



## Merstham Neighbours

*Friendly practical help  
for the people of Merstham*

### PROFILE

**MERSTHAM NEIGHBOURS** is a new charity that provides community transport, practical help and/or visits to local people of any age living in the RH1 3 postcode area who cannot get the support elsewhere. They are run by a committee of 7 local people with a membership/volunteer base of 52.

### WHAT HELP THEY NEEDED

As a new organisation, they needed help setting themselves up as community project, identifying and securing funding and recruiting volunteers. Once the governance and various systems were in place, they needed further help launching new scheme including publicity.

### HOW WE HELPED

Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service helped organise various meetings to establish need and interest from both users and volunteers.

We assisted in finding committee members & establishing a committee and devising a suitable constitution. We also helped with:

- \* Information re insurance
- \* Identifying and securing initial funding and helping with writing new bids for further funding
- \* Organising promotional events, designing and printing leaflets and producing posters.
- \* Promoting the scheme to the wider community in Reigate & Redhill via our newsletters, at network lunch meetings and at the 2009 Volunteer Fair.
- \* Recruiting over 50 new volunteers, organising volunteer training and producing volunteer ID card. Advising & assisting implementation re best practice for recruiting & managing volunteers
- \* Made the committee aware of opportunities & community events for promoting and advertising the scheme.



### BETTER PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE?

The committee members feel far more confident and clear about what they want to achieve and how to do it. Systems and procedures are well in place for continued growth both in demand and in membership/volunteers.

### WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF WE HAD NOT HELPED?

It would have taken much longer to get set up with potentially greater costs incurred for printing and administration. They may not have been able to recruit all the volunteers they needed and would not be so well known to other community agencies especially outside of Merstham. They would have struggled to get more funding.