

Mark praises the Olney Dementia Project

During my visit to the Olney Dementia project, I was fortunate enough to spend time with the group and in doing so, learnt that the Friends of Cobbs Garden Surgery are working hard to establish a 'Dementia Friendly Community' in Olney. This has been achieved by working closely with local people living with dementia and with the Alzheimer's Society, Age UK and Carers Milton Keynes.

I am particularly pleased to see what's been accomplished so far. The project is clearly responding to David Cameron's announcement of his Dementia Challenge, asking all communities to become dementia friendly by March 2015.

Older people, including those with dementia, are often more frequent customers of high street shops and most wish to continue to remain independent using the local facilities. Helping people to continue to manage everyday activities, such as shopping and banking, reduces the need for them to rely on family or carers who are more likely to go to out of town stores.

Participating businesses are designated as 'Dementia Friendly' and will be asked to display an especially designed sign and then be listed in related publicity. I am encouraging business owners to support the project, which naturally brings communities closer together and ensures vulnerable people know they can go about their day with relative ease.

On behalf of Project Worker, Joy Oehlman , I ask that businesses get behind the innovative project and email Joy jao1806@hotmail.co.uk or write c/o Cobbs Garden Surgery to add your support.