



Communities and Environment Fund – Application Overview

Name of Applicant	Tinkers Bridge Residents Association
Date of application	04/06/2023
Name of project	Seaside Coach Trips
Amount Requested	£981

Project Overview (what is the project, how has it been determined that it is needed, what does success look like?)

Applicants comments:

We would like to run seaside trips to Hunstanton and Skegness during school holidays in August.

We put a poll on Facebook to see what residents would like to happen and seaside trips were popular. We also spoke to people at events to see what they would like to see happen.

Officers Comments:

How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents? (what change will happen? What happens if we don't fund it? What considerations have been made to sustainability?)

Applicants comments:

It would help families and people that don't drive have a day out that would not be able to afford to without us putting these trips at reduced cost. It would benefit a range of age groups not just one particular age group.

By not putting on these trips families and elderly might not have another option to go on any outings and make memories.

Officers Comments:

The trips will allow a total of 106 residents to enjoy a trip to the seaside.

Are the finances reasonable? Has other funding been applied for? Is there a charging policy?

Applicants comments:

Tickets would be sold to Tinkers Bridge residents, if they do not all sell we will open up the other estates within the Woughton Parish.

Officers Comments:

The total cost of the trips are £1,695. The RA is requesting nearly 60% of the total cost of the trips (£981) with the remaining £714 being funded through ticket sales.

Officer Assessment

Have we received 3 quotes for all items? Yes No X (no others available)

Have we received all governance documents? Yes No

Have we got two independent referees details included? Yes X No

Officer Recommendation and overview

Assuming the application is approved in full, the trips represent good value for money for residents (approximately £6.74 each)

Which fund would this application come from? Community and Environment Fund

How much is currently in that fund? £10,740

For completion after scoring

Scorer No	Scorer Name	Total Score	Any other comments
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Average Score from all scorers:

Applications that score an average of below 15 will not be awarded.

Applications that score between 16 – 24 will be discussed

Applications that score an average of over 25 will be awarded (except in exceptional circumstances)

Outcome from Committee

Awarded in full Awarded in part (amount awarded) Not awarded Deferred

If deferred, please explain what actions are needed:

Date for resubmission (if applicable)



Office Use Only
Date Application
Minute Number

Woughton Community Council

Communities and Environment Fund Application Form

Please read the Guidance Notes prior to completing this application form. These are available on our website or on request from our offices.

Name of Organisation Tinkers Bridge Residents Association	Date of Application 4/6/23
Status of Organisation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Charity	State Registered Charity Number
<input type="checkbox"/> Company Limited by Guarantee	State Company Number

Contact Information for the Organisation	
Contact Name (someone who has full knowledge of this application)	Position Treasurer
Address	
Email Address	
Website	

In the event that your application is successful please state who the grant cheque should be made payable to / please provide bank account details so a direct payment can be made	
Payable to	
Sort Code	
Account Number	

Chair	Telephone / Email
Treasurer	Telephone / Email
Secretary	Telephone / Email

Please provide details of 2 **independent** referees (this cannot be anyone related to or living at the same address as the applicant) who has knowledge of the project. This person should be easily contactable and must agree on amounts.

Name

Address

Email Address

Telephone Number

Name

Address

Email Address

Telephone Number

What are the aims and objectives of your organisation? Please provide full details of your organisation, the work you do and the outcomes you aim to achieve

To build community spirit.

To make residents feel inclusive.

Tinkers Bridge has many vulnerable and disadvantaged families, who without the residents association putting on trips and events would not be able to afford to do things.

Amount Requested: **£981**

What do you require the grant for: Please provide details of the project, giving as much information as possible to enable the panel to fully assess the application.

We would like to run seaside trips to Hunstanton and Skegness during school holidays in August.

How have you identified a need for the project (scoring criteria 1)? What consultation, if any, have you undertaken? How did you do this? What were the responses?

We put a poll on Facebook to see what residents would like to happen and seaside trips were popular. We also spoke to people at events to see what they would like to see happen.

How will the project improve the quality of life for people who live in, work or visit the Woughton Parish area (scoring criteria 3, 6 and 7)? (Peartree Bridge, Eaglestone, Leadenhall, Coffee Hall, Beanhill, Netherfield, Tinkers Bridge, Redmoor and Bleak Hall). Please provide as much information as possible – how will this project change people’s lives? What impact will it have? What do you want the project to achieve? If applicable, how will it impact upon the environment?

It would help families and people that do don’t drive have a day out that would not be able to afford to without us putting these trips at reduced cost. It would benefit a range of age groups not just one particular age group.

