

Shopmobility Market Harborough

Shopmobility Market Harborough is delighted to announce that the **National Lottery Community Fund** (NLCF) has granted the local independent charity a grant of £9,000 towards its running costs.

The charity enables the people of Market Harborough and surrounding villages to remain mobile by offering affordable short or long term hire of mobility equipment to people who struggle with their mobility. This can be due to illness, injury, operation or long-term disability. Shopmobility Market Harborough currently has approximately 120 members who benefit from the scheme, enabling them to maintain their independence, participate in activities and enjoy the local community, preventing them from becoming isolated.

Equipment can be used daily from the office at Roman Way Community Centre during opening hours, used from home and taken for days out or on holiday. They offer a service whereby members are met off buses with a scooter, so that they can then use the mobility scooter to enable them to do their shopping, attend medical appointments, meet up with friends at a local cafe etc.

With the help of volunteers, the charity offers an affordable repair service to the general public for easy to fix problems such as punctures, and also carries out full services on mobility scooters, wheelchairs and mobility aids. Amanda, the Scheme Co-ordinator, commented "We believe that people who have a reduced income for whatever reason, deserve the right to remain mobile and independent, and Shopmobility Market Harborough enables that to happen".

Donations of used mobility aids, including mobility scooters, wheelchairs, 3 and 4 wheeled walkers, etc. are always welcome. The charity services them, and if necessary repairs them, and then either adds them to the fleet, or sells them at affordable prices, either direct to members, via Facebook or Ebay. As well as providing affordable mobility aids that are fit for purpose, i.e. working brakes etc., it is another income stream for the charity, and also helps to save the earth's resources, as it is a good way of recycling equipment that could otherwise end up in landfill.

The charity is able to give free advice to anyone who is needing a mobility aid, without the strong sales pitch that some commercial organisations give. "We have time to listen, to be supportive, to talk through the options and advise" Amanda commented. "The charity has had a tough time since Covid struck, and this funding will enable us to continue to help the people of Market Harborough. We would like to thank everyone who plays the National Lottery - without them there would be no grant."

Shopmobility Market Harborough can be contacted on 0116 305 2343, or by e-mail: info@harboroughshopmobility.org, and is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m.-3.00 p.m.