

Northamptonshire ACRE

Joanna Browning & Claire Yow

Fieldworkers



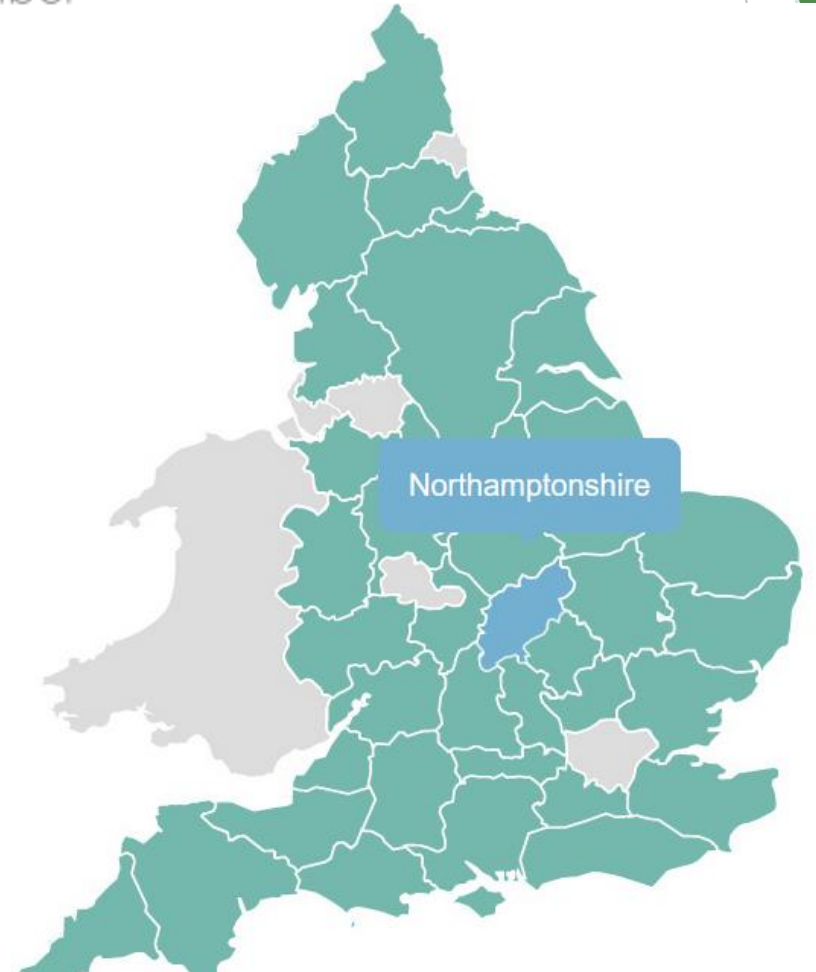
Northamptonshire ACRE

- ▶ Founded in 1947
- ▶ Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England)
- ▶ Northamptonshire's only independent charity working *exclusively* with rural communities
- ▶ Support & advice on community development: e.g. neighbourhood plans, good neighbour schemes, community buildings, community shops & pubs, bulk oil buying scheme





- 38 charitable local development agencies
- One in every county in England
- Together = the ACRE network
- Funded by Defra
- Umbrella body = “national” ACRE





RURAL WELLBEING SERVICE

Bringing
health & wellbeing advice
to rural communities



What are Good Neighbour Schemes?

- ▶ Volunteer led
- ▶ Community determined
- ▶ Low-level, reliable support
- ▶ Reassurance & confidence
- ▶ Independence & relief
- ▶ Combatting isolation & loneliness



Type of support offered

- ▶ Each scheme is different, it's what volunteers can offer
- ▶ Household tasks
- ▶ Transport
- ▶ Befriending
- ▶ Exercise
- ▶ Administrative help
- ▶ Shopping & prescriptions
- ▶ Help with pets
- ▶ Sharing skills, seeds, plants & paint



Types of support

- ▶ Each scheme will be different. A steering group will define what assistance they want to offer and within how large an area. Schemes can be in both rural and urban locations.
- ▶ Each scheme to some extent depends on the range of the skills of the volunteers.
- ▶ We have many different schemes across the county, including existing community groups, collaborations between organisations, churches, community gardens & libraries.



What makes our Good Neighbours Schemes different from other existing community groups?

- ▶ Trusted & supported by NACRE Fieldworkers
- ▶ Independent yet part of a network
- ▶ Operating safely



NLCF Good Neighbours project

- ▶ National Lottery Community Fund providing over £272,000 for 3 years
- ▶ To set up and support 30 Good Neighbour schemes across North Northants. (we are still supporting new and existing schemes in West Northants)
- ▶ Covers 2 Fieldworkers to help set up the schemes and support them
- ▶ Up to £700 available to each scheme for set up costs (North Northants and parishes in Northampton only)



Setting up a scheme

- ▶ Identify need and volunteers through survey – we can provide a template
- ▶ To establish a Good Neighbour Scheme you will need as a minimum:
 - ❑ A steering group (2 to 4 volunteers)
 - ❑ A constitution
 - ❑ Bank account
- ▶ Scheme also requires insurance, mobile phone, you might like a laptop, marketing & publicity materials, DBS checks for volunteers and training.
- ▶ Scheme set-up is between £700-1000 and ongoing costs are very low.



How NACRE can help

- ▶ Up to £700 for start up costs*
- ▶ Support
- ▶ GNS Guide booklets
- ▶ Policies & Templates
- ▶ Evaluation forms
- ▶ Network opportunities
- ▶ Mentoring
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Celebration



I already run a community group, can I become a Good Neighbour Scheme?

- ▶ We welcome existing neighbourhood groups to join the network and access help and support.
- ▶ You do not need to change the name of the group, or your community offer, all we ask is that you have a constitution and bank account (so you can access funding) and that you have a safeguarding and equal opportunities policy.
- ▶ We do not interfere or take over a group- the group will still be managed and run by the community- we are just here to help and support if needed.

YES



[www.northantsacre.org.uk/ good-neighbour-schemes](http://www.northantsacre.org.uk/good-neighbour-schemes)



joanna.browning@northantsacre.org.uk
claire.yow@northantsacre.org.uk



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