

Meeting Notes Barrow Upon Soar Good Neighbour Scheme
6th Annual General Meeting
6:30pm 8th July 2024 - Conservative Club

Current Officers of the Scheme:	Karen Selby – Chair, Nick Thomas – Treasurer Laura Gibson – Safeguarding Officer, Annette Richardson – Secretary
Current Steering Group Members:	Alison Bowley, Andy Northcote-smith

All Attendees:	Karen Selby, Nick Thomas, Laura Gibson, Andy Northcote-smith, Ginnie Willcocks, Rose Ball, Penny Margetts, Vera Williams, Sue Preston, Alan Willcocks, Angie Sharpe, Michael Bernstein, Annette Richardson.
Apologies:	Alison Bowley, Joyce Whowell, Andy Boston, Sharon Gudger, Michelle Leates, Gaynor Cawood, Helen Filkins, Vanita Patel, Sue Sykes, Judith Rodgers.

Item	Description
1	Welcome and Apologies (Chair)
Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Apologies were noted as above.	
2	Agree minutes of the last AGM (All)
The minutes from the previous meeting on 23 rd July 2024 were agreed by those that were present.	
3	Summary of the Year including latest task statistics (Chair)

Summary of our year 5 - July 2024 - June 2025:

Currently have 45 active members who are supported in various tasks by 26 active volunteers. Befriending is our most popular task which gives support and company to members who look forward to their visits and calls. Transport within the village or local villages is very much appreciated by members attending appointments. We provide transport to Loughborough hospital but no longer go to Leicester or Nottingham hospitals. One off gardening tasks are carried out to keep members safe in their garden and paths. **Thanks to all our Befrienders, Drivers, and Gardeners.**

At our last AGM we made a request for volunteers to help with the Telco phone and I'm very pleased to report that Sharon and Rose have joined the team, so including Joyce we now have 5 volunteers helping out - so many thanks to the Telco group. It's rewarding and interesting to see what goes off on a day-to-day basis if anyone else is interested in finding out more.

Events:

- **July 24 - AGM** incorporating a BBQ. First time we had tried this and it was a success so we're doing it again. 25 people attended in 2024.
- **Nov 2024 Volunteers Christmas Skittles** - Christmas jumpers galore with 25 people attending. Friendly competition and a chance to meet other volunteers. **Thanks to Ginnie** for organising us into teams.
- **4 Dec 2024 Members Afternoon Tea** - Around 30 members and guests attended our Christmas get together over a delicious spread of food. The entertainment began with excellent singing from thirty pupils and staff from Hall Orchard school choir which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The choir also gave out mince pies and cards to all our members and received a big round of applause. The members also took part in Last Hat Bingo for a bit of fun during the food courses. **Many thanks to the promotions team, volunteer drivers and volunteers serving tea.** None of these events would happen without the volunteers who give up their time to help out with **special mention to The Promotions team** members are Annette, Ginnie Willcocks, Sue Preston, Angie Sharpe, Laura Gibson, Alison Bowley, Andy Northcote-Smith and me.
- **Volunteer social evening walks during the summer months** - Led by Nick and Andy from various pubs in the village an hour's walk followed by liquid refreshments for anyone who wishes to attend. This

has now been extended to other volunteer groups in the village to join in. **Many thanks to Nick** for planning and arranging these walks. It's a great way to meet and chat to other volunteers.

4 Financial Report (Treasurer)

Nick provided a brief summary for the Financial Report: The year end funds for 2025 are slightly lower than the previous year by £154, mainly due to the reason that no grant funding was applied for during the year as the funding levels have remained healthy with only the usual standard out goings expected.

The independent examination of the accounts by a volunteer has carried out by Andy Northcote-Smith – Thank you **Andy**. A copy of the report is included later in these notes.

Proposed by:	Annette Richardson		Seconded by:	Karen Selby	
For:	All	Against:	None	Abstain:	None

5 Re-election of Officers:

All posts for Officers and Members of the Steering Group were up for re-election. As mentioned in the call-in email, Karen has given notice that she wishes to stand down from the position of Chair.

We had one volunteer, Mike Bernstein, that has offered to come forward for election for Chair. **Mike was introduced to the meeting and gave a quick outline of his involvement to date.**

5.1 Re-election of Officers - Post of Chair

It was proposed that Mike Bernstein should be re-elected for the post of Chair.

Proposed by:	Annette Richardson		Seconded by:	Nick	
For:	All	Against:	None	Abstain:	None

5.2 Re-election of Officers - Remaining Posts of Officers of the Scheme

It was proposed that all existing Posts for Officers of the Scheme, Nick Thomas for Treasurer, Laura Gibson for Safeguarding Officer and Annette Richardson for Secretary should be re-elected en-bloc.

