



## Maghull Town Hall

Hall Lane, Maghull,

Merseyside L31 7BB

Telephone: 0151 526 3705

Facsimile: 0151 520 0253

E-mail: [info@maghull-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@maghull-tc.gov.uk)

Web Site: [maghull-tc.gov.uk](http://maghull-tc.gov.uk)



**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to attend a Meeting of COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE which will be held in THE VENUE at MAGHULL TOWN HALL on Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 6:30 PM**

**Note:** *DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote, he/she is advised to contact the Town Clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.*

**1 Welcome**

**2 Apologies for Absence**

**3 Declarations of Interest**

**4 Public Participation.**

**5 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Members are asked to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2023 (pages 1 - 4)

**6 Work Programme 2023/24**

Members are asked to consider the report (pages 5 - 8)

**7 Work Programme 2024/25**

Members are asked to consider the report (pages 9 - 12)

**8 Cosy Club**

Members are asked to consider the report (pages 13 - 15)

**9 Chair's Report**

Miss A. McIntyre FSLCC  
Town Clerk

# Minutes of Community Services Committee Held Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr R Ferguson

Councillors : Cllr P Brougham, Cllr P Darlington, Cllr K Hughes, Cllr D Leatherbarrow,  
Cllr C Parker

Officers : P Dillon, S Larking

## 1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

## 2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies have been received from Cllr G Birchall, Cllr L Birchall, Cllr S May

## 3 Declarations of Interest

None received.

## 4 Public Participation.

None advised.

## 5 To Confirm Minutes of Previous Meetings

**RESOLVED** that revised minutes of the meetings held on 7th June 2023 and minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2023 be approved as correct records.

## 6 Christmas Activities

Members received an update as follows:

Christmas Tree: Switch on to be held on Saturday 25th November 2023. Maghull Town Council (MTC) donated tree. Massams to deliver tree on 20th November. Evolve to arrange for Marshalls (their Contractors) to install and dress the tree. Members of Maghull Wind Orchestra (MWO) to play at event. One Central to provide mulled wine and kiddie's rides. Evolve written to all shops about car park closure for the event.

Hampers: Cleansing last year's list. Morrison's on board. Any nominations to Community Services Team. Community Champion at Morrisons been very helpful; will order food and offer a 10% discount. Scouts to help pack on Monday 11 December. Volunteers needed to help deliver hampers.

Christmas Shop Window: Panel to agree a date to judge windows. Officers to provide score sheet

Key points made by Cllrs:

- Push switch on event via Square Facebook page
- Saturday best for judging shop window
- Feedback from residents is that pleased that there will be a tree in the Square.
- Thankful for work Cllr Lock did to secure tree at Square. Opportunity to think about Cllr Lock and his contribution to Maghull when passing the Square

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## 7 Youth Council

Members received an update on next steps to set up a Youth Council starting with consultation with young people

Key points raised by Cllrs:

- Need to involve a cross section of young people from across the community. Not just those involved in school youth councils. Need to ensure that those who gather in parks at night have a voice. Noted that ideas put forward by school councils were the least well attended during Maghull Youth Activity Network (MYAN) events in the summer
- Will contact schools, ATC and Scouts for nominations on who might be able to give different perspectives
- Could restart youth activities while consulting. Recognise that could be improved but disappointed that popular events suspended over half term
- Feedback from young people is that they want somewhere to go which is safe and can help access services e.g. mental health support. Noted that this would need to be staffed and monitored
- Agreed that consultation required to get views and help guide/move forward and should start before Christmas
- Funding available from PCC grant to help with consultation costs

**RESOLVED that**

**1. Consultation with young people to start before Christmas**

**2. The report be noted**

## **8 Civic Awards**

Members were informed that Mr and Mrs Lock had agreed to the proposal to rename the Youth Award to the Matthew Lock Youth Award. They would like to present the award. Nominations will be run from 13 November to 8 January. The Awards event will be held on Wednesday 21st February 2024.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

## **9 Your MAGhull**

The Community Services Manager reported that the Christmas edition of Your MAGhull had gone to the printers. While the magazine is well received and an important part of the Council's communication with residents it is not achieving the level of advertising to be self sustaining. Everyone had worked hard to generate advertising but there is a shortfall of £700 for edition 4. Proposal is to increase the contingency in the Community Services budget from £1,500 to £3,000 in case fall short of income from advertising.

