



Houghton Regis Helpers
07557 004514

Houghton Regis Helpers – volunteer gardening Policy Review 2023

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 may 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 requests in October 2018 and carried out a Risk Assessment.

Policy review carried out in June 2023 puts into effect the following Policy guidelines

- 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 residents whose tenancies may be at risk or those who are unable to physically manage the work themselves
- Gardening requests will be restricted to hedge cutting and shrub pruning, grass cutting and strimming. **NOTE: height restrictions will apply for hedges and shrubs**
- General weeding will not be carried out. The removal of brambles, nettles and other invasive plants will be assessed on an individual basis
- When an initial request for help with gardening is agreed the first visit by volunteers to carry out the garden maintenance is free
- Priority will be given to residents who have their own mower and other gardening equipment
- Clients will be informed that our voluntary service does not include garden waste clearance
- 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 of a minimum of £10 will be requested (subject to ability to pay).

NOTE:

1. *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.*
2. *Houghton Regis Helpers reserve the right to refuse to accept gardening or other outdoor work where there is a health risk or other risk to personal safety.*

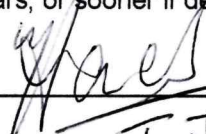
Houghton Regis Helpers committee is committed to reviewing this policy and our good practice every three years, or sooner if deemed necessary.

Chair's Signature:

Print Name

Adopted on:

Review date:



T. JONES

16 JUNE 2023

JUNE 2026
