



OVER DAY CENTRE

Report for Willingham Parish Council - April 2024

Over Day Centre our financial position

Numbers hover around 50% of our breakeven. Increases to client fees and a recent uptick in client numbers are enabling us to view the new year more positively although we continue to face challenges with increased food, energy and fuel costs. However, we are investigating the installation of solar panels that would have a significant impact on our energy costs - something that we are exploring a number of grants to help with any investment.

Client income has almost doubled on last year, with income of £75,876. Additional income from Parish Councils, CCC & SCDC grants, Charitable actives, Donations, Fundraising & Legacies, whilst lower than our last financial year, contributed £38,463. Along with our investments returning good growth has helped us maintain strong levels of reserves, currently around £154,000.

Due to continued slow return of clients, we are forecasting a sizeable loss for the year, approximately £45,715 that will fund from our reserves. Actions to increase income, attract new clients, are our priority. We are realistic in what we can achieve and the time frame we are working too. With hard work we are confident we will be returning to our breakeven plus position within the next 12 - 18 months.

Planning for the future

Our business review continues with SCDC, CCC & NHS care providers. There is a new funding structure from CCC that we are working through how we can best manage the grant and benefit from the funds that have been allocated to the Day Centre.

Funding available is £24,960 p.a, for three years, a sizeable increase from previous years. Accessing the monies is only possible with new clients attending where we will provide a discount of approximately 30% on their daily fees. This will require an amount of



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administration as the process is not too dissimilar from Fibonacci sequence. What we are mindful of is that the process does not overwhelm our management capacity.

More significantly, we recently commissioned a review of our Day Centre from a very successful owner of Day Centres in Northampton. The outputs of the report has started a process of review and is helping us form a vision of what the Day Centre needs to provide moving forwards. This is at an early stage, however staff, trustees and volunteers have responded incredibly positively. As they say, time will tell. We look forward to reporting next year on how we have changed and the improvements made.

Amazing successes and opportunities

Fundraising activities commenced with some vigour, where we partnered with an external fundraiser. To date we have raised almost £14,000 that has enabled us to replace our assisted bath and begin work on improving our garden areas for clients to safely work in and enjoy time outside with raised beds, a small greenhouse and a safe surface.

We are actively applying for grants with major UK businesses, e.g. Screwfix, Morrisons and B&Q, on maintenance projects that are in urgent need to do. We remain hopeful, although understand that funding is somewhat a lottery.

We are immensely proud of volunteers who set up and run our Memory Cafe, every fourth Saturday, and corporate closely with Willingham's Memory Box Cafe. Approaching the end of our first year we can only say that it has been immensely good fun, exhilarating and rewarding. We are sure that Willingham Memory Box cafe would share our views and we have helped their cafe in the purchase of a new electronic keyboard and recently a large TV, soundbar and stand. Coming to their second year anniversary it is a great success.

The purpose of the Cafes is to provide an enjoyable, welcoming, safe and comfortable space with a mix of music, singing, poetry readings, activities & talks. As with all such activities funding is required that we are actively working on as we see at first hand the benefits they are bringing to families, carers and those living with memory loss.



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Our redesigned website and social media page is helping in attracting new clients and enabling us to present to our clients's family how their loved ones are enjoying the day with a series of activities, entertainers and visits.

Our annual 5Pub Challenge Bike Rides - ably supported by Willingham Wheels and Swavesey & Over Cycling Club - are well attended, a great day out and a valuable income generator. We added back into our events a Quiz Night that attracted over 130 quizzers, a fantastic evening and something firmly embedded into our calendar. We are aiming to organise a fourth event into our calendar, a music evening, that we hope will be well attended and provide additional funds.

Ongoing maintenance and Improvements

Some work is becoming a high priority, flooring has been in place for over 20 years, chairs and tables of similar heritage, not quite antiques but on the way. Funding applications have been made for these projects that we are waiting for decisions, both projects are budgeted at over £10,000 each.

Along with much needed decorations we see these as key priorities to complete this year, although only when we have secured funding.

We have access to S106 Funding to build an extension. We have made plans for a small 'day room' to the front of the building and obtained budget costs that are more in line with the S106 funds that are available. We expect to see monies this Autumn.

Volunteers and activities

We have built a great team of volunteers who help with food preparation, washing up, escorts on our mini bus, gardening, Bike rides, 5Pub, Quiz nNight and our Memory Cafe.

Volunteers have been instrumental in the success of our Memory Box Cafe, ranging from help in serving refreshments, baking cakes and savouries, meeting and greeting guests, entertaining clients and added our voices to the signing, lead by entertainers we book. Our



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Facebook page has provided a great window on the mornings we have run and is shared with local villages - for more information please do visit our page www.facebook.com/OverMemoryCafe

Staff provide daily entertainment with a variety of games, crafts, exercise, quizzes, signing and escorting clients on trips. This we are continuously evolving to provide variety and enjoyment to all our clients, commensurate to their likes, interests and abilities.

With thanks

We are sometimes a little blasé as to what we do and the difference we make. The success of our service we provide is down to the dedication of our staff, volunteers and Trustees generously supported by local Parish Councils, schools and community groups.

We are incredibly grateful for the support that Willingham Parish Council has provided over the years and hope that you are able to continue helping the Over Day Centre. We welcome any questions, comments or suggestions you may have.

David Barker

Chair, On behalf of the Trustees