

## Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

---

<b>Date:</b>	<b>8 July 2014</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS)</b>
<b>Purpose of the Report:</b>	<b>To agree the implementation of the Good Neighbour Scheme</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager</b>

### Background

1. Good Neighbour Schemes (GNS), are local voluntary groups, which offer a service in their community for those in need of help and support, which cannot be supplied through Social Care and Health and other professional care agencies.
2. Good Neighbour Schemes help to promote a greater sense of community spirit and a sense of belonging to the community, where a pool of volunteers give their time and service to help neighbours within their community. Many people and organisations already help and support the elderly or vulnerable people living within the town on an informal basis, enabling them to live independently.
3. As a member of the Thame Alliance Group we have established that there is a need within the town to coordinate help and provide assistance to those who may benefit from support of a GNS scheme. This maybe older people, people with disabilities, single parents, young mothers, those temporarily in need through illness or following an operation or anyone who may be isolated in the community.
4. The GNS service may include signposting to services, matching volunteers to tasks such as:-occasional transport, shopping, collection of prescriptions/pensions, minor household repairs, help with pets, occasional garden tidying, form filling (not legal) and befriending.
5. The proposal is that the Council implements the project, assisting with the start up costs and use of staff in the Information Centre as the main coordination point for GNS administration and operation. At this stage of the project positive responses have been received with nine volunteers coming forward to give their time to undertake suggested services. There are still some tasks to undertake and investigate before the scheme can be officially launched, however the target date for this is by November 2014..

### Resource Appraisal – See Appendix 1

### Risk Assessment – See Appendix 2

### Legal Powers: Local Government Act 1972, s137

### Recommendation that:

- i) The Council provides the support and resources to implement and maintain a Good Neighbour Scheme***
- ii) Full Council approve the Good Neighbour Start Up costs up to £6,850 be financed from the Capital Rolling Fund***