

## Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council

Brief report for Parish Council Meeting to be held on 8th February 2021.

### Dementia Friendly Communities

At a previous meeting it was agreed to find out more about "Dementia Friendly Communities with a view to considering whether the Parish Council might want to contribute to this program.

A number of responses have been received from parish and district councillors.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is a member of the Prime Ministers Challenge Group looking at how to promote and develop the community response to dementia, and as such promote town and parish councils to become involved, under their wellbeing priority.

**What is a dementia friendly community?** The Alzheimer Society uses this definition

A dementia-friendly community is a city, town or village where people with dementia are understood, respected and supported.

There is a network of Dementia Action Alliances including ones in Malvern and Worcester. It is not clear to what extent if at all these alliances focus on rural areas.

Age UK (Herefordshire and Worcestershire) offer a range of services and support <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/herefordshireandworcestershire/our-services/dementia-services/>

Dementia Friends is an Alzheimer Society initiative which offers support to organisations who wish to become involved <https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/WEBArticle?page=about-partner-organisations#.YBVjci2I2gQ>

The Malvern Hills District Council Health and Well being plan 2016/2021 and the Worcestershire County Council Joint Health and Well Being Strategy 2016/2021 both identify a focus on dementia. Both plans are due for renewal.

The Diocese of Worcester promotes dementia friendly churches <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/parish-support/accessibility/dementia-friendly-churches.php>

The University of Worcester has a Dementia Studies Association and has offered specialist services for groups during the Pandemic <https://hwchamber.co.uk/universitys-dementia-experts-provide-support-to-care-homes-and-community-groups/>

## Summary and things we might wish to consider

Dementia and the different ways it can affect people is a growing area of concern nationally. It is important that parishioners know that they can get help and where to get this help. Dementia Friendly communities aim to help make sure that people are aware as possible and importantly are in a position to provide help and support. This is why organisations like the Diocese of Worcester promote and provide their churches with support to make sure that people with dementia can take part. Many businesses nationally provide their staff with training. As well as being a personal challenge for the victim it also places considerable strains on those who live and care for them, and carers are often isolated. This is why community support groups and helplines can be important.

If the Parish Council feels that it wishes to pursue becoming a Dementia Friendly Community, the following actions may be worth considering.

1. Ask a Councillor to provide a lead on this in order to
2. Establish from the County and District Council what support may be available
3. Contact CALC to establish what support they offer and whether there are other parishes that have done this
4. If there is contact them to find out about their experience
5. NALC and The Alzheimer Society have helpful guidance that would allow the Parish Council to see what steps it could take  
<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/health/3268-how-to-become-a-dementia-friendly-community/file>
6. Having undertaken the above steps then a proposal could be developed and brought to a future meeting.

Richard Burrows

30.1.21