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PRESS RELEASE

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE HELPING HANDS LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE

Leighton-Linslade Helping Hands, the local Good Neighbours Scheme, have launched their website, with the support of Leighton-Linslade Town Council. It is hoped that having this web presence will help people access information about this voluntary scheme and how community members can contact them to request support.

This Good Neighbours Scheme has been operating in Leighton Buzzard, Linslade and Heath & Reach since 2014 and is run purely by volunteers from the community. They aim to support older, lonely and/or isolated community members through activities including companionship, support with tasks such as shopping, lifts to appointments, trips out, prescriptions collection and form filling.

The Town Council has created a Sub Committee with a focus on people 55yrs and up in our Parish. Supporting the Leighton-Linslade Helping Hands group was an identified action that came out of the survey which took place in June last year. *"We realised this longstanding community group was hidden from view on digital platforms"*, said Cllr Owen, Chair of the Older People Sub Committee. The ability for people to make connections during the pandemic is essential and digital platforms have become more important than ever before. The Town Council has set aside a budget to further develop ideas for increasing access to information that the generation of 'silver surfers' will benefit from.

While lockdown has restricted much of what the volunteers can do face to face, the long-term relationships they have built up with those they help has been continued through regular phone calls and socially distanced support.

The Leighton-Linslade Helping Hands volunteers are police checked (DBS) and fully insured for all the support they offer residents. Their services are freely offered by volunteers, with out-of-pocket expenses being reimbursed by those who use their service (e.g. fuel, parking charges, shopping costs etc.)

The scheme is always looking for new volunteers, if you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact the group directly on 07581 799273 or email leightonlinladehh@gmail.com.

To find out more, and if you would like to request support, go to their website leightonlinladehelpinghands.org.uk or contact them directly on the helpline: 07581 799273 or email: leightonlinladehh@gmail.com

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Word count: 359

Date: 10/02/2021

