

Brenchley & Matfield
Neighbourhood Plan

Position Statement

March 2018

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE
FROM VENUE



Ready Call

Ready Call in the Village of Brenchley

Ready Call was originally set up in the late 1980's as a Church Outreach (All Saints Church Brenchley)

At first, a list of volunteers was available to visit the elderly or unwell. Volunteers also took people for hospital and doctors' visits as well as to the shops.

The outreach also offered babysitting.

As the population grew more elderly and government rules and regulations came into force regarding police checks and health and safety policies the volunteers began to offer less.

Ready Call still is funded from All Saints Christmas Card Appeal and any other donations. For example,

"The Weekend @ Brenchley" (Brenchley Village weekend event) has given a donation two years running towards the ReadyCall Christmas lunch.

Ready Call 2018 still takes those who need transport for medical appointments. Ready Call offers a monthly subsidised lunch for those who eat alone at The Castle Hill Pub and well as transport to and from this.

It also offers two outings a year by volunteer drivers to take the elderly for an afternoon cream tea locally.

Although the elderly population is in decline who use the Ready Call facilities there are many volunteers. Unfortunately, it is now quite obvious there is a huge need for a volunteer service and even a weekly meeting place for the elderly in the village who have dementia.

Recently families whose elderly parent/s (with dementia) live in the village contact ReadyCall hoping that we could take their parents shopping ,check their medicines, visit them or offer food on a daily basis.

There is a need for this type of care but not really the remit of the volunteers for ReadyCall. People are very neighbourly in this village but lack of social services is what families are hoping ReadyCall can fulfil. We are very aware of the growing concern of loneliness amongst the older population and know that more needs to be done in the Village.