What are the consequences of not undertaking this project? Please provide a full explanation showing how this will impact on the proposed beneficiaries?

By not putting on these trips families and elderly might not have another option to go on any outings and make memories.

How will you make this project sustainable in the future, to reduce dependency on grant funding (scoring criteria 2)?

For projects that focus on the environment (scoring criteria 7), please provide details of how the project will make a positive change / impact.

When will the project / activity start and finish?

August 2023

Who will benefit from the grant (scoring criteria 3)?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Older adults (55yrs +) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Young People (12-18yrs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men | <input type="checkbox"/> Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The whole community | <input type="checkbox"/> BAMER communities |

How many beneficiaries of the project/activity reside or work in the Woughton Parish area? **Tickets would be sold to Tinkers Bridge residents, if they do not all sell we will open up the other estates within the Woughton Parish**

How have you reached this figure? Please explain the process you used

Woughton Community Council priority is poverty, with 3 focus strands. Please tick which is appropriate to your project (scoring criteria 6)

Youth

Food

Advice

How does your project meet the priorities identified above?

Project Finances (scoring criteria 5)

Please give a breakdown of the total cost of the project for which you are applying, and how much you are requesting from Woughton Community Council

Item	Cost	Amount requested
Hunstanton	£ 820	£ 463
Skegness	£ 875	£ 518
	£	£
	£	£
	£	£
	£	£
	£	£
Total	£ 1695	£ 981

Do you expect the activity/project to generate an income? Yes No

If so, how much? £ **714**

How will the income be used? **It will be used to pay the remainder of the cost for the coach.**

How will you raise any outstanding balance?

Have you made an application to any other funders for this project/activity, or do you intend to? If so, please tell us who they are, how much you have requested and when you expect a response.

Funder	Amount requested	Amount awarded	Response date
	£	£	

	£	£	
	£	£	
	£	£	

How will you know if the project has been successful? If your project is successful, you will be asked to provide an evaluation, so please consider how you will show success – testimonials, feedback forms, statistics (number of people, demographics etc) could all be used to support this.

I confirm that the information contained within this form is correct and that I have attached the required documents

Name

Position

Signature

Date

Please note, you may also be asked to give a short presentation to the Services Committee or at the Chairs Awards on how the grant has benefitted the local community.

By returning this form you will have given permission under the Data Protection Act 2018 to have your details registered on the Woughton Community Council database. Woughton Community Council will only use this information to provide you with details of schemes and events which may be of interest to you. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive this information



Communities and Environment Fund – Application

Overview

Name of Applicant	Moorfriends
Date of application	06/06/2023
Name of project	Twinlakes Community Trip
Amount Requested	£2,425.95

Project Overview (what is the project, how has it been determined that it is needed, what does success look like?)

Applicants comments:

A day trip to Twinlakes is a popular choice by our community. We have been promoting across our sessions at Moorlands. Ie. bingo, tabletops and coffee mornings. We have listened to the community and this is what is preferred. Success would be to include families that wouldn't be able to afford this trip. We are in the top 10% of the UK's most deprived areas so this event would be so welcome. This is a low cost trip for our community however we will provided discretionaries for those in need.

Officers Comments:

How will the project improve the quality of life for local residents? (what change will happen? What happens if we don't fund it? What considerations have been made to sustainability?)

Applicants comments:

This trip will help with social inclusion, people's wellbeing and community cohesion. Our parish is very diverse and we would like to celebrate this to get everyone together. This will provide a low cost opportunity for local people to attend a place of interest that would normally be out of their price range. If we do not get the funding it would be a real shame for our community as they really look forward to the Moorlands trips.

The trip will benefit the Woughton parish area who will go on the trip must be with Moorlands Family Centre catchment area. We can estimate a high percentage of Woughton parish people.

To provide something to look forward to, low cost trip with family and friends. To improve on people's wellbeing and to address isolation and inclusion. It would benefit the whole community.

Officers Comments:

Moorlands Family Centre covers the residential areas of Beanhill, Coffee Hall, Leadenhall and Oldbrook, so the majority of attendees will be from Woughton Parish.

Are the finances reasonable? Has other funding been applied for? Is there a charging policy?

Applicants comments:

Moorfriends actively raise funds to roll out events like these, we can contribute £500.

We have not applied for any other funding.

The £500 that Moorfriends have applied for will cover lunches for all attendees. A healthy, balanced packed lunch will be provided.

Officers Comments:

Moorfriends have requested £2425.95 in total, which breaks down as £1,050 for the coach, and £1,375 for the entry tickets. In addition, Moorfriends are providing £500 (17% of total cost) for packed lunches.

