

Enquiries to: Wendy Bolton
Direct Dial: 024 7637 6183

Direct Email: wendy.bolton@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Date: 9th February, 2023

Our Ref: WEB

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **TOWN DEAL BOARD** will be held on Friday, 17th February, 2023, at the Saints, Newdegate St, Nuneaton CV11 4ED.

A tour of the Saints building will commence promptly at 10.00 am, to be followed by refreshments at the start of the Board meeting.

Yours faithfully,

BRENT DAVIS

Chief Executive Officer

To: All Members of the Town
Deal Board

Sean Farnell (Chair), Marion Plant
(Vice-Chair).
Councillors Peter Butlin (WCC), Jeff
Clarke (WCC), Clare Golby (NBBC),
Emma Shires (NBBC) and Kris
Wilson (NBBC).
Amanda Bourne, Uly Lyons,
Jet Jones, Marcus Jones (MP),
Jenni Northcote, Stuart Noss,
Lindsey Randle, Les Ratcliffe,
Alison Thompson and
Patricia Willoughby.

AGENDA

10.00 am Tour of the Saints building

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please make sure all your mobile phones are turned off or set to silent.

2. APOLOGIES - to receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

3. MINUTES - of the meeting held on 18th November, 2022 attached (Page 4).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other interests in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

Declaring interests at meetings

If there is any item of business to be discussed at the meeting in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest (Other Interests), you must declare the interest appropriately at the start of the meeting or as soon as you become aware that you have an interest.

Arrangements have been made for interests that are declared regularly by Board Members to be appended to the agenda (**Page 7**). Any interest noted in the Schedule at the back of the agenda papers will be deemed to have been declared and will be minuted as such by the Committee Services Officer. As a general rule, there will, therefore, be no need for those Board Members to declare those interests as set out in the schedule.

There are, however, TWO EXCEPTIONS to the general rule:

1. When the interest amounts to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is engaged in connection with any item on the agenda and the Board Member feels that the interest is such that they must leave the room. Prior to leaving the room, the Board Member must inform the Chair of the meeting that they are doing so, to ensure that it is recorded in the minutes.

2. Where a dispensation has been granted to vote and/or speak on an item where there is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but it is not referred to in the Schedule (where for example, the dispensation was granted by the Council's Monitoring Officer immediately prior to the meeting). The existence and nature of the dispensation needs to be recorded in the minutes and will, therefore, have to be disclosed at an appropriate time to the meeting.

5. SAINTS – verbal presentation by the Director of Regeneration & Community Transformation, CEO of 'Together For Change' – Saints 2021/22 Progress Report attached (Page 11).

6. MUSEUM AND PARKS UPDATE – verbal update by the Programme Manager (NBBC).

7. DIGITAL SKILLS & INNOVATION CENTRE - verbal update by the Programme Manager (NBBC).

8. TOWNS FUND COMMUNICATIONS – discussion to be led by the Transforming Nuneaton Project Officer.
9. HIGHLIGHT REPORT – presented by the Programme Manager (NBBC) - to follow.
10. COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT PLAN – presented by the Corporate Communications & Marketing Manager (NBBC) - to follow.
11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Recommended that under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, it being likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph (iii) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.
13. RISK REGISTER – presented by the Programme Manager (NBBC), to follow.

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

NUNEATON TOWN DEAL BOARD

18th November, 2022

A meeting of the Town Deal Board was held on Friday, 18th November, 2022. The meeting was held at the King Edward VI College.

Present

Sean Farnell (CWLEP) – Chair

Present: Councillor Jeff Clarke (WCC), Councillor Peter Butlin (WCC), Tony O’Callaghan (WMCA, substitute for Dr. Julie Nugent), Marion Plant, Lindsey Randle, Les Ratcliffe (CWLEP) and Councillor Richard Smith (NBBC, substitute for Councillor Kris Wilson).

Officers in attendance: Ian Andrew (NBBC), Wendy Bolton (NBBC), Tom Hobbs (NBBC), Catherine Marks (WCC) and Les Snowden (NBBC). Rob Hughes (Queensberry - agenda item 5).

Apologies: Dawn Dawson (NBBC), Councillor C. Golby (NBBC), Jet Jones, Uly Lyons, Dr Julie Nugent (WMCA), Marcus Jones MP, Councillor Jill Sheppard (NBBC, substitute for Councillor Chris Watkins), Alison Thompson, Councillor Chris Watkins (NBBC), Patricia Willoughby and Councillor Kris Wilson (NBBC).

Stuart Nos, Principal of the King Edward VI College, gave the Board members a tour of the new college facilities prior to the start of the meeting. The renovation and refurbishment of the first floor Queens Street ex-retail space had received advanced funding from the Towns Fund.

TDB155 **Chair’s welcome and announcements**

The Chair welcomed Board members to the meeting. The Chair noted that due to non-attendance of members under the Board’s Terms of Reference the meeting was not quorate and therefore items for consideration on the agenda were for noting only. The Chair stressed again the importance of members of the Board attending the quarterly meetings whenever possible in order for any required business to be completed.

TDB156 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th August, 2022, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

TDB157 **Declarations of Interests**

Board members’ interests for the meeting were as set out in a Schedule of Declarations of Interests, attached to the agenda.

The schedule of declarations of interest were noted.

TDB158 Digital Skills & Innovation Centre Presentation

A presentation of the Abbey Street Scheme was made by Rob Hughes of Queensberry, with specific focus on the Digital Skills & Innovation Centre design, status of development and anticipated timeframes for completion.

It was noted that the centre masterplan was underpinned by a sustainability strategy. The scheme was at RIBA 3-4 design stage. Members queried if the space could have potential for conferencing and it was also noted that the restaurant would be a good hospitality venue for local businesses.

Consideration was given to the surrounding infrastructure and wider changes to the town centre through the broader Transforming Nuneaton programme. The Chair requested that a further Transformation Nuneaton overview presentation be made to the group in summer 2023.

The chair thanked Rob for his presentation and the content was noted.

