 said they didn’t know. A reflection perhaps of the fact, that at the time little had been thought about a scheme like this.

A significant number of people (35) also completed the insert indicating that they would be willing to take part in such a scheme.

With so much interest shown and an obvious demand, one of the actions from this survey will include a feasibility study about the scheme.

The Way Forward

1. Access to health services – support and assistance available to all who need it, when they need it.
2. To study the feasibility of a Good Neighbour Scheme run for the benefit of all in the village who needs it.
3. Put pressure on NHS to bring more dentists to the area.

“It is a pleasant place to live. The community is helpful and friendly.”