If awarded in full, the amount requested represents approximately one quarter of the remaining budget for the year 2023-24.

Officer Assessment

Have we received 3 quotes for all items? Yes X No

Have we received all governance documents? Yes X No

Have we got two independent referees details included? Yes X No

Officer Recommendation and overview

Which fund would this application come from? Communities and Environment Fund

How much is currently in that fund? £10,740

For completion after scoring

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Average Score from all scorers:

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Applications that score an average of over 25 will be awarded (except in exceptional circumstances)

Outcome from Committee

Awarded in full Awarded in part (amount awarded) Not awarded Deferred

If deferred, please explain what actions are needed:

Date for resubmission (if applicable)

Agenda item: SC 08/23

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Monday 19th June 2023

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To inform the committee of an opportunity for some collaborative work with the City Discovery Centre.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the committee notes the report and agrees to the Council Manager progressing discussions with the sender of the message below.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Dear Steve

Shane Downer from MK City Council gave me your name as a contact. I'm getting in touch from the City Discovery Centre at Bradwell Abbey because I am trying to reach out to residents' associations or local organisations in the older parts of the new city estates (e.g. Netherfield, Beanhill) in order to see if there would be any interest in us providing a supper club session for them as part of our Good City project to animate the original masterplan for Milton Keynes.

The Good City project is aiming to introduce the Milton Keynes community to the original planning and design principles of the new city by revisiting the original masterplan from 1970 and inspiring people to consider what they feel is important and special about MK. More information about the project can be found on our website here: <https://www.mkcdc.org.uk/current-projects/good-city>

As I mentioned, the project focuses on The Plan for Milton Keynes and our supper clubs will be sparking conversation and helping people form opinions on what they want to retain for the future. The sessions will be led by Studio Chehade and will be creative and interactive, with discussion and activity over some food.

Following on from these sessions, we'll be holding wider workshops for participants to feed into a community artwork and exhibitions that utilise the outputs. There will also be activities and re-enactments for younger audiences in the public libraries.

Do you think your local area would like a supper club session? And is this something I could organise with yourselves, or is there another contact you think would be better? The sessions are fully funded so are free and we'd be happy to run one at a time and venue that is convenient (we can pay any venue hire costs), or host one here at Bradwell Abbey. The sessions have spaces for up to ten people and food is provided. We will be filming some sessions in order to create a video that can document the process and some sessions will also have an artist present to draw

activities as they happen. If this sounds OK and you're interested then let me know and we can arrange something in the next few months.

Just to make clear, this is not a City Council project, we're an independent educational charity that has been helping the local community discover its history and heritage for over 40 years. If you have any questions then let me know, I'm happy to chat on the phone as well.

Best wishes
Catherine

Catherine McIntyre, *Archivist*
Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre
Alston Drive, Bradwell Abbey
Milton Keynes, MK13 9AP

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

None.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 09/23

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Monday 19th June 2023

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update the committee on the Community Centres, as part of the review of the services programme.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the committee notes the report and tables any questions or queries.**
- 2. That the Council Manager and relevant officers will provide a further update in line with the programme of reports.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

As part of the annual schedule of reports, June is the Community Centre update month – this report covers the main issues surrounding the centres, gives an overview of relevant statistics and makes some proposals for the future. This report does not include any information about Chambers, the Wellbeing Room or No 95 – this is primarily due to the inclusion of No 95 with a youth report and the lack of fiscal impact of the Hub spaces.

Finances

Centre	Income	Expenditure	Variance
CHMP	£9,956.75	£16,875.84	-£6919.09
EAC	£32,768.39	£22,190.83	
	£10577.56		
NFMP	£23,085.00	£19,734.13	£3350.87
TBMP	£14,854.00	£36,930.62	-
	£22,076.62*		
TOTALS	£80,664.14	£95,731.42	-
	£15,067.28		

It should be noted that TBMP had a high level of expenditure that was a 'one off' in terms of the roof replacement – this was £26,333.58. If this expense is removed from the overall costs, the variance for TBMP is £4,841.02 in surplus.

Equally, if that expenditure is removed, the overall variance is £11,266.30 in surplus.

It should be noted that these costs do not include any staffing or organisational costs, but only direct costs of the centres (e.g. utilities, rates, repairs, equipment, cleaning).

It should also be noted that due to non-compliance until this year, there were significant charges levelled to bring centres up to date in terms of safety. These will be significantly lower in future years, but to ensure compliance, WCC will need to commit to regular expenditure that increases our regular spends.