TDB159 Highlight Report

The Regeneration Programme Manager (NBBC) submitted a Highlight Report to update Board members on the status of the Towns Fund programme and individual projects. The report detailed the overall Towns Fund programme financial status as at November 2022, the key risks and upcoming activities.

Consideration was given to the key risks of increasing costs and inflation.

It was reported that the Saints project building purchase was now progressing towards completion.

The content of the Highlight Report was noted.

TDB160 Communications and Engagement Plan

The NBBC Corporate Communications and Marketing Manager submitted an updated rolling masterplan of Towns Fund communications and engagement, for information. The live document detailed completed activities and the anticipated communication and engagement opportunities for specific projects.

The following comms opportunities were considered further:

- The wider place making agenda.
- The launch of the Abbey Street brand.

- Carbon/sustainability theme.

The content of the rolling masterplan was noted.

TDB161 Any Other Business

Date of the next meeting – to be scheduled for mid February 2023, with the Saints as the proposed venue; date and venue to be confirmed.

TDB162 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items, it being likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph (iii) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

TDB163 Risk Register

The Programme Manager (NBBC) submitted an updated Programme Risk Register. The Board considered the specific risks raised by the updated register.

The content of the current Risk Register was noted and members requested that an additional column be added to the register to indicate risk movement.

TDB164 Project Update

The Programme Manager (NBBC) provided an update on the Museum and Park projects. It was reported that discussions had taken place with the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing and the Board considered two possible options. The consultation and approval approach was also noted.

The Chair asked to be kept informed of all developments and any proposals regarding these two projects.

Chair of the Board

SCHEDULE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - TOWN DEAL BOARD

Name of Board Member	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
Amanda Bourne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Director, FindaBiz Ltd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chair, Nuneaton BID Steering Group • Secretary, Nuneaton Business Alliance • FSB Representative Nuneaton and Bedworth • Representative Warwickshire Town Forum • TC Partnership 	
Councillor Peter Butlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Member: Warwickshire County Council 	<p>Appointed to the following outside bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) • Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) Management Committee • Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation - Finance and Audit Sub-Committee • Local Government Association (LGA) • Local Government Association County Councils Network (CCN) • Warwickshire Solihull and Coventry Local Access Forum 	
Councillor Jeffrey Clarke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Caseworker, Office of Marcus Jones MP • Elected Member Warwickshire County Council – Cabinet Member for Transport and Planning • Owner of a property in Nuneaton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman A5 Partnership • Member A46 Partnership • Coventry Station Masterplan Partnership/ Knuckle Board • Executive Member Nuneaton Conservative Association 	
Sean Farnell FCA (Chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burgis & Bullock, Chartered Accountants • Burgis & Bullock Management Ltd (dormant) • Burgis & Bullock Ltd (dormant) • CCWP Ltd (dormant) • Burgis & Bullock (Audit) Ltd (dormant) • Burgis & Bullock Corporate Finance Ltd • BB-BMG Limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coventry & Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust Ltd • Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd • Growth Hub Business Solutions Ltd 	
Councillor C. Golby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPT Administration Manager, Galliford Try • Elected Member of Warwickshire County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bermuda Bridge Action Group • Bermuda Phoenix Community Centre Management <p>Member of the following Outside</p>	

Name of Board Member	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spouse: employed by RS Components 	<p>Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee District Leaders Local Enterprise Partnership Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. (NABCEL) Nuneaton and Bedworth Home Improvement Agency NBBC representative on the George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust – Public/User Board NBBC representative on George Eliot Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Governors 	
Jet Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director of Regeneration and Community Transformation of the Diocesan Board of Finance, Church of England. CEO of Together for Change - Together for Change lease Saints, Nuneaton Director Renovate Solutions Ltd Spouse/Partner: Director of Renovate Solutions Ltd Funeral celebrant/minister – self-employed and contracted via Devalls Funeral Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nexus ICA Trustee of Bedworth Parish Church 	
Marcus Jones MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of Parliament for Nuneaton Minister of State (Minister for Housing) in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities HM Government Whip Lessee: 13-17 Hollybush House, Nuneaton Owner of a property in Nuneaton Spouse/Partner: e-ppl, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patron of Mary Ann Evans Hospice Honorary Member of Nuneaton Rotary Club 	
Ulysses Lyons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEO, Better Futures Multi Academy Trust 		
Jenni Northcote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust - Director of Strategy, Service Improvement and Primary Care NHS Warwickshire North and NHS Coventry & 		

Name of Board Member	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group - Chief Strategy & Primary Care Officer WNCCG & CRCCG		
Marion Plant (Vice-Chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal & Chief Executive, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College • North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College Property/land • Nuneaton academies within the Midlands Academies Trust: Hartshill School, The Nuneaton Academy and George Eliot School • Long lease for part of the site from Warwickshire County Council for The Nuneaton Academy • Spouse/Partner: Relations Relations Manager, Christian Aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive Officer, The Midland Academies Trust • Director, South Leicestershire Colleges Enterprises Ltd • Director, NWHC Services Ltd • Director, The Learning Chain Ltd • Director, Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd • Director, The Skills Show Ltd • Director & Deputy Chair, Worldskills UK • Board Member, National Society Council, Church of England • Member, Colleges West Midlands • Member, Skills Advisory Panel, WMCA • Programme Board Member, Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd • Member, ESFA Skills Advisory Group • Governor & Chair of Academic Affairs Committee, Coventry University 	
Lindsey Randle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIRA • Spouse/Partner: MIRA • Owner of a property in Hartshill 		
Les Ratcliffe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Director - Community Engagement Limited • Director - Engineering in Motion Ltd. • Non Executive Director - Verity Housing • Spouse/Partner: Director Community Engagement Ltd. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman – Coventry & Warwickshire Place Board • Board Member – CWLEP Growth HUB • Deputy Lieutenant – West Midlands Lieutenancy • Board Member – Coventry & Warwickshire NSPCC Business Group 	
Alison Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Manager, Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action • WCAVA NBBC Lease Newtown Centre • Service Level Agreement between WCAVA and NBBC for services to support the voluntary and 		

