

WILTON AND DISTRICT LINK SCHEME
(Registered Charity No 1084953)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007

By

The CHAIRMAN

INTRODUCTION

The Wilton and District LINK scheme originally supported a client base comprising Wilton, Barford St Martin, Burcombe, Compton Chamberlayne, Dinton, Quidhampton, Great Wishford, Steeple Langford, Teffont, Netherhampton and South Newton. In 2006 the villages of Wylde and Stockton were added. Having become operational in February 2001 the scheme has now completed its seventh year of operation.

MANAGEMENT

The Scheme is managed by a Management Committee which met 4 times during the course of the calendar year. All Management Committee members have been CRB cleared.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM held on 13 March 2008 was well attended. Members, who heard a report from the Chairman outlining the events of the year, were satisfied with how the Scheme was running.

MODUS OPERANDI

This remains unchanged from previous years. All requests continue to be channelled through a Co-ordinator who contacts an appropriate volunteer to provide the service. An Assistant Co-ordinator has been appointed who takes over the co-ordination role whenever necessary.

FINANCE

An income and expenditure report for the year ended 31 December 2006 has been produced and audited by Mr Robin Hall who was appointed at the AGM in 2007.

The mileage allowance payable to volunteers remained at 37p per mile in 2007 but, with the agreement of the 2008 AGM, has since been increased to 40p per mile.

We are not a charging organisation. Anonymous donations from clients range from the extremely generous to the small change in the pocket. Taking only the operating costs from the accounts, the average loss per task in 2007 was 74p – a slight increase in the loss in the previous year.

Some Parish Councils provide financial support in recognition of the service that we are providing to their communities as do Wilton Town Council. Additionally fund raising activities such as coffee mornings and other donations have helped to ensure that the current financial position of the Scheme remained sound. We are presently the Mayor of Wilton's chosen charity.

PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR

During the course of the year we have met a total of 947 requests, a small decrease in the number undertaken in the previous year. 585 of these tasks were health related. 94 tasks involved care rather than a driver – this is a feature of our operation that we planning to encourage and increase.

We invested in advertising during the course of the year and raised the profile of the Charity by having a stall in Wilton Market. These initiatives paid dividends with the result that the number of volunteers increased by 12. The co-ordinator's task of matching requests with volunteer availability is now significantly improved and few tasks now cannot be met. All new volunteers have gone through the CRB process.

A newsletter is provided to clients twice per year.

We organised an outing for clients in September 2007 and we expect to organise a further outing in 2008.

THE FUTURE

The number of tasks appears to have reached a plateau but could increase a result of putting greater emphasis on the non-driving side of our operation. We will continue to advertise for new volunteers to meet this potential demand. Changes to the way in which the National Health Service is delivered (for example patient choice) continues to have little impact but we are watching this carefully.

Note

Not required by nor submitted to the Charity Commission. Copy given to Peter Wilkinson to be used for the grant application