Proposed by:	Karen Selby		Seconded by:	Ginnie Willcocks	
For:	All	Against:	None	Abstain:	None

5.3 Re-election of Officers - Remaining members of Steering Group

It was proposed that the remaining members of the Steering Group, Alison Bowley and Andy Northcote-Smith should be re-elected. **All Volunteers are welcome to attend the Steering Group meetings at any time. Please let someone from the Group aware so that you will be placed on the distribution list for future meetings.**

Proposed by:	Nick Thomas		Seconded by:	Rose Ball	
For:	All	Against:	None	Abstain:	None

6 The next 12 months:

Volunteer and Member numbers:

We have lost 5 volunteers and gained one new volunteer since our last AGM and 7 new members have joined. Whilst we can support at our current levels, if the trend continues then we will need to consider new requests for support as we get them. All volunteers are asked to speak to friends and family in the village about the scheme to self-promote the work we do with a hope that they may wish to join us – thanks.

Request for more Volunteer Drivers:

We have a small pool of volunteer drivers who support our members. We would like to increase the pool. As mentioned previously, we only do local journeys and it is one way we generate money for BGNS as we charge a few pounds for trips outside of the village (village trips are free). If you are interested, please let us know.

Future Events:

- This year we have decided to concentrate our efforts on the Members Christmas Afternoon Tea as this is our most well attended event. We did consider doing a St George's Day or VE anniversary event in

Spring but other organisations within the village were holding similar events so there were plenty of options for villagers. The date will be confirmed soon.

- The volunteer walks will continue during the lighter months for those who wish to attend. For those that don't want to walk there is always a chance to join the group for a pint afterwards.
- A Volunteer Skittles event will also be planned once a date has been agreed.

7 Volunteer Feedback:

No feedback was received before the meeting. Annete had some Feedback **for Volunteers**:

- **Task Stats 12 months to 30th June 2025** – Looking at the graph and the table - the number of tasks overall for the past few years has fallen but this is only because for the past 2 years we have stopped recording how many telephone befriending tasks are carried out. The overall number of support tasks we now carry out each year has remained high despite a fall in volunteers, so once again, **Thank You very much for all of your hard work.**
- Karen has organised our Tree being displayed at the **Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival** for the past 3 years. For this year **we are looking for a new volunteer** to take new ideas forward if anyone is interested? Please do get in touch for more details of what is involved.

On behalf of everyone attending the AGM, and the wider group of Volunteers, Annette thanked Karen for her 4 years of service as Chair. On a personal note, Annette thanked Karen for all of her support especially in the months following the end of COVID restrictions as the scope of our scheme changed. Karen will continue as a volunteer, carrying out driving tasks as well as Telco cover. Annette asked the volunteers to show their own appreciation to Karen with a huge round of applause.

8 Questions & Answers:

No Questions were received before the meeting.

- Laura asked about **PAT testing needed for the Christmas Tree lights** or Tree – Karen explained that the Church holds all the required testing kit and it's only the lights that need to be taken for testing. She was happy to take items for testing, but explained she had ran out of ideas for new ways to decorate our tree.
- Sue P asked if **WhatsApp comments after befriending visits** etc were still needed and completed by other volunteers. Annette and Karen both explained how important it is to get these regular updates – be it for driving, gardening but especially for befriending, as it really helped those covering the Telco Role to understand what was happening with each member we support. Annette urged all volunteers to take a few minutes to provide an update, but stressed it could be provided later in the day or the following day unless deemed urgent or important.

9 Closing Statement:

The Outgoing Chair thanked everyone attending for their time and contribution in the scheme's 6th AGM.

Good Neighbours cannot exist without the wonderful volunteers we have in the village. Karen thanked everyone for the time given to others that makes a big, positive difference in their lives. Special thanks to Annette who does a fantastic job, not just for us, but for so many voluntary groups in the village.