It is also notable that the 'free' sessions (i.e. those sessions where there is no charge made, such as community cafes, warm rooms, etc.) are considerable and do not form part of the figures above. In total, there are almost 200 free sessions (varying lengths – from a couple of hours to all day) across the parish in the year. Looking at each centre:

- CHMP - café, larder, arts, yoga, Games Night, meetings (occasional), residents' events = approx. 25 hours per week.
- NFMP – café, meetings, youth, RA sessions = 8 hours per week
- EAC – café, RA events and meetings, youth, Phoenix Arts = 13 hours per week
- TBMP – café, larder, community meal, RA meetings and events = 18 hours per week

If these were to be included in the annual 'income', based on the minimum rates (£15 p/h), this would equate to an additional income of £46,000 (based on a 48 week year).

Staffing

The current staffing model is that each centre is allocated 10 hours per week, with EAC having 16 (due to the additional demands on that role). Each centre has a dedicated caretaker, with some bank cover where necessary and some flexibility in working location. The cost of this staffing is approximately £47,000 per year basic, with additional hours for annual leave/ sickness cover being extra – a £50,000 expenditure would be around right.

Staffing is relatively stable, after a period of significant change and currently the team is delivering well.

Overall Finances

As can be seen from the above, the centres are making a small surplus, if no staffing or organisational costs are included. If these costs are included, there remains a significant gap between income and expenditure.

Total income:	£80,664.00
Total expenditure:	£116,397.84
Balance	- £35,733.84

Organisational costs £35,000*
(this includes some staffing costs (BRO, RFO, Finance, etc.) plus a contribution towards insurance, IT, phones, systems, etc.)

This suggests that there is a subsidy of around £70,000 per year towards the community centres. The need to increase usage and drive a higher level of occupation is clear.

Positives

Bookings are increasing and on the whole, people are happy with the service that they receive – the centres are reviewed by users and feedback has been positive:

- I'm there every week and the staff are brilliant and the space is clean and accommodating (EAC)
- A great space with kitchen at a very reasonable hourly rate to hire (EAC)
- Friendly and the food is very nice. I wouldn't have got through some really bad times without this great community centre (CHMP)
- Large space and affordable (CHMP)
- Surprisingly clean and is a good size for a small event (NFMP)
- Cheap hall hire, take a look (NFMP)
- Community spirit is number one here, I've never felt so at home and welcomed. Xx (TBMP)
- Fantastic space for a party. 🍷 ... (TBMP)

Google reviews show pretty decent scores(out of 5):

- 3.8 for CH and EAC,
- 4.4 in NF and
- 4.8 for TB.

The booking system is better than the previous one, but remains challenging at times!

People who do use often want to be there for longer, which is both a positive and negative – extending the latest hours would mean some would be happier, but would bring with it a whole heap of additional challenges.

Challenges (via the team)

- Balancing Service with Income
- Getting local families to hire our buildings
- Upgrading/updating the buildings and the facilities
- Access
- Parking
- Storage – lots of requests from hirers / limited storage possible.
- CCTV
- Monitoring bookings e.g. how many people attend
- Having invoices paid on time
- Pulling reports with detailed, accurate, and helpful information

Future Plans

There is a programme of improvements planned, once funding is confirmed. It is hoped that this will make significant difference to the internal aspects of the centres, with refurbished toilets, a new kitchen in Eaglestone, better lighting and internal décor, new ceilings where necessary, etc.

There will also be changes to the frequency and focus of the external décor and surrounds, with landscaping and regular external cleaning taking place.

There is currently a push on publicity around the centres to try and make sure that particularly local people are aware of the centres and the ability to use them.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

None.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 10/23

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Monday 19th June 2023

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update this committee on preparations and proposals for community centre improvements.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee begins to consider approaches that they would like to see to 'cover' any closures and suspension of services during that time.**
- 3. That the committee agrees to any additional funds that may be needed to enable ongoing provision and decide what is a reasonable level to allocate.**
- 4. That the Council Manager and Ward Councillors continue to chase up MKCC for the agreed funding to enable works to start.**
- 5. That this paper and any recommendations are shared with the Services Committee at their next meeting, to ensure that service provision can also be managed effectively.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Council has agreed to fund a series of improvements across the community buildings owned or managed by WCC. This includes in the first instance, Coffee Hall and Tinkers Bridge, with funding agreed by MKCC. Whilst this funding has been agreed in principle, WCC has yet to have any formal confirmation of this and continues to await confirmation.

