



“strengthening community action”

## **Gedling Community and Voluntary Services (GCVS): Announcement of closure**

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As Chair of Gedling Community and Voluntary Services (GCVS) it is with great sadness that I have to tell you that GCVS will close shortly due to lack of funding. All GCVS services have now ceased with immediate effect, with the exception of the Voluntary Transport Scheme.

GCVS has almost 50 years' history of service to the community in the borough. The organisation hasn't stood still during that time, but has changed with its circumstances and as opportunities have come and gone. In the recent past we all hoped that we would merge with Rushcliffe CVS and Newark and Sherwood CVS. Unfortunately, that didn't happen due to circumstances beyond our control.

For the past few years, the services we provided, most of which have been on contracts with Councils, Clinical Commissioning Groups and others, have reduced as priorities have changed. Grant income from both the Borough Council and the County Council has also been diminishing quite rapidly. Not surprisingly, Councils generally are looking at different ways of delivering their services as their budgets are being slashed. We are therefore facing the problem of how to preserve services to people and organisations in the Gedling Borough on a rapidly dwindling budget.

Trustees have, therefore, taken the decision that GCVS will close as an independent organisation. We are looking for ways that the Voluntary Transport Scheme can be continued and are actively seeking other providers to host this service (preferably with an organisation already based in the Gedling Borough). There will be a phased closure/transfer over the next couple of months. We will publicise further details as they become available.

In short, another change is being forced on us, but it is one which the Trustees are determined to meet head on with determination and imagination. The closure is a time for some sadness and reflection, but there will be opportunities which the voluntary sector should embrace with enthusiasm, as we have in the past.



Andrew Wilson  
Chair of Trustees  
Gedling CVS  
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