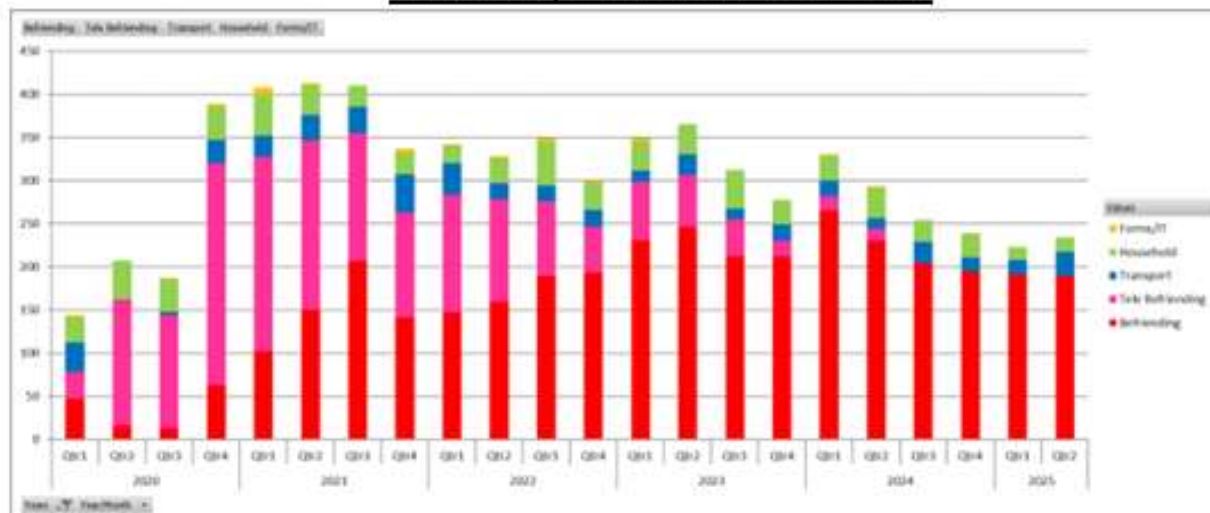
Karen thanked Mike for coming forward for the role of Chair, and wished him all the very best.

The **date of the next AGM** will take place sometime in **July 2026**. Date tbc nearer the time.

**Barrow upon Soar Good Neighbour Scheme
Income and Expenditure Account for the period
1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025**

	1 Jul 24 to 30 Jun 25	1 Jul 23 to 30 Jun 24
Income		
Grants	£	£
Barrow upon Soar Parish Council	0	300
Donations (Group)		
Trinity Church	0	0
Donations (Individual)	580	885
Other		
Driving	224	154
	<u>804</u>	<u>1339</u>
Less Expenditure		
Insurance	131	131
Publicity	0	0
Website etc	0	0
Stationery	0	69
Mobile phone	60	60
DBS checks	14	36
Events	691	709
Miscellaneous	0	0
Mileage	62	44
	<u>958</u>	<u>1049</u>
Surplus of income over expenditure	-154	290
Funds brought forward from previous year	2148	1858
Total funds	<u>1994</u>	<u>2148</u>
Represented by:		
Bank Account	<u>1994</u>	<u>2148</u>

Tasks completed to 30th June 2025



*The chart above shows the growth of the scheme, per quarter, by different task types, as the years have progressed.

	Befriending	Tele Befriending	Transport	Household	Forms/IT	Totals
2020	139	565	65	151	7	927
2021	599	692	129	132	16	1568
2022	688	395	94	132	9	1318
2023	900	189	68	142	4	1303
2024	894	31	71	117	3	1116
2025	381	0	44	32	0	457
Qtr1	191	0	17	15	0	223
Qtr2	190	0	27	17	0	234
Grand Total	3601	1872	471	706	39	6689

* Tasks from December 2019 are incorporated into 2020 totals

In Year 6 (July 2024 – June 2025)

Events:

- **Volunteers BBQ/AGM 23rd July 2025** – 17 volunteers and 8 guests. Thanks to all that attended our first BBQ event and to those that also came to the AGM.
- **Volunteers Skittles – 27th Nov 2024** – 19 volunteers and 6 guests enjoyed a great evening. Thanks to Ginnie for organising the teams.
- **Members Afternoon Tea – 4th Dec 2024** – 30 members and guests. 11 volunteers helping on the day. HOPS Choir again enjoyed by all.
- **Evening Walks** – Usually held on 3rd Wednesday of the month from various pubs – thanks Nick for leading them.

Thanks to all the volunteers that helped to support these events.

Members numbers:

We have **45 Active** members (3 less than last AGM)

- We had **7 new** members join since the last AGM
- **24** members receiving **regular** support – home Team visits, phone calls, or shopping
- **21** members receiving support **occasional** support such as gardening, transport
- **49** members have left or do not receive support since the scheme started, including **11** since the last AGM

Volunteer numbers:

We have **26 active** volunteers (**decrease of 5** since last AGM)

- **1 new** volunteer joining since the last AGM
- **5** are having a **break** before hopefully carrying on supporting members
- **4 left** since last AGM – **18** have left in total.

Looking forward 2025/26:

- **Members Christmas Afternoon Tea** – tbc
- **Evening Walks** – to continue