Name of Board Member	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	community sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leases: Newtown Centre, Newtown Road, Nuneaton, CV11 4HG and 1 Donnithorne Avenue, Nuneaton, CV10 7AF • Spouse/Partner: A-Dec Dental UK Ltd • Owner of a property in Nuneaton 		
Councillor C.M. Watkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlord of a privately rented property 	Representative on the following outside bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. (NABCEL) 	
Councillor K. Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting Delivery Manager HMCTS – Nuneaton & Warwick County Courts • Elected Member of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council • Election Expenses Paid By Nuneaton Conservative Association • HMCTS has a lease With The Warwickshire Police And Crime Commissioner for the Warwickshire Justice Centre • As Deputy Chairman Of Nuneaton Conservatives we have a lease to occupy an office at Hollybush House, Bond Gate, Nuneaton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Of Nuneaton And Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd • Representative on Transforming Nuneaton Board • Deputy Chairman Of Nuneaton Conservative Association 	
Patricia Willoughby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Policy (Housing & Regeneration), West Midlands Combined Authority • Spouse: Director, Process Technique Ltd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolverhampton Town Fund Board 	



SAINTS NUNEATON



PROGRESS REPORT 2021/ 2022

THE STORY OF THIS YEAR...

2022 HAS PROVED TO BE OUR BUSIEST YEAR YET, AS WE HAVE ADAPTED TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY, EMPLOYED ADDITIONAL STAFF AND EXTENDED OUR WORK WITH NEW PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES. NOT TO MENTION, WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH COUNCIL TO PREPARE FOR THE PURCHASE AND RENOVATION OF OUR BUILDING READY FOR 2023!

WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO BE IN THIS POSITION TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY AT THIS TIME AND ARE THANKFUL FOR THE VOLUNTEERS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US AND ENABLED US TO ENGAGE WITH 450 PEOPLE PER WEEK AT SAINTS ON AVERAGE.



OUR PROJECT HAS ATTRACTED WIDER INTEREST AND THE DIOCESE OF COVENTRY NOW WISH TO ENGAGE WITH SAINTS AS A FLAGSHIP PROJECT, AND EXPLORE WAYS OF DUPLICATING THIS PROJECT IN OTHER LOCATIONS.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY READING SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR...

MEETING OUR STRATEGIC AIMS AND OUTCOMES

OUR STRATEGIC AIMS ARE AS FOLLOWS:



CREATING EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES BY FACILITATING ENTERPRISES WITHIN THE BUILDING, AND ALSO PROVIDING TRAINING AND 'BACK TO EDUCATION' PROGRAMMES IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES. THIS IS DONE IN A CAFE-STYLE INDOOR ENTERPRISE AND TRAINING HUB.

WITHIN THE ENTERPRISE AND EQUIP AIM, THIS YEAR WE HAVE OFFERED WORK EXPERIENCE AND VOLUNTEER WORK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, SUPPORTED LOCAL BUSINESSES WITH STALLS AND HOSTED WORK SKILLS COURSES IN OUR TRAINING ROOM. WE HAVE ALSO SUPPORTED YOUNG PEOPLE IN RASING THEIR ASPIRATIONS, HELPING THEM WITH THEIR HOMEWORK AND WITH WORK AND LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS.



TACKLING PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL HEALTH ISSUES THROUGH THE CREATION OF ACCESSIBLE SPORTS ACTIVITIES AND GROUPS

WE HAVE OFFERED SUPPORT WITH HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET THROUGH SLOW COOKER COURSES, AND MANY FOOD HAMPERS, AS PART OF OUR SPORT AND SUPPORT AIM. WE ARE LOOKING TO EXPAND TO MORE EXERCISE ACTIVITIES OVER THE NEXT YEAR.



ADDRESSING THE LACK OF ARTS, CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION TO RAISE ASPIRATIONS AND TACKLE ISSUES OF LONELINESS AND ISOLATION THROUGH CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS MUSIC, THE ARTS, PHOTOGRAPHY AND DANCE.

AS PART OF CREATE AND CONNECT, THIS YEAR WE HAVE LAUNCHED TWO CREATIVE GROUPS THAT MEET WEEKLY.

THE OUTCOMES WE ARE AIMING FOR ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- **INCREASE STANDARDS OF EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IN THE BOROUGH**
- **DECREASE THE EFFECTS OF CHILD POVERTY, SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS AND CHILDREN IN CARE.**
- **DECREASE LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT**
- **INCREASE LEVELS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**
- **DECREASE COMMUNITY ISOLATION**
- **CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOBS AND THE CREATIVE ARTS**
- **INCREASE SERVICE PROVISION, SUPPORT JOINING UP OF SERVICES AND PROVIDE A PLACE TO GO TO GET SUPPORT AND EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY LIFE**

WE HOPE THROUGHOUT THIS REPORT IT WILL BE CLEAR HOW WE ARE STARTING TO WORK TOWARDS THESE OUTCOMES,



VOLUNTEERS

WE'VE HAD 10 VOLUNTEERS AND WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS SUPPORTING US IN CORE DAY TO DAY ROLES INCLUDING WORKING IN THE CAFE AND MAINTENANCE, BUT FOR LARGER EVENTS ACROSS THE YEAR WE HAVE DRAWN IN AROUND 40 EXTRA VOLUNTEERS, FROM ALL AGES AND WALKS OF LIFE.

PENNY HAS VOLUNTEERED WITH US SINCE JANUARY 2020. HEAR PENNY'S STORY 'I VOLUNTEER AT SAINTS BECAUSE I THINK IT'S A GREAT PROJECT. I AGREE WITH ITS VALUES & MISSION STATEMENT & WANT TO BE A PART OF MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE TO OUR TOWN. I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN MANY ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT & IT IS A REAL PRIVILEGE WHEN PEOPLE EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION FOR HOW WE HAVE HELPED THEM DURING DIFFICULT TIMES. WHETHER THAT HAS BEEN WITH FOOD DURING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, ADULT CONVERSATION FOR MUM'S, CRAFTING WITH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & ADULTS AND THE COMMUNITY THAT IS BUILT THROUGH THAT, JUST BEING THERE FOR SOMEONE WHO NEEDS TO TALK & JUST FEEL CARED FOR, NO MATTER THE AGE OF THAT PERSON. THERE AREN'T MANY DAYS GO BY WHERE I DON'T FINISH MY DAY AT SAINTS WITHOUT A STORY OF A POSITIVE IMPACT THAT HAS BEEN MADE TO SOMEONE'S LIFE IN SOME WAY.'

