

Free minibus service for the residents of Downswood needing to reach their local doctor's surgery



County Councillor Gary Cooke together with Helen Whately MP have been working to secure improved access to health services for the residents of Downswood ever since it became apparent that appointments would no longer be available at the Spires Medical Centre in Chiltern Close.

Working in partnership with a local minibus service, Club Taxis, County Councillor Gary Cooke will be funding the provision of a mini bus operating on Tuesday and Thursday mornings each week. The provision of this service will be free to residents and the service will be launched on the 7th March 2017 and will initially run until the end of April when it will be reviewed.

Timetable from 7th March to end of April 2017

Day	Time	Pick Up	Drop off
Tuesday	10 am	Spires Medical Centre	Shepway Surgery
Tuesday	10.30 am	Spires Medical Centre	Grove Green Surgery
Tuesday	11am	Shepway Surgery	Spires Medical Centre
Tuesday	11.30 am	Grove Green Surgery	Spires Medical Centre
Thursday	10 am	Spires Medical Centre	Grove Green Surgery
Thursday	10.30 am	Spires Medical Centre	Shepway Surgery
Thursday	11am	Grove Green Surgery	Spires Medical Centre
Thursday	11.30am	Shepway Surgery	Spires Medical Centre

On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, the surgeries will reserve 3 appointments with a doctor lasting 10 minutes each as well as a nurse for patients using the mini bus. If you require an appointment you will need to call the surgery by midday on the day before the appointment. The service provider will call each surgery to get the number of patients which require picking up.

County Councillor, Gary Cooke stated "I am delighted to be able to provide this short term interim solution and depending on the outcome of the election in May, I hope to be able to provide support in the longer term."

In the longer term, it is hoped that a new surgery will be provided in the area and County Councillor Gary Cooke continues to make the case that this is a necessity going forward.