



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2M

The Prime Minister

The Dementia-Friendly Rural Communities Guide is an excellent, practical guide for Parish and Town Councils to help make their communities even more welcome and inclusive. Full of ideas and case studies that will help Councils make small, impactful steps towards creating more dementia friendly communities, it will help make the UK an even better place for those living with dementia.

Living with dementia is challenging at the best of times, but I appreciate that those living in rural communities can suffer extreme loneliness without the right support. Committed local volunteers — heroes of their communities — can be the first to recognise those in need of support. By providing regular contact and involvement in local groups and activities, those living with dementia can remain active and valuable participants in their communities. This can help to dispel the stigma that is still, all too often, associated with this disease.

The Government is committed to continuing our support for the Dementia Friendly Communities programme. I was deeply moved by this report in its description of people living with dementia in rural settings, and was impressed by how practical the report was in its approach to solutions that enable dementia families to remain active and valued within their communities. I wholly endorse this report, and hope it inspires people across the UK to create their own vibrant and inclusive Rural Dementia Communities.

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