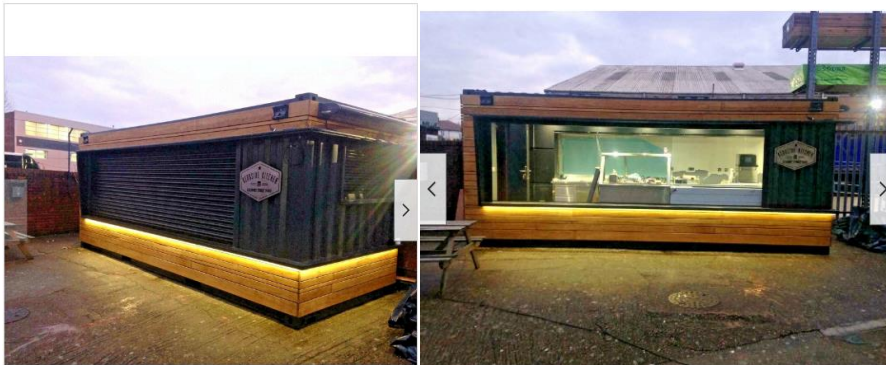
In addition to the above, agreement has also been reached that a large funding bid will be made to enable the refurbishment of Netherfield Meeting Place – this bid will be prepared over the summer for submission in September and will, potentially, include a series of bids to enable the courts, parking, etc. to be improved, alongside the centre itself.

Concerns have been raised with regard to the potential impact of closure of the two initial centres, as these host a series of community events each week which are considered essential – the community café, community meals, community larders all take place within CHMP and TBMP and, with closures of each likely to be between 4 – 6 weeks, there is concern that the loss of these services will negatively impact on residents. To address this, alternative provision is being investigated and considered.

CHMP is, in some ways, much easier to manage as the Community Fridge sits separately and can, if necessary, host the Community Larder on a Wednesday. With the Chambers next door and potential use of the green space outside, the impacts of the meeting place closure can mostly be mitigated by use of these spaces and resources.

TBMP is more challenging, with building closure meaning that there is no access to any of the spaces internally and, with nothing similar on the estate, options are more varied:

- Use of Netherfield Meeting Place. This is a distance away (under 1km if walking) and is on a different estate. This may mean some people are unwilling to travel, but is within a reasonable distance. This would be the simplest way of providing an alternative venue and, whilst some additional storage would be needed, this could easily be placed within the 'courtyard' area. There is a kitchen which would be suitable for meal prep and all the necessary equipment is in place. As things stand currently, there are no bookings that would need to be cancelled to enable this.
- Provision of a 'temporary' building or similar on Tinkers Bridge. This could be the trailer, a Portacabin type building (rented – costs start at around £50 per week according to <https://www.checkatrade.com/blog/cost-guides/portable-office-hire-prices/>) or a container building that could be bought and then utilised elsewhere once works are finished. Costs vary and transport is an issue, but something similar to the picture below would cost around £8k, delivered.



There would be issues around utilities, permissions, placement, etc. but this would be a suitable base from which to work. It could also then be placed elsewhere or sold on. Use of a generator would help ensure basic facilities could be provided.* We would also work with the contractors to minimise the time where facilities were inaccessible – an external tap and socket would enable provision of water and electrics to any temporary provision and we may be able to have these in place during the latter part of the week, where most provision takes place.

- Closure of the services for a period of 4 – 6 weeks. This is not felt suitable and would mean that for services such as the larder, people would be unable to get the food that they have paid for.

The hope is that we can get the work started and completed over the summer period to minimise disruption.

Further clarification will be needed once funding is in place to nail down exactly what alterations and improvements are wanted and this will be linked to the additional funding that is in place via the CIF scheme.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

None.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

* There is an issue in terms of placement on Tinkers Bridge for any temporary structure, due to the prevalence of trees and other barriers. However, there are some spaces and further investigation would be needed to identify and ensure somewhere suitable can be accessed and provided.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 11/23

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Monday 19th June 2023

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To propose a trial of a Table Tennis Club at Eaglestone.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee notes the report.

PROPOSAL

To establish and evaluate the feasibility and sustainability of a table tennis club at the Eaglestone Activity Centre.

Ninety minute sessions will be run every other Monday evening for a trial period of six months. The project team will be led by a local resident, who will coordinate and manage the club's activities. The project will be reviewed at the end of the six month trial period.

