

9 - March 2024

Summary

An email from the public was received asking what opportunities might be available locally (Lyneham and Bradenstoke) for volunteer work.

The email was circulated to the Council and picked up by Cllr Green.

To be discussed further by the Parish Council on the 12th March 2024

Email History

Email 28 February 2024 – (Sent to the Council)

Volunteers at Lyneham Library have mentioned that recently people from Afghanistan (with the right to permanently resettle in the UK) who are being housed nearby have been in the library asking where they can volunteer in the Lyneham community. They don't want to volunteer in the library – I'm not sure if this is because they are likely to move elsewhere in the near future? However, they are keen to support Lyneham and give something back to the community whilst they are here.

The volunteers aren't really sure where to direct them. Do you know if there are any groups within Lyneham that might welcome some extra help currently or which organisations and groups the volunteers could direct them to. I think the volunteers are aware of some places like the church and the foodbank, but they aren't really sure. Do you have any advise about how the library can support these people. Would the Community Centre at MOD Lyneham would be a good place for them to try as a starting point to get involved and help out in the community.

Email 28 February 2024 – (SG - Sent to the Council)

Dear all

Kay and Bob Ashlin are the main contacts I have for the Afghani support network. Having spoken to Kay today, she expressed surprise that they should be looking for volunteer work. Bob is going to speak to [REDACTED] (who is the self-appointed leader) over the weekend to better understand what has occurred. He is in a better position than I to direct them where they might be useful.

There are no volunteering opportunities in Lyneham itself, to my knowledge. I initially considered volunteering to tidy the Parish alongside the Handyman, but I fear we would run into legal issues, such as H&S, and/or cultural ones. The idea of litter picking crossed my mind, but this might be seen as inappropriate in their culture. So no - nothing in Lyneham.