VOLUNTEERS ARE KEY TO MAKING WHAT WE DO HAPPEN, AND WE ARE KEEN TO CONTINUE TO ENGAGE MORE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO GET ON BOARD AND HELP US SUPPORT OTHERS.



DAN'S STORY

DAN HAS BEEN A VOLUNTEER WITH US FROM THE VERY BEGINNING! DAN SAYS

'VOLUNTEERING AT SAINTS NUNEATON HAS REALLY HELPED ME THROUGH SOME ROUGH TIMES. THE STAFF ARE ALWAYS THERE FOR US ALL. I LOVE ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY THROUGH SAINTS NUNEATON. SAINTS DOES AMAZING THINGS AND I AM PROUD TO BE A PART OF THAT'

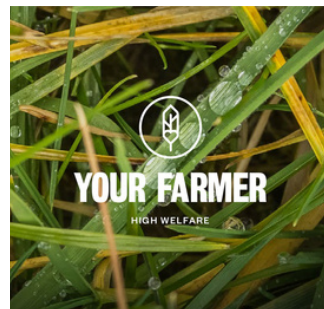
WHO WE'VE PARTENERED WITH



**HOLY TRINITY
ATTLEBOROUGH
CHURCH**

**ST PAULTS CHURCH
STOCKINGFORD**

**HEATH END ROAD
CHURCH**



FAIR TRADING





WARWICKSHIRE YOUTH FUND

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH YOUNG BUSINESS LINKS

NUNEATON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

COVENTRY YOUTH CRIME COMMISSIONER



A PLACE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO USE

WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT MAKING OUR SPACE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY EXTERNAL USER GROUPS, AIMING TO BE A HUB THAT CAN BE USED BY THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, FULL OF ACTIVITY. WE HAVE HOSTED A VARIETY OF GROUPS, COURSES, MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES, COUNCILS AND CHARITIES THIS YEAR, SEE BELOW FOR A SNAPSHOT OF THE GROUPS WE HOST:

- **SOCIALLY SHARED BUSINESS NETWORK**
- **WAYSIDE WILLOW WEAVING COURSES**
- **QUBE LEARNING TRAINING COURSE FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS**
- **ADULT EDUCATION CREATIVE CLASSES**
- **THINKHIGHER EVENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**
- **A PARAMEDIC TRAINING COURSE**
- **A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORKING DAY**
- **SAFER STREETS CONSULTATION DROP IN**
- **HERE TO HELP CHARITY**
- **FORGE CARE - A LOCAL CHILDRENS CARE RESIDENTIAL ORGANISATION**
- **YWAM**
- **SEW AND GROW CRAFT GROUP**
- **NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**
- **WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

WE HAVE ALSO BECOME A PLACE MANY CHOOSE TO MEET AND WORK, WITH PEOPLE USING US AS A PLACE TO HOTDESK FROM AND LOCAL COUNCILS AND BUSINESSES HAVING THEIR MORNING MEETINGS IN OUR CAFE.

OUR CAFE AND PLAY AREA

IN NOVEMBER 2021 WE RELAUNCHED OUR CAFÉ, WITH A LOCAL PERSON RUNNING IT AS THEIR OWN BUSINESS. THIS WORKED WELL FOR NEARLY A YEAR, HOWEVER AS THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS BEGAN TO TAKE HOLD, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT WE NEEDED TO GO IN A NEW DIRECTION. THE OWNER OF THE BUSINESS THEN HANDED IN THEIR NOTICE IN SEPTEMBER 2022, AND AT THE SAME TIME THE GOVERNMENT FUNDED KICK START STAFF FINISHED, SO WE LOOKED AT A FRESH WAY OF RUNNING THINGS THAT WOULD HELP BOTH US AS A PROJECT AND OUR CUSTOMERS.

IN OCTOBER 2022 WE RELAUNCHED WITH A BRAND NEW OFFER, INCLUDING MORE SELF-SERVE OPTIONS, A SMALLER SELECTION OF HOT SPECIALS AND MAKING EVERYTHING IN ADVANCE RATHER THAN TO ORDER, CUTTING THE NEED FOR AS MANY STAFF, AND IMPROVING SERVICE TIMES FOR CUSTOMERS.



FURTHERMORE, AS WE ARE A CHARITY WE ARE ABLE TO ACCESS FOOD THROUGH FOOD WASTE CHARITIES EDIBLELINKS AND FARESHARE, HELPING US KEEP THE COSTS OF OUR FOOD LOW FOR BOTH US AND OUR CUSTOMERS, MEANING WE HAVE NOT HAD TO RAISE OUR PRICES AS OF YET DURING THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS. AS THE DEMOGRAPHIC WE CATER TO IS LARGELY PEOPLE FROM DISADVANTAGED HOUSEHOLDS, WE FEEL THIS IS MORE IN LINE WITH OUR AIMS FOR THE PROJECT.



OUR CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA CONTINUES TO BE A SUCCESS, WITH MANY PARENTS COMMENTING THAT THERE IS NOT ANOTHER CAFÉ THAT OFFERS THIS KIND OF PROVISION FOR CHILDREN IN THE TOWN CENTRE.

PAY IT FORWARD SCHEME

IN OCTOBER 2022 WE HAVE LAUNCHED A PAY IT FORWARD SCHEME, WHERE CUSTOMERS CAN CHOOSE TO PAY FOR A DRINK OR MEAL FOR SOMEONE ELSE IN ADVANCE. WE HAVE SEEN INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY FROM THE COMMUNITY, WITH OVER £200 GIVEN SO FAR!



SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

ACROSS THE LAST YEAR WE HAVE SUPPORTED 10 SMALL BUSINESSES, WITH OUR 6 STALL SPACES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO HIRE AT LOW COST, AND ALSO ENGAGING A LOCAL PERSON TO START THEIR OWN BUSINESS PROVIDING FOOD AND DRINK IN OUR CAFE. AT CHRISTMAS 2021, WE RAN TWO SUCCESSFUL SMALL BUSINESS CHRISTMAS MARKETS, SUPPORTING 15 LOCAL BUSINESSES.

WE HAVE FOUND THAT IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE, MANY OF OUR SMALL BOUTIQUE BUSINESS STALLS HAVE STRUGGLED TO MAKE SALES, DESPITE OUR PROMOTION OF THEM. WE HAVE THEREFORE MADE THE DECISION TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF STALLS WE OFFER, AND HAVE GONE IN A NEW DIRECTION, AND WANT TO HOST SMALL BUSINESSES, SUCH AS OUR NEW RESIDENT BEAUTY THERAPIST. WE HOPE TO ENGAGE MORE BUSINESSES WHO COULD OFFER SERVICES FROM WITHIN OUR BUILDING AND PROVIDE AFFORDABLE RENT FOR THEM.

CASE STUDY: CASSEYS BEAUTY BOX

CASSEY WAS WORKING AS A CLEANER WHEN SHE JOINED US RIGHT AT THE VERY FIRST OPENING OF SAINTS, BACK IN JANUARY 2020, AFTER WINNING A BURSARY TO HIRE A STALL IN OUR CAFÉ AREA TO FURTHER HER BEAUTY BUSINESS. THIS ENABLED HER TO HIRE A CHAIR IN A LOCAL SALON, WHERE HER BUSINESS GREW EVEN MORE. THIS YEAR WE HAVE GIVEN CASSEY THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND HER BUSINESS BY PROVIDING AFFORDABLE RATES AND PROMOTING HER. SHE IS NOW OUR RESIDENT BEAUTY THERAPIST.

CASSEY SAYS:

'I WILL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL TO SAINTS TO ALLOW ME TO START IN 2020 WITH A STALL WHICH WAS KINDLY PAID FOR BY A GRANT, TO BELIEVING IN ME AND WELCOMING ME BACK WITH MY VERY OWN SPACE FOR MY SALON. SAINTS IS EVERYTHING I BELIEVE IN AND SUPPORT. THANK YOU.'



GETTING PEOPLE INTO WORK

WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT HELPING PEOPLE GET INTO WORK, AND TAKE ON VOLUNTEERS AND WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO GROW THEIR SKILLS WHILST SUPPORTING THE WORK WE DO. HEAR FROM TOM BELOW, WHO STARTED OUT WORKING WITH US AS A VOLUNTEER:

TOM SAYS:

'I STARTED AT SAINTS BACK IN MARCH THIS YEAR, AND IT'S BEEN A REALLY GOOD EXPERIENCE. I'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF DEVELOPING MORE OF MY SKILLS IN MAINTENANCE. I WAS PUT ON THE DIFFERENT PROJECTS, PAINTING HALLWAYS AND DOORS, AND FIXING THE LIGHTING, WHICH I FULLY ENJOYED, AND THEY GAVE ME MORE CONFIDENCE, AS WELL AS DOING THE CAFÉ CLEARING TABLES, WASHING UP, DOING THE COFFEE AND SORTING OUT PEOPLES ORDERS. AND THAT'S GIVEN ME THE CONFIDENCE TO COME AND GET A JOB HERE, BECAUSE I LOVE TO IMPACT PEOPLE.'

WE ALSO TOOK ON 6 NEETS 18-25 YEAR OLDS THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT KICKSTART SCHEME, 4 OF WHOM HAVE GONE ON TO GET FURTHER WORK. HEAR FROM HARRIET BELOW, WHO WAS ONE OF OUR KICKSTART WORKERS, AND NOW WORKS FOR US FULL TIME!



HARRIET'S STORY

'I FOUND SAINTS IN OCTOBER OF 2021 THROUGH A GOVERNMENT SCHEME CALLED KICKSTART, WHERE FOR 6 MONTHS I DEVELOPED SKILLS IN HOSPITALITY AND IN THE KITCHEN. AND NOW A YEAR AFTER I STARTED I HAVE GOT A FULL-TIME JOB AT SAINTS WORKING IN THE KITCHEN. I ENJOY COMING TO WORK TO WORK AMONGST THE SAINTS FAMILY WHERE WE TRY TO MAKE CUSTOMERS THAT LITTLE BIT HAPPIER WHEN THEY COME IN!'

CASE STUDY: JOE'S* STORY

THIS YEAR WE HAVE TAKEN ON TWO WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS TO HELP THEM GAIN WORK SKILLS WITH US IN OUR CAFE.

JOE* ATTENDS ONE OF THE LOCAL SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS, AND AS PART OF THE SCHOOLS WORK PROGRAMME, HE HAS A LONG TERM PLACEMENT WITH US TWO DAYS A WEEK. SINCE JOINING WE HAVE SEEN JOE* GO FROM A SHY YOUNG MAN MAINLY DOING WASHING UP TO A CONFIDENT WORKER, WHO IS LEARNING BARISTA AND CHEF SKILLS JOE'S FAMILY HAVE SEEN A HUGE IMPROVEMENT IN HIS CONFIDENCE AND HE IS EAGER TO WORK EVEN IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

JOE SAYS 'I ENJOY MAKING THE DRINKS AND ENJOY SERVING THE CUSTOMERS. WORK EXPERIENCE HAS HELPED ME TO TALK TO PEOPLE I DO NOT KNOW. HELPING ME TO SHOW I CAN WORK'*