Equipment

There is one tennis table in place at Eaglestone Meeting Place. This should be sufficient to gauge interest during the six month evaluation period, but the group is exploring funding from Table Tennis England and others for more equipment should the trial be deemed successful.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The building would be provided free of charge for the duration of the session, which is a potential hire loss of £33 per hour. Sessions will be free of charge to users during the evaluation period but it is envisaged that a session fee will be charged to help cover the cost of building hire if sessions continue afterwards.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Limited involvement (estimated less than 8 hours total) for meetings, promotion and guidance.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Sean Perry, Community Services Manager.

Agenda item: SC 12/23

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Monday 19th June 2023

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update Services Committee on the Wellbeing and Advice Service (WAS).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee notes the report.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Overview of hours worked

We have two part-time advice officers, providing a total of 40 hours per week of advice. This breaks down as:

- Office = up to 20 hours (resident facing)
- Outreach = 7 hours
- Phone/Email/Zoom/Messenger/Background Research = 13 hours

Minimum advice hours per week (bookable/drop-in):

- Coffee Hall = 10 hours, spread over 5 day week
- Netherfield = 2 hours on Tuesday
- Beanhill = 2 hours on Wednesday

Regardless of drop-in session times, we will see or make contact with any resident as necessary during the working week.

Wellbeing Room usage

The wellbeing room is available for use during office hours. It is regularly booked out for sessions by our advice team, but can also be booked by councillors and other users (for example MK Dons SET, Job Club).

- Average usage per week has increased by 43% since the last report in November 2022
- Average usage per week = 10.2hrs (previously 7.1hrs)
- This still leaves the wellbeing room free for over 70% of the working week

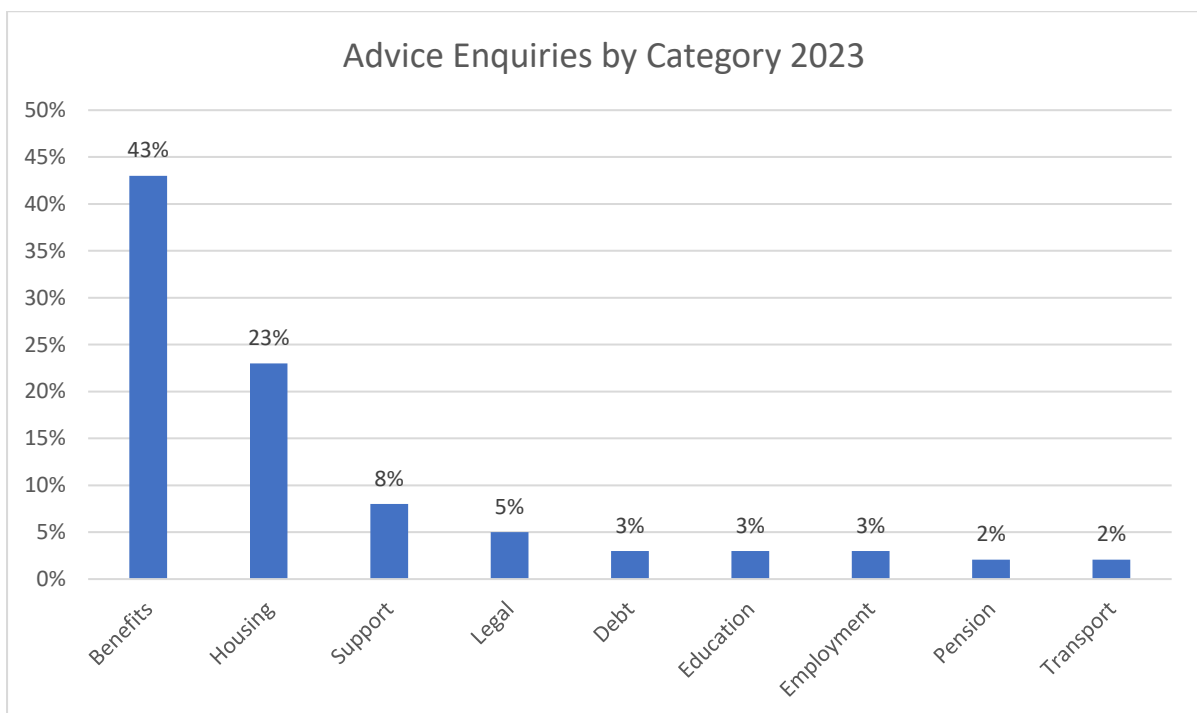
Wellbeing Activities

Following a successful pilot at Coffee Hall last October, we have started another six week chair yoga course at the Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place.

