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**13<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

## **Good Neighbour Scheme strengthens community ties**

People are invited to discover the benefits of a scheme which aims to help reduce social isolation and loneliness in Northamptonshire.

Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) has been working with Daventry District Council to develop Good Neighbour Schemes in that district and is keen to establish other such schemes across the county.

Good Neighbour Schemes are run by local volunteers who provide day to day support for other residents in their area who may need help on an occasional or regular basis. For older people, this support may enable them to live independently in their own homes and communities for longer and reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Good Neighbour Schemes have now been established in Moulton and becoming established in Crick, where they are on hand to provide day-to-day support for all residents, either through befriending or arranging help with household chores or transport. This short video from the Moulton scheme highlights how such a scheme could work in your village: <https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/your-council/news/good-neighbour-scheme-paying-dividends-in-moulton-13-09-17/>

People interested in bringing the scheme to their community are invited to find out more at a FREE event at Moulton Community Centre on **Tuesday 21 November 2017 from 11.30am to 3.30pm**. This event is supported by Northamptonshire ACRE's Big Lottery funded Rural Wellbeing Service.

The event is a chance to hear from volunteers running successful schemes in their communities, the opportunity to find out about funding for a scheme and to meet

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other organisations who can provide support such as Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, Norris and Fisher insurance providers and Northamptonshire ACRE. The event includes a free lunch.

Places are free but must be booked in advance by phoning Rebecca Breakwell at Northamptonshire Acre on 01604 825884. Please register by Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November to book a place and lunch.

Councillor Alan Hills, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Leisure, Daventry District Council said: "The Good Neighbours Scheme is very well established in Moulton, and we've also been pleased to support volunteers in Crick to launch their own scheme recently.

"Both schemes have had a positive impact on the lives of older people living in those parishes, so we're really keen to see this spread right across our District. I would urge groups to get along to this event if they can and find out about the wide range of support, guidance and funding we have available to those who are interested in starting a Good Neighbours Scheme."

--Ends--

For further information please contact:

Rebecca Breakwell – email [Rebecca.breakwell@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.breakwell@northantsacre.org.uk) or call 01604 825884

**Northamptonshire ACRE:**

Northamptonshire ACRE is an independent countywide charity that supports rural communities in the county, working with them to improve their quality of life, especially for the disadvantaged. Whether you are thinking of carrying out any form of community planning, want to know more about flood risk measures or how to set up community shops, would like governance advice for your Village Hall, enquire about health and wellbeing support or just need to purchase cheaper heating oil, Northamptonshire ACRE can help. Get in touch: 01604 765888 or [acre@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:acre@northantsacre.org.uk).

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