Key points raised by Cllrs:

- It's a good magazine
- Could look to reduce frequency and reduce printing or delivery costs. Noted that now have a reliable delivery system. Will review quality of cheaper paper used for edition 4
- To carry out consultation as feedback includes increase frequency and preference for online only
- Could target where deliver and make copies available in places like Maghull Advice Centre, Cosy Club etc

- Explore if Scouts or ATC (around Moorhey Estate) could deliver for a donation
- Include QR codes to get additional information
- Contingency of £3,000 too much. Proposed up to £2,100 for 3 editions

**RESOLVED that**

- 1. Contingency of £2,100 agreed for 3 editions**
- 2. The report be noted.**

**10 Young People's Wellbeing Sessions**

Members were informed about wellbeing events being held on 2nd and 9th December for children, young people and families at Maghull Town Hall (Activity Room and Council Chamber). Select Training CIC. Sefton at Work and Living Well Sefton are supporting events. Activities will include mindfulness/well being sessions e.g. mini medics for ages 8-12 and Level 1 Mental Health First Aid courses for parents/carers. There will be a market place in the Activity Room for local groups e.g. Home from Home, Change4all and a children's entertainer and face painting.

Select Training are running event on 2nd December for free. There will be costs for the Children's' entertainer, face painting and fruit for Living Well Sefton's smoothie bike. Estimated total costs of events between £600 and £700.

The Community Services Manager reported that a bid had been submitted for work to the Activity Room including improved lighting, a hatch to the kitchen, room divider to split the room and fire doors to separate the area for the Grounds Maintenance Team.

Key points raised by Cllrs:

- Welcome mental health support for young people
- Cllr Darlington was disappointed that yoga session costing £140 over October half term was cancelled. This was a popular activity. Noted that Members happy to spend money on activities that young people want and the range of activities could be expanded in the future

**RESOLVED that**

- 1. Budget of up to £700 for well being events agreed**
- 2. The report be noted**

**11 Budget 2024/25**

The Community Services Manager reported that budget setting for 2024/25 was beginning. The paper provided a snapshot of spend to date to inform members in advance of budget setting. It was noted that the Town Clerk has agreed a grant of £750 for Maghull Foodbank for meat vouchers for Christmas.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**12 Chair's Report**

The Chair raised a request from Friends of Maghull and District (FOMD) to purchase 2 tickets for the pantomime at the Everyman for the winners of the nativity competition. The cost of the tickets are £16.32 each.

**RESOLVED that the cost of 2 pantomime tickets be funded.**

Note: other issues raised at the end of the meeting impacting on Maghull:

- Parking: Not enough parking for people working in Maghull. Small businesses impacted. Need to look at restrictions and remove time limits. Liaise with Home Bargains and Evolve about parking
- Pond at Poppy Fields. Residents concerned about state of pond and risks to fish.
- ASB: Lights in parks
- WWI Panels: Sub committee to consider location of panels

CHAIR

**REPORT OF THE  
TOWN CLERK**

To the Chair and Members  
*Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

<b>Report to:</b>	Community Services Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Agenda Item Number:</b>	6
<b>Subject:</b>	Community Services work programme
<b>Report of:</b>	Community Services Manager
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No

**Summary**

The Community Services team has organised events and is engaged with initiatives that are focused on supporting the local community. In particular members who are in need of additional support and advice in the current stressful economic climate are provided with options to assist them working alongside partner agencies.

<b>Maghull Town Council Priority</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
1. A Sustainable and Greener Maghull	No
2. High Quality, Accessible, Biodiverse Green Spaces and Parks	No
3. An Excellent Offer for the Youth of Maghull	Yes
4. A Great Place to Live, Work and Visit	Yes
5. Statutory Requirement	No

**Recommendation(s)**

Community Services Committee is recommended to: -

1. Note the contents of this report.

**Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

Committee to note contents of the report about recent activities organised by the Community Services Team.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

**(A) Revenue.**

Financed from Community Services budget

**(B) Capital**

None

**Implications of Recommendations:**

<b>Resource Implications</b>	The proposals are supported by the council's agreed budget and staff resources
<b>Legal Implications</b>	None

**REPORT OF THE  
TOWN CLERK**

To the Chair and Members  
*Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

<b>Equality &amp; Diversity Implications</b>	Events and activities are inclusive of all sectors of the community. Partner agencies assist with targeting marginalised members of the community.
--	--

**Implementation Date for Decision**

Immediately following the meeting

**Appendices**

Budget Monitoring Report to 27/2/24

**Background Papers**

None

<b>Contact Officer</b>	Phil Dillon – Community Services Manager
<b>Telephone Number</b>	0151 526 3705
<b>Email Address</b>	Phil.Dillon@maghull-tc.gov.uk

**1. Background**

The Community Services team has delivered several activities and events during the end of 2023 focussing on Christmas and supporting the community in the build up to Christmas.

With the success of the FOMD bid for £3.5k of Warm Spaces grant it has been possible to run Cosy Club, returning to an enhanced warm space with hