



Mr Kenneth Moss & Pam Davis (Community Warden)

Mrs Pam Davis “ I have been a Community Warden for 24 years and currently visit about 15 people per week. It’s such a worthwhile role, which enables people to remain independant and reassures them that there is always someone they can ask for help”.

This service currently runs in the following South Cambridgeshire villages:

Comberton, Cottenham, Great Shelford, Harston, Haslingfield, Melbourn, Meldreth, Milton, The Mordens and Litlington, Stapleford, Teversham, Linton, Histon, Impington, Shudy Camps, Castle Camps, Horseheath, Balsham, West Wickham, Western Colville, West Wrattling.

For more information or if you think there is a need for a scheme in your area



South Cambridgeshire District Council

Please contact the South Cambridgeshire District Council Partnerships Officer kathryn.hawkes@scambs.gov.uk to be signposted.

Alternatively, you can contact the agencies directly:

Mobile and Community Warden schemes



Care Network Cambridgeshire
admin@care-network.org.uk
01954 211919

Information For Councillors



Age Concern Cambridgeshire
office@accambs.org
01354 696677

October 2009

03450 450 500
www.scambs.gov.uk

Mobile Warden Schemes & Community Wardens

For most people, living in our own home as we grow older is something that we want to continue for as long as possible.

We may consider moving into accommodation that suits the stage of our life, but ideally we would remain in the community we know and that knows us. However, consideration must be given to what happens when life becomes a bit less manageable, when it is not always so easy to 'pop out' to the shops, the pharmacy or the post office for those 'bits and pieces' and necessary errands. This can be a worry, especially when family, by necessity, have to live a long distance away.

Older people living in rural settings such as South Cambridgeshire are often at risk of social exclusion as they try to continue to live independently in their own homes. A lack of accessible transport, an inability to afford or to drive a car, loss of local amenities and geographical isolation, in combination with the physical limitations that may occur in later life, often lead to diminished opportunities for contact with relatives and other local community members.



Mrs Rita Phillipson

Mobile and Community Warden schemes exist in South Cambridgeshire to serve those facing this situation. Supported by Age Concern and Care Network, these schemes are organised by village groups to provide regular contact for people who want to live independently. Wardens are paid staff who are trained to understand the needs of the people they visit and to find out what other services might be available to them.

The schemes help by alerting older people to their entitlements and enhancing benefit take up. They also play a necessary role in maintaining older rural residents in their own homes for as long as possible, therefore delaying or negating the need for more expensive institutionalised health and social care packages.

And, of course, there is a social benefit to these schemes, as they help combat loneliness. One South Cambridgeshire resident said of her warden, "Well, she brightens up my morning. I wish she would stay longer but she has to go to see quite a lot of other people. She just sits and talks. She's a nice woman. I'm lucky to have someone like that calling."



Mr Kenneth Moss

Bessie Chudy from Haslingfield says of her village scheme, "I came to live here in 1969 and have seen many changes since then, and village amenities develop. I hadn't realised then how pleased I would be now with the Village Warden Scheme,



with paid staff backed by volunteers...I am so grateful to all these people who give up their time helping me and others to stay in our own homes in this lively village".

At present these schemes receive a small amount of funding from South Cambridgeshire District Council. Aside from this, the schemes are autonomous and have to raise their own funds in order to keep the charges they apply to a minimum.

The schemes are 'low level' in terms of financial cost but far from low level in terms of positive impact on the lives of older users and their families.

Mobile and Community Warden schemes are a great way for people to contribute to their community and provide reassurance to individuals and their families. But, with an ageing population, who knows when those who give help will need help themselves?