JOE'S SUPPORT WORKER SAYS 'IT WAS FANTASTIC TO PARTNER WITH THE SAINTS CAFE, TO GIVE OUR OAK WOOD SECONDARY STUDENTS THE CHANCE TO CARRY OUT WORK EXPERIENCE. THIS PLACEMENT ENABLES OUR STUDENTS WHO WOULD LIKE A CAREER IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING, TO LEARN, PRACTICE THEIR CATERING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE WORK SKILLS. A JOB COACH SUPPORTS THE STUDENTS TO GATHER EVIDENCE TO SHOW AN EMPLOYER THEY HAVE WHAT THEY NEED. THE WORK PLACEMENT GIVES OUR STUDENTS THE CHANCE TO SHOW THEY CAN BE INDEPENDENT, SURVIVE IN A WORKING ENVIRONMENT, FOLLOW HEALTH AND SAFETY RULES AND COMMUNICATE WITH WORK COLLEAGUES AND CUSTOMERS'



HELPING FAMILIES

WE HAVE RUN SEVERAL INITIATIVES THIS YEAR AIMED AT SUPPORTING FAMILIES ON LOW INCOMES, INCLUDING THREE HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND LOW INCOME FAMILIES, FREE ACTIVITIES DURING HALF TERMS, A FREE LEGO CLUB EVERY SATURDAY, AND FREE MEALS FOR CHILDREN DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

LAURA IS ONE OF THE MUMS WHO HAS COME TO EVERY ONE OF OUR FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS HOLIDAY CLUBS.

LAURA SAYS ABOUT OUR FREE HOLIDAY CLUB *'THEY (HER KIDS) JUST THOUGHT IT WAS REALLY GOOD. IT'S WELL RUN, AND THEY LIKED THE BREAKFAST. THEY LOVED ALL OF THE PARTS OF IT... THEY ALWAYS TALK ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME. ACTIVITIES ARE SO EXPENSIVE NOW, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU HAVE AS MANY KIDS AS ME'*

ACROSS OUR HOLIDAY CLUBS WE HAVE HAD NEARLY 1000 ATTENDANCES ACROSS 13 DAYS, INCLUDING 382 PARENTS AND CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS, 171 AT EASTER AND 411 DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS. ALL ATTENDEES GOT A FREE MEAL, SNACKS AND FUN ACTIVITIES TO SUIT THE WHOLE FAMILY.

WE GAVE OUT 170 FREE MEALS TO CHILDREN ACROSS THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS, RESPONDING TO THE RISING COST OF LIVING, AS WELL AS COUNTLESS FOOD HAMPERS TO FAMILIES STRUGGLING.

SARAH IS ANOTHER MUM WHO HAS ENGAGED WITH A LOT OF OUR OFFERS. SARAH SAYS *'I FIRST ENCOUNTERED SAINTS THROUGH ONE OF THEIR FREE HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES. THIS WAS GREAT FOR MY CHILDREN AS I COULDN'T AFFORD TO DO ANYTHING WITH THEM. WE CONTINUE TO ATTEND HOLIDAY GROUPS THAT SAINTS RUN, AND WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED FOOD HAMPERS.'*



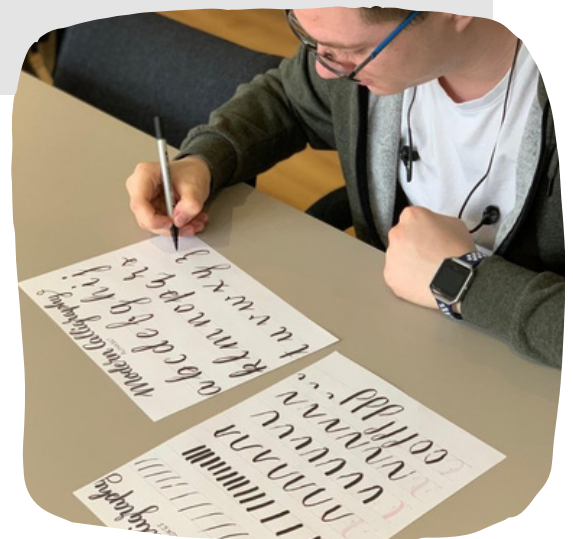
CREATING A SAFE SPACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

IN MARCH 2021, WE LAUNCHED THE FREE SAINTS STUDENT LOUNGE, RUNNING TUESDAY-THURSDAY FROM 3PM-5.30PM. WE PARTNERED WITH THINKHIGHER, WHO RUN THE WEDNESDAYS, AND WITH THE HELP OF WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL YOUTH WORK FUND, WE EMPLOYED 4 YOUTH WORKERS. STUDENT LOUNGE OFFERS A SAFE SPACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO HANG OUT, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR THEIR HOMEWORK, LAPTOPS AVAILABLE TO USE, AND LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS, AS WELL AS A FREE HOT MEAL.



FROM WHEN THE PROGRAMME BEGAN TO JULY 2022 WE HAVE GIVEN OUT 2001 HOT MEALS AND DRINKS TO YOUNG PEOPLE

THE STUDENT LOUNGE HAS BEEN A HUGE SUCCESS, AND THE TAKE UP HAS BEEN MUCH HIGHER THAN ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 40 YOUNG PEOPLE A NIGHT ACROSS THE YEAR. THE NUMBERS PEAKED AT 90 YOUNG PEOPLE IN ONE EVENING!



SOME OF THE WORKSHOPS WE HAVE RUN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE INCLUDE MUSIC PRODUCTION AND SONGWRITING, BARISTA SKILLS, HOW TO COOK ON A BUDGET FOR UNIVERSITY, HOW TO WRITE YOUR UNIVERSITY PERSONAL STATEMENT, KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS, COUNTY LINES AWARENESS, MEET THE YOUTH COMMISSIONER AND SO MUCH MORE!



KAELI, OUR YOUTH PROJECT LEAD SAYS:
STUDENT LOUNGE LAUNCHED ON THE 1ST MARCH 2022 AND HAS ALREADY CONNECTED WITH OVER 180 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE LOCAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES - SOME EVENINGS WE HAVE SEEN 80 YOUNG PEOPLE IN ONE AFTERNOON!!

