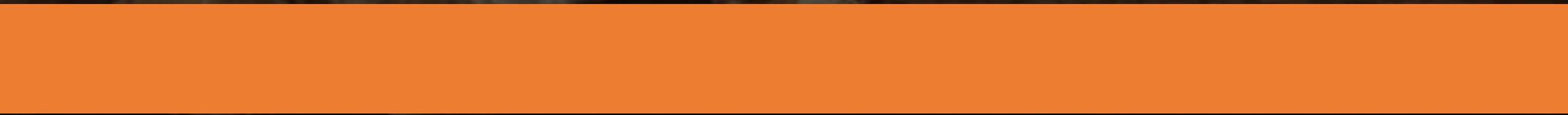




THE 'HAPPY TO
CHAT' BENCH
SIT HERE IF YOU DON'T MIND
SOMEONE STOPPING TO SAY
HELLO

HAPPY TO CHAT



- 
- HAPPY TO CHAT RISK ASSESSMENTS/RULES/PLANNING INFORMATION TASKS
 - Happy to chat is an initiative to combat loneliness.
 - Design a logo and a QR code that would have instructions and safety advice.
 - Liaise with cafes and place on benches in certain locations subject to permissions
 - Source a number of locations.
 - Create a safe system of management.
 - Risk assessments.
 - Conversation topics/tips and further steps to take.
 - Not burdensome/limited liabilities to the Town Council.
- 



'HAPPY TO CHAT'

An initiative to combat loneliness.



A full list of terms and conditions can be found on www.happytochat.uk or by scanning the QR code with your device

THIS TABLE IS RESERVED FOR:

'Friendships about to happen'

Sit here if you are happy to have a conversation with a stranger!

Version 1



'HAPPY TO CHAT'

An initiative to combat loneliness.

RULES

- ❖ Treat all 'Chatters' equally regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation or religion
- ❖ Please check that the person you are joining is happy for you to do so.
- ❖ Please be polite and courteous at all times.
- ❖ Do not make derogatory, racist or sexist remarks
- ❖ Please respect personal space
- ❖ Please leave the table if requested to do so by your companion or a member of staff.
- ❖ If you feel more comfortable – create a code word that you can use to get assistance from a member of staff

TOPICS AND TIPS

- The Weather – we are in Britain after all!
- Sports, Theatre, Films, Art, Music you like!
- 'Silence is Golden' sometimes
- Share your opinion don't force it
- Avoid giving personal information
- Check the website for next steps: www.happytochat.uk

If you need assistance at any time, please speak to a member of staff



'HAPPY TO CHAT'

An initiative by Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council.



A full list of terms and conditions can be found on www.happytochat.uk or by scanning the QR code with your device

THIS TABLE IS RESERVED FOR:

'Friendships about to happen'

Sit here if you are happy to have a conversation with a stranger!

Version 2



'HAPPY TO CHAT'

An initiative by Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council.

RULES

- ❖ Treat all 'Chatters' equally regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation or religion
- ❖ Please check that the person you are joining is happy for you to do so.
- ❖ Please be polite and courteous at all times.
- ❖ Do not make derogatory, racist or sexist remarks
- ❖ Please respect personal space
- ❖ Please leave the table if requested to do so by your companion or a member of staff.
- ❖ If you feel more comfortable – create a code word that you can use to get assistance from a member of staff

What shall we talk about?

- The Weather – we are in Britain after all!
- Your interests and hobbies
- Sports, Theatre, Films, Art, Music you like!
- 'Silence is Golden' sometimes
- Share your opinion don't force it
- Avoid giving personal information
- Check the website for next steps: www.happytochat.uk

If you need assistance at any time, please speak to a member of staff

Happy to Chat

Introduction:

- The Happy to Chat Scheme hopes to make a positive contribution to a strong and safe community and recognises the right of every individual to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- This policy seeks to ensure that the Happy to Chat Scheme undertakes its responsibilities with regards to protection of vulnerable adults and will respond to concerns appropriately. This policy establishes a framework to support the practices and clarifies expectations.
- The aim of this is to provide a safe space for lonely people to meet up and be able to talk together. Initially this is a table in a café but later may include benches in outdoor spaces. 'Chatters' will sit at the table and be joined by those wishing to chat. The tables will be clearly marked and rules for engagement will be on a leaflet on each table and a QR code will also be around to scan the full terms and conditions. The proprietor, a designated member of staff, or a volunteer would ideally, be available to support the 'Chatters' as a liaison to the scheme and ensure the rules are not being abused. They would also be available to hear and log complaints and issues.
- The expected demographic for this scheme is likely to be primarily, older people but anyone from the community is welcome

Reporting and recording:

Any incidents in the first instance should be reported to the relevant liaison in the venue. We will provide an appropriate form for this. These will then need to be sent to the Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council office for logging (and actioning if necessary.) Any amendments to procedure will be sent back to the venues as an update. Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council will keep a file of all incidents and accidents connected with the scheme.





Safeguarding Statement:

It is understood that at times, the people who engage with these services at the tables, might need protecting from harm, abuse, exploitation, or neglect. Our organisation has a responsibility for safeguarding the people who participate and work within this initiative and we want to be proactive and responsive towards safeguarding concerns. We will work closely with proprietors, staff and volunteers to create a collaborative and standard approach to recognizing, recording and reporting concerns relating to abuse.

Codes of conduct:

Liaison: As stated, these could be a café proprietor, member of staff or volunteer. Their duties would be to promote the scheme and exercise a duty of care to the users.

They should:

- Treat all customers equally regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation or religion
- Please check the person at the Happy to Chat table is aware of its purpose and is happy for someone to potentially join them.
- Please be polite and courteous at all times.
- Advise and assist a customer on codewords and listen for them in case a customer needs assistance.

Customers: The draft rules for participants in the scheme are as follows:

- Treat all 'Chatters' equally regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation or religion
- Please check that the person you are joining is happy for you to do so.
- Please be polite and courteous at all times.
- Do not make derogatory, racist or sexist remarks
- Please respect personal space
- Please leave the table if requested to do so by your companion or a member of staff.
- If you feel more comfortable – create a code word that you can use to get assistance from a member of staff

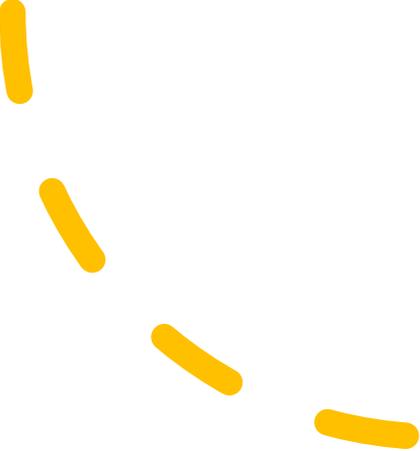


Codewords:

Codewords are a device used to request assistance without alerting a potential threat. This need to be set up between a member of staff and customer prior to any meeting. It should be a word or phrase that may not sound out of place in the environment but is obvious to the member of staff (Who may need to write the word or phrase down!).



Risks

- Inappropriate remarks and comments.
 - Refusal to leave the table when asked.
 - Sharing too much personal information
 - Scamming or fraudulent activities
 - Stalking or predatory behaviour.
- 

Conversation Tips and Topics:

- The Weather – we are in Britain after all!
- Share your opinion don't force it
- Silence is golden sometimes
- Sports, Theatre , Films, Art, music you like.
- Avoid giving too much personal information until you know the person better.
- Your Host is.....And located.....
- Next steps – clubs etc