

Croughton Parish Council
Public Forum
held prior to the opening of the Parish Council Meeting
at 7.00 p.m. on 12th March 2012

Present: Mr Nick King, Co-Ordinator, Village Networks Project
Topic: Village Networks and how it might serve Croughton

Cllr Gelder welcomed Mr King and invited him to speak.

Mr King explained that Village Networks is a new outreach project run by snvb (the South Northants Volunteer Bureau). Funding for this 3 year project was secured in November 2011 from the Big Lottery Fund on the basis of the evidence collected in a 2011 online needs survey.

The 3 key aspects of village Networks include access to debt and benefits advice as well as support for job seekers.

A bespoke mobile exhibition vehicle was being kitted out and this could make scheduled visits to villages. Experts would be on board to offer support and advice e.g. financial health checks.

A 16 seater mini bus was also available to take people to other venues to access advice. The bus would also be available for hire by voluntary groups. Village Networks would supply a MIDAS trained, CRB checked driver. Cost of hire based on driver time and mileage.

Mr King was keen to include Croughton in the programme, one visit per month. A Single Point of Contact (SPOC) was required.

Mr King was open to ideas of broadening the appeal of the project e.g. advice on Trading Standards, Bulk Oil, Safe and Sound etc.

Suggested locations for parking up the exhibition vehicle:

Outside the Co-Op
Blackbird Inn
Reading Room
Village Hall
Portway Pocket Park

Promotional media:

Newsletter (deadline 28th of the preceding month)
Website

Mr King would assess the suggested locations and keep the Clerk informed on the proposed schedule.

Mr King welcomed suggestions on specific needs for Croughton.

The Chairman thanked Mr King for his presentation.

The Forum ended at 7.25 p.m.