STUDENT LOUNGE SEEKS TO PROVIDE A SAFE SPACE WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE CAN COME IN TO ENJOY FREE FOOD AND DRINKS, WORK ON HOMEWORK USING OUR LAPTOPS AND PRINTER, SPEND TIME WITH FRIENDS IN OUR COSY ENVIRONMENT AND MAKE USE OF OUR GAMES, XBOX, POOL TABLE AND MORE! WE LOVE THAT WE'RE ABLE TO INVITE THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN AND GIVE THEM A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN BE THEMSELVES WITHOUT FEELING JUDGED AND WITHOUT THE PRESSURES AND STRESSES OF SCHOOL OR HOME LIFE. WE LOVE BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM, REMINDING THEM OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE THEY PLAY IN THE WORLD, AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO DREAM BIGGER DREAMS!'

ANDRE IS THE COVENTRY YOUTH CRIME COMMISSIONER, AND REGULARLY ATTENDS TO MEET OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

ANDRE SAYS 'SAINTS STUDENT LOUNGE IS AN OUTSTANDING PROJECT IN THE HEART OF NUNEATON, I 100% SUPPORT THIS PROJECT WITH THE ECONOMIC STATE/COST OF LIVING CRISIS THIS IS A GREAT PLACE WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE CAN GET ACCESS TO WIFI, LAPTOPS, PRINTERS AND FREE FOOD. BIG THANKS TO THINK HIGER, WCC AND SAINTS NUNEATON FOR CONTINUING TO FUND THIS PROJECT.'



BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

WE RUN A VARIETY OF COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, WITH A PARTICULAR AIM OF ENGAGING DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES, AND VULNERABLE AND ISOLATED ADULTS.

MUMS DO BRUNCH

ON THURSDAYS WE RUN A GROUP FOR MUMS WITH BABIES AND TODDLERS, AIMED AT OFFERING SUPPORT AND CREATING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY WHICH NEW AND YOUNG MUMS CAN BE WELCOMED INTO. WE OFFER FREE HOT DRINKS AND PASTRIES, AS MANY PARENTS WHO ATTEND STRUGGLE FINANCIALLY. WE HAVE JUST BEGUN OFFERING A FREE KIDS ACTIVITY AT EACH SESSION, TO OCCUPY THE CHILDREN WHILST THE MUMS CHAT.

WE HOPE TO EXPAND THESE SESSIONS TO START OFFERING FUN ACTIVITIES AND SKILLS COURSES FOR THE MUMS WHO ATTEND.

LEGO CLUB

LEGO CLUB RUNS EVERY SATURDAY, OFFERING A FREE DROP IN SPACE FOR CHILDREN TO COME AND GET CREATIVE WITH OUR LARGE COLLECTION OF LEGO.



WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THE CREATIVE ARTS AND HOW THEY CONNECT PEOPLE TOGETHER. WE HAVE BEEN RUNNING TWO CREATIVE GROUPS A WEEK THIS YEAR, 'COFFEE AND KNIT' AND OUR 'CREATE AND CONNECT ART WORKSHOPS'.

CREATE AND CONNECT ART WORKSHOPS

THE CREATE AND CONNECT ART WORKSHOPS RUN FROM 1-3PM ON A THURSDAY AFTERNOON, AND OFFER A FREE CREATIVE SKILL EVERY SESSION. CREATIVE SKILLS HAVE INCLUDED CROCHET, PAINTING, CLAY, MACRAME AND MORE. THIS GROUP IS RUN BY VOLUNTEERS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

COFFEE AND KNIT

COFFEE AND KNIT IS RUN ON A WEDNESDAY BY ONE OF OUR VOLUTNEERS HEATHER, AND IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ANYONE WHO ENJOYS KNITTING OR CROCHET, OR WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEARN, TO COME ALONG AND HAVE A COFFEE TOGETHER IN THE CAFE,



THIS YEAR WE HOPE TO CONTINUE TO ADD TO OUR LIST OF WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE, AND WILL BE ASKING THE COMMUNITY WHAT ACTIVITIES THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE US RUN AS WELL!

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

THIS YEAR, ONE OF THE MOST POSITIVE THINGS WE HAVE LEARNT IS THAT WE ARE A GOOD PROJECT – CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAVE RELEASED 1.8M THROUGH THE LEVELLING-UP PROGRAMME SO WE CAN PURCHASE AND RENOVATE OUR BUILDING, AND SUSTAIN WHAT WE ARE DOING FOR THE LONG TERM EVEN IN THIS CLIMATE.

WE HAVE ALSO LEARNT THE IMPORTANCE OF PUTTING HIGH QUALITY PROJECTS AND BEAUTIFUL SPACES TOGETHER, WHERE PEOPLE FEEL THEY ARE WORTH INVESTING INTO.



ONE OF THE BIG THINGS WE HAVE LEARNT IS THAT THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, SO WE NEED TO BE READY TO ADAPT TO THE NEEDS AS AND WHEN THEY COME ACROSS. IN THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES INCLUDING COVID AND THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS WE HAVE HAD TO ADAPT AND RESPOND QUICKLY BY LISTENING TO THE FELT NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

FELT NEEDS DURING THE PANDEMIC WHERE ACCESS TO FOOD FOR ISOLATING FAMILIES, ESPECIALLY SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES WHO DIDN'T HAVE ANY SUPPORT. SECONDLY LOSS OF JOBS AND REDUCTION OF INCOME DURING THE FURLOUGH SCHEME SAW US DISTRIBUTING HAMPERS ON A WEEKLY BASIS TO FAMILIES WHO WOULDN'T NORMALLY ACCESS THIS KIND OF SUPPORT. WE ALSO RAN COUNSELLING SESSIONS FOR NURSES FROM THE LOCAL HOSPITAL, AFTER SEEING THE NEED FOR SUPPORT FOR KEY WORKERS. WITH THANKS TO THE BIG LOTTERY COVID IMPACT FUND WE WERE ABLE TO FACILITATE THESE EARLY INTERVENTION MEASURES.

