



Houghton Regis Helpers
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Houghton Regis Helpers – volunteer gardening

Policy Review 2019

Houghton Regis Helpers is a voluntary service and our volunteers provide occasional help as a 'safety net' for residents in need but do not take on tasks more suited to trained professionals or on a regular basis.

As part of our Good Neighbour Scheme, supporting local residents who do not have family or friends nearby to help them, our volunteers can respond to requests for occasional help with gardening. The aim of the scheme is to enable independence and self-sufficiency for residents by helping make overgrown or unkempt gardens more manageable.

Due to an increasing demand for our gardening services Houghton Regis Helpers reviewed these jobs in October 2018 and carried out a Risk Assessment.

The following policy guidelines will apply from March 2019:

- New requests for gardening will be assessed following a visit by two volunteers in accordance with the Houghton Regis Helpers initial assessment policy
- Priority will be given to the more vulnerable residents especially those whose tenancies may be at risk
- When an initial request for help with gardening is agreed the first visit by volunteers to carry out the garden maintenance is free, however when requests are for grass-cutting, hedge or shrub trimming priority will be given to residents who have their own mower and other gardening equipment
- If follow-up visits are requested, either by a new client or an existing client who already receives help with gardening, these requests will be assessed on an individual basis, however no more than three visits per growing season will be made
- At each follow-up visit a donation will be requested (subject to ability to pay). Guide to donations:
£10 if the resident provides their own gardening equipment
£20 if Houghton Regis Helpers volunteers provide the equipment, including lawn-mowers, hedge trimmers and other electrical items

NOTE: *Houghton Regis Helpers retain the right to check the safety of any equipment provided by residents and, if deemed unsafe to use, the volunteers may be required to return with our own equipment or may be unable to carry out the gardening as requested*

If a resident requires more regular garden maintenance than our volunteers are permitted to provide we can suggest a local professional gardening service or chargeable welfare service that may be able to help.

This policy will be reviewed annually

Chair's Signature:

Print Name

ERIC GALLUCCI

Adopted on:

30-10-2018

Review date:

NOV. 2019