

Farnsfield Parish Council
TLC Working Group Summary

This group was set up to identify the needs of senior citizens and those who are isolated/vulnerable because of health or other issues, enabling them to have a voice to influence decisions which could improve their quality of life and involvement in this community.

The group consisted of 4 residents: Chris Puddephatt, Brian Hill, Gill Sarre, Judith Hodge. 3 Councillors: Lesley Healy, Sally Savage, Corinne Moore (Lead).

The Group met 8 times beginning in August 2023. The last meeting was in June 2024.

It was agreed from the outset that a main objective was to consult on behalf of the Parish Council on how to reach, inform and support more people who are socially isolated in the community. –Tackling Loneliness in the Community hence: TLC

This was to be carried out by listening to people, attending different groups, identifying concerns and hearing ideas. Also, by engaging with businesses and other organizations who could help with the objectives above.

Research took place by talking with and listening to residents and through members' attendance at different groups: Tea at 2, The Ark, The Friendship Group, the Library, and the Pharmacy. Contact was made with The Surgery, the Social Prescriber, a Carers Agency, Community Transport Providers, NHS Volunteer Patient Leader, NCC representatives and NSDC representatives.

Multiple concerns and ideas were raised as follows: drop-down kerbs, uneven footpaths; bollard broken and made more noticeable for visually impaired; electronic speeding signs; a Pelican crossing; the need to be kept informed; isolation and loneliness; teaching IT; Men in Sheds; a telephone support network; knowledge of existing agencies; medical services; Social prescriber; advice on benefits; community transport – getting out to shops etc;

Many of these issues were addressed, though not necessarily solved, by ensuring that people had information about the agency responsible e.g. that Farnsfield Parish Council did not have responsibility for the state of pavements and roads and encouraging people to contact the NDSC or NCC etc.

External speakers were invited to the Group: The Social Prescriber; the Carers Champion Jayne Alsop; Suzie Stanton from Home Instead; Gilly Hagan NHS Volunteer Transport Leader.

It was agreed that the group would focus on main issues raised by members of the public:

Communication and distribution of information.

Initial ideas to tackle loneliness in the community.

Some type of Community Transport – the need and the type of transport

A Village Directory

Communication and Distribution of Information

It was agreed very early on that communication and distribution of information within the village was a major issue. The idea of a monthly community newsletter was agreed. A small editorial group was established with JH as editor. The Bramley Newspaper agreed that this could be distributed monthly for a trial period by their distributors. A grant was obtained from the Farnsfield Trust and Farnsfield Parish Council to cover initial printing costs and distribution. The first edition of The Farnie appeared in February 2024. This has been a great success and includes news items, contributions from residents, organizations, different clubs and activities,

a monthly calendar and many other items of interest. The Farnie, now edited by JH, is independently funded and delivered by volunteers to every household around the village as extra copies in The Library and other places. The Farnie also appears on the Parish Council website.

Tackling Loneliness in the Community

The group worked on visiting the existing groups as mentioned encouraging others to set up Welcoming Spaces where people could go to meet others for refreshments and enjoy chat/games etc. These are all now listed on the Farnsfield events page in The Farnie. There are Welcoming Spaces almost every day of the week including some such as the Friendship Group meeting monthly. The Chatty Café is supported by Le Petit Vert meeting on Thursdays, and recently The Plough is supporting a Welcome at The Plough meeting on Tuesday mornings. It has not yet been possible to develop a Home Visiting Team though both Churches do carry out Pastoral Care visiting. The idea of a Carers Group was suggested through The Farnie but there did not seem to be any interest in a Carers Group being formed.

Community Transport

There had been a previous survey asking residents about the need for community transport in Farnsfield which produced a poor result. Members of the Pharmacy expressed concern to CP that they were aware of members of the community, who received Prescriptions at home, being unable to visit friends or go to the shops, especially those living outside the centre of the village. CP devised a survey asking whether some form of Local Community Transport would be useful. This was agreed and sent out online, in hardcopies to the shops, the Library, and individuals attending the Welcoming Spaces and with Pharmacy deliveries as well as being advertised in The Farnie. There was a positive response to some type of transport being developed in Farnsfield. This has also been supported by NDSC and NCC. Additionally other group members explored different local options being used: Ravenshead, Blidworth, Rainworth and other providers. Whilst some groups for example, do use the Ravenshead Minibuses and Door to Door, there is clearly a need for a more localized provision. Initially this will be a Community Volunteer Drivers Scheme. This is being taken forward by BH and others working with Gilly Hagan as above and, it is hoped, will be established early in 2025.

Village Directory

The compilation of a Village Directory requires a lot of information gathering. This is being worked on by GS and LH. It is hoped that this will be available early in 2025.

Summary

This Working Group has now disbanded. The Group felt that it had met its initial objectives in terms of identifying needs. This is an example of the Parish Council actively listening to residents, seeking feedback and responding. In many instances there have been positive results and enthusiastic feedback about changes and developments that have been introduced so far.

It has also gone a considerable way too, in meeting needs expressed by residents. Other needs are more complex and are being worked on by interested residents. A home visiting scheme has already been proposed and a resident is exploring this possibility. This is also the case with a proposed volunteer transport scheme. However, there will always be a range of needs in a large and diverse community such as Farnsfield and hopefully people now feel that there are avenues in which to express their concerns and ideas. Thanks to everyone who has taken part, both in the group and in the many discussions that have taken place which, it is hoped, will improve the lives of people in this lovely village.

Councillor Corinne Moore and the TLC Working Party