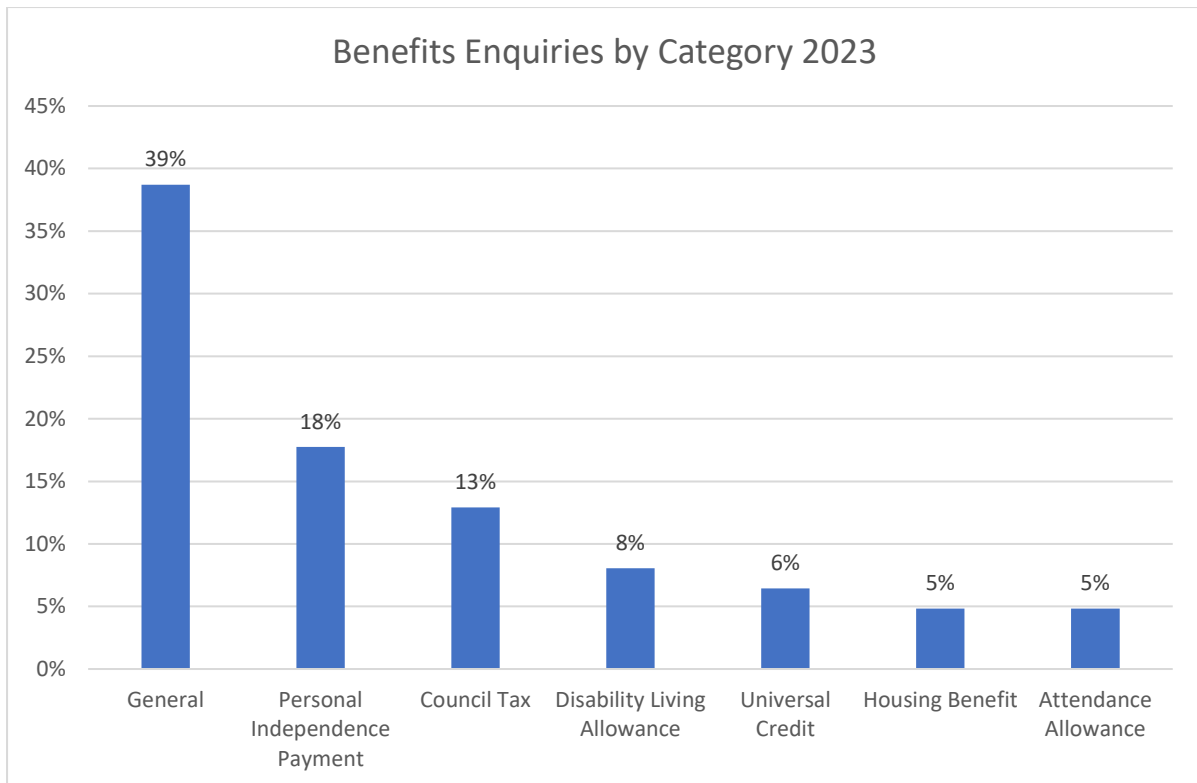
A recent planned 'fully funded' collaboration between WCC and Arts for Health has not been pursued, as it would have cost WCC in excess of £1,600 in addition to providing a hall and council officers. We will continue to explore other opportunities for wellbeing activities.

Breakdown of casework

Benefits and housing are the largest source of advice cases, making up two thirds of all enquiries.



Personal Independence Payment (PIP) cases are the largest single benefits enquiry we receive. Recent DWP figures suggest that around 40% of PIP claims are rejected the first time round, and with this in mind we are undertaking PIP training for the Advice Service. This will give us a better insight into the PIP process, and increase our chances of getting applications and appeals through.

