

North Horsham Dementia Friendly Action Plan

On 6th July 2017 North Horsham Parish Council joined the Horsham District Dementia Action Alliance, an initiative led by Alzheimer's Society, which is now known as Dementia Friendly Communities. The movement had one simple aim: to bring about a society-wide response to dementia. It encouraged and supported communities and organisations across England to take practical actions to enable people to continue to live well with dementia and in the community they choose. Whilst the funding for the initiative was withdrawn by Alzheimer's Society at the end of December 2023, North Horsham Parish Council has agreed to continue with its efforts.

The National Dementia Declaration lists seven outcomes to achieve for people with dementia and their carers. In brief these are:-

1. Personal choice and control of influence over personal decisions.
2. Services that are designed to support the needs of those with dementia.
3. Support to promote independent living.
4. Being informed of where to get information.
5. Living in an enabling and supportive environment where those with dementia feel valued and understood.
6. Having a sense of belonging and being valued as part of family, community and civic life.
7. To recognize that research is delivering changes in how the disease can be managed and providing hope for the future.

North Horsham Parish Council has agreed an Action Plan for 2024-26 to support the outcomes within the National Dementia Declaration as follows:-

- To arrange for staff and Councillors to be trained as Dementia Friends and they will be encouraged to share their knowledge and techniques with others and lead by example.
- To invite people affected by dementia to visit our buildings, share their experiences and then take into consideration ways in which using the buildings could be made easier to use for those with dementia and/or other needs when undertaking any necessary work to the buildings.
- To work with other organisations to promote information that would be of use to those with dementia and other needs.
- To use a variety of ways of engaging with the community to ensure that as many residents as possible can become involved.

The challenges to delivering these outcomes are resources (especially time) and making people aware of the Parish Council's commitment to being as inclusive as possible to all residents.

Adopted 6th July 2017
Reviewed November 2020
Reviewed January 2024
Next Review January 2026