

Boxford Community Car Scheme

Over the last 12 months, we have taken 458 people mainly from Boxford, but including some Hadleigh patients, to medical appointments to Hadleigh Health Centre, Ipswich Hospital, Colchester Hospital, West Suffolk Hospital, Nuffield Hospital in Ipswich, New Medica in Ipswich and various specialist clinics around the County, not to mention Opticians, Dentists and Physiotherapists. This is an increase on previous years but not as many as I feared after the closure of our surgery last June. Most people appear to have made their own arrangements for collecting prescriptions which I imagined would be a problem. The Hadleigh Health Centre has been able to offer swift appointments through the Anima technology for those with their own transport although this causes the Car Scheme problems as finding available volunteer drivers at short notice is a problem. Our drivers are not sitting around waiting for a call! They all have their own lives to live!

New drivers are always welcome. There is no formal commitment to set days or hours but just a willingness to offer lifts if available. Patients pay 45p per mile for their journeys which is the most the HMRC allow us to charge whatever the price of petrol/diesel is.