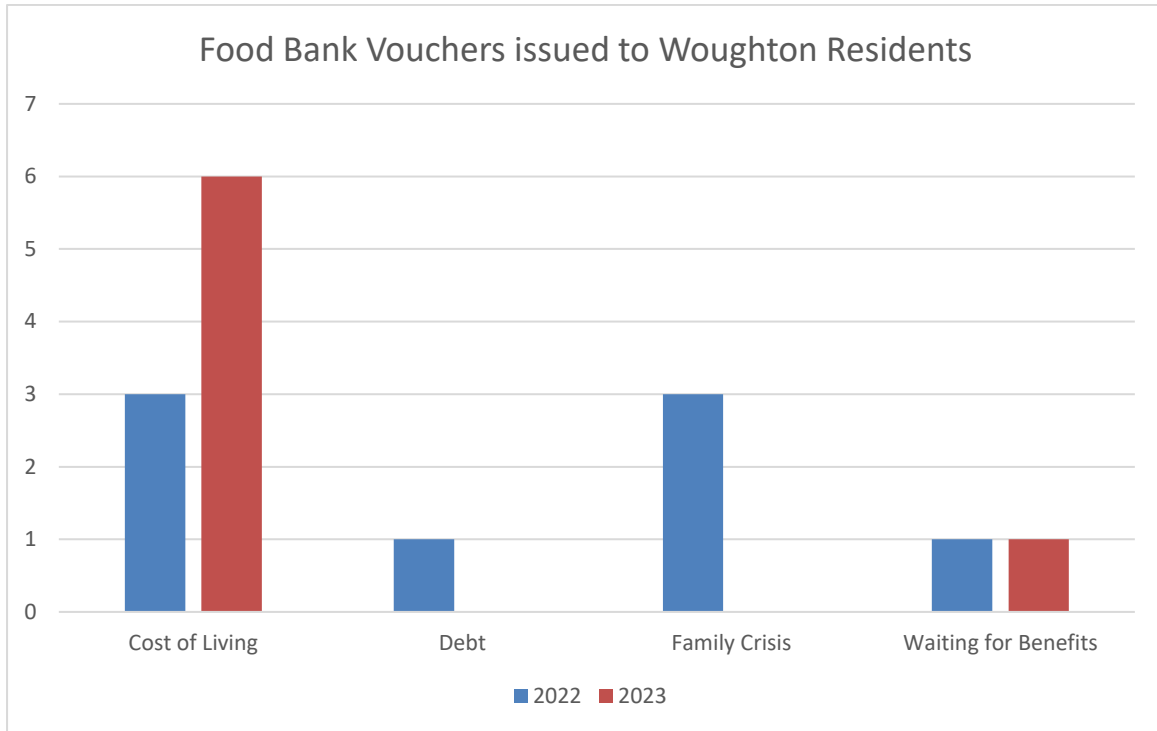


Recent Successes

- Resident moved from unsuitable accommodation into sheltered housing
- 2 children now attending school after long-term absence. The school is funding their transport
- Successful PIP tribunal with over £4k of benefits back paid to the claimant
- Resolved an issue with a resident not being able to claim UC due to overpayment of sick pay
- Getting MKCC to arrange a home visit for a resident who has a multitude of issues and felt they were being ignored
- Youth Café established at Number 95, offering a range of benefits, employment, housing and health advice young people aged 16+
- We have signed up as a referral partner with Better Housing Better Health, which will allow us to obtain utilities vouchers for residents in need. We have already had success in obtaining vouchers for a vulnerable family.

Food Bank Vouchers

We have issued 7 Food Bank Vouchers to Woughton Residents in the first 5 months of 2023, compared to 8 vouchers in the whole of 2022. Referrals break down as follows:



Cost of living is the main reason for issuing vouchers in 2023 so far. These vouchers were mostly issued during the first couple of months of the year, when heating and lighting are more in demand.

Referral Form

As agreed at the Services Meeting on 19th October 2022, a referral form was introduced so that Councillors could hand cases over to the Woughton Advice Service. The form went live on 1st December, but to date no referrals have been received. The link will be resent to councillors as a reminder.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Sean Perry, Community Services Manager.

Agenda item: SC 13/23

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Monday 19th June 2023

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To inform the committee of a proposed piece of work around youth services that extends beyond parish boundaries.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the committee notes this report.**
- 2. That the committee agrees to the Youth Manager working with the MKCC Ward Councillor / CYP Lead to investigate issues around youth support within the city.**
- 3. That the findings of any work, if agreed, comes back to this committee.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Cllr Fuller, Leader of WCC, is also a Ward Councillor and Chairs the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee.

As part of this role, alongside the role within WCC, Cllr Fuller is interested to look at gathering evidence to support additional investment into youth services across the city. This may or may not have an impact within the parish, given the strength and depth of the youth offer already in place.

To support this, Cllr Fuller has discussed the proposal to gather local providers together to begin this process – agree suitable statistics and data that can be gathered and shared, look at what is happening across the city (and indeed, what isn't), whether there is any correlation between investment into services and what happens within the locale, etc.

This is a piece of work that straddles the roles that Cllr Fuller holds and the two councils – whilst this is clearly something that is about city wide provision and impact, the WCC Youth Service is seen as an exemplar of what is possible and as such, would be an excellent 'lead' for a project such as this.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

It is likely that the Youth Manager would need some time to lead on this – it is anticipated that this would not be a significant amount in the early stages and, in the event that something more demanding is needed, further agreements would be needed from this committee.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 14/23



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