

Mold – working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Town

My name is Carol Heycocks and I serve on Mold Town Council. Two years ago I read an article in the paper about a town roughly the size Mold, working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Town.

I brought this matter to Mold Town Council to see what they thought about making Mold a Dementia Friendly Town and they all agreed it would be a good idea. My husband and I went around the shops and business in town to test how the people thought and the result was very positive.

A Steering Committee was formed under the guidance of the Alzheimer's Dementia Friendly Communities Co-Ordinator therefore taking it out of the Town Councils hands, this is by far the best way of getting things done. Get in touch with your local Alzheimer's Society who can be a great help in steering you in the right direction, also they will have all the leaflets and booklets to assist.

The Steering Group consists of twelve people from all walks of life, in our case two Councillors, two managers of local shops, a nursing home supervisor, a police officer, office worker, a member of the Salvation Army and three retired people - a very good mixture.

We have held a number of Dementia Awareness meetings in local coffee shops who were very welcoming and lasted approx. one hour and held at 5.30pm so shop workers were able to attend and they didn't have to go home and come back again.

A form was drafted by the Communities Coordinator for the Steering Group and handed to the various shops and organizations who have to pledge to do five of the items on the form to prove they are Dementia Friendly - e.g Provide a chair or a quiet place where a person living with Dementia can go with their carer to maybe gather themselves together if they so wish - good signage for toilets / car parks making sure all their workers are Dementia aware - change the mat at the entrance (if it's a black one for instance) as certain people living with Dementia can sometimes think it's a black hole and refuse to enter the shop.

When they have completed these requirements a person from the Steering group will visit to ensure the actions stated on the form have been fulfilled and in place. If they have, they are awarded a Dementia Awareness Certificate in a frame to display in their window/counter and a sticker for their window. This lasts for 12 months and then we go through the whole process again, because we are always working towards Dementia awareness.

We make a big event of our presentation of certificates and hold them in a good local venue and provide tea/ cakes and music and generally have a good time - we also invite the press which gives good coverage in the papers.

We have also made presentations to all schools, primary and senior, Air and Army Cadets, Rainbows and Brownies, Mold Town Council, Fire Station and in a couple of weeks time we are giving a presentation in Church during the Sunday service.

We also have two Dementia Friendly Cafes in Mold . This is to ensure as many people as possible are Dementia aware.

Mold has been awarded the status of working towards a Dementia Friendly Town.

Carol Heycocks, April 2017