A COUNSELLING ATTENDEE:

'I FEEL LIKE I'VE HAD A SAFE SPACE TO TALK AND LISTEN. FOLLOWING ONE OF THE COUNSELLING SESSIONS I DO FEEL A LITTLE MORE PEACE WITH THINGS'

HOWEVER ONCE VACCINATIONS BECAME PUBLIC, THE FELT NEEDS CHANGED WITH THE RISE OF THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS WE ARE CURRENTLY IN. WHILST BEFORE THE UNEMPLOYED WERE THOSE HARDEST HIT, THE WORKING POOR ARE STRUGGLING MORE IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE. WITH THE RISING COST OF LIVING MEANING RENT AND MORTGAGES, BILLS AND FOOD HAVE GONE UP, WE ARE HEARING MORE REQUESTS FOR FREE ACTIVITIES, FOOD AND WARM SPACE FOR THE WINTER.

IN LINE WITH THIS, WE ARE GOING TO BE LAUNCHING SOME WINTER INITIATIVES, PARTLY FUNDED BY GRANTS FROM THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS, THE HAF FUND AND THE WARWICKSHIRE WELFARE FUND.

THROUGH THESE ISSUES WE HAVE LEARNT THAT FAMILIES HAVE LESS MONEY AFTER BILLS HAVE COME OUT, AND THIS HAS IMPACTED OUR SALES AND OUR ABILITY TO COVER OUR RISING BILLS. WE'VE ALSO LEARNT THAT SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE ONES THAT ARE STRUGGLING WITH THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS, AND ARE THE FIRST ONES TO GO.

IN SUMMARY, WE HAVE LEARNT TO LISTEN TO THE FELT NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES WHILE UNDERSTANDING THE WIDER NATIONAL ISSUES, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF REPRESENTING THOSE WHO HAVE NO VOICE TO FUNDERS, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS WHO CAN HELP US MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.



WHAT WE'VE CHANGED

A NEW APPROACH TO OUR CAFE

ONE OF THE MAIN THINGS WE HAVE CHANGED IS OUR CAFE OFFER. AS MENTIONED EARLIER. WE HAVE LEARNT THAT WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS WANT MOST IS QUICK SERVICE AND CHEAP FOOD AND DRINK. WE ALSO LEARNT THAT RUNNING A CAFE FOR A PROFIT WHILST KEEPING PRICES CHEAP FOR OUR CUSTOMERS IS DIFFICULT!

SO WE SWITCHED TO A PART SELF-SERVE, PART PRECOOKED HOT FOOD KEPT WARM METHOD OF SERVICE, WHICH ALLOWED US TO HAVE SMALLER STAFF NUMBERS TO LOWER OUR COSTS.

WE HAVE ALSO STARTED USING FOOD FROM AN ORGANISATION CALLED EDIBLELINKS. EDIBLELINKS RECEIVE FOOD FROM SEVERAL SUPERMARKETS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE DESTINED FOR LANDFILL. WE ARE ABLE TO PURCHASE FOOD FROM EDIBLELINKS FOR 40% OF IT'S ORIGINAL COST, MEANING WE ARE SAVING FOOD FROM LANDFILL AND REDUCING OUR FOOD COSTS, SO WE CAN KEEP OUR PRICES LOW WITHOUT MAKING A LOSS.



IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS NEW FOOD OFFER, WE HAVE REPURPOSED EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE DONATED TO US BY DEBENHAMS, TELENT AND THE KINGS ARMS PUB IN KNOWLE. WE ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL FOR THESE DONATIONS, AS THEY HAVE HELPED US CREATE A NEW, HIGH QUALITY, FAST SERVICE FOOD OFFER.

MOVING FROM SMALL BUSINESS STALLS TO SMALL BUSINESS SPACES

THE OTHER THING WE HAVE CHANGED IS WE HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM HAVING SO MANY SMALL BUSINESS STALLS. AS WE HAVE MENTIONED EARLIER, WE HAVE LEARNT THAT MANY PEOPLE NO LONGER HAVE EXTRA INCOME LEFT OVER AT THE END OF THE MONTH IN THIS CURRENT CLIMATE. WE HAVE NOTICED THIS HAVE A HUGE IMPACT ON OUR STALLS, WITH SALES DECLINING DRASTICALLY. SEVERAL OF THE SMALL BUSINESSES WERE NO LONGER ABLE TO RUN WITH THE LACK OF SALES AND SADLY CLOSED.

BUT FOR ONE OF OUR SMALL BUSINESSES, CASSEY'S BEAUTY BOX, WE WERE ABLE TO GO IN A NEW DIRECTION. CASSEY HIRES ROOMS IN OUR BUILDING AT AFFORDABLE COST TO RUN HER BEAUTY BUSINESS, AND HAS US AS HER PERMANENT BUSINESS BASE. CASSEY IS ALSO KEEN TO SUPPORT THE WORK WE DO AS A CHARITY, AND HAS OFFERED DISCOUNTS ON HER BEAUTY TREATMENTS FOR PRIORITY GROUPS INCLUDING DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUNG MUMS. WE HOPE TO ENGAGE MORE SMALL BUSINESSES IN THIS NEW WAY IN THE YEARS TO COME.



WHAT'S NEXT?

THIS YEAR WE ARE THRILLED TO BE ABLE TO PURCHASE OUR BUILDING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL, AND RENOVATE THE NEXT FLOOR OF THE BUILDING, INCLUDING THE WONDERFUL ST GEORGES HALL.

THE OPENING UP OF THIS SPACE WILL BROADEN THE SCOPE OF WHAT WE CAN OFFER, WITH MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR SPORTS ACTIVITIES AND CREATIVE ARTS ACTIVITIES.



IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WE HAVE A FEW INITIATIVES AND GROUPS WE WANT TO RUN TO SUPPORT THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY THIS WINTER. THESE INCLUDE SLOW COOKER COURSES, WINTER COATS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, SUBSIDISED BREAKFAST FOR PENSIONERS AND IT SUPPORT DROP INS.

MOVING FORWARD WE WILL LOOK TO START UP FAMILY EXERCISE CLASSES, EXERCISE FOR MENTAL HEALTH, AND CREATIVE ARTS GROUPS AND PROJECTS, AS WELL AS CONTINUING KEY INITIATIVES WE HAVE BEEN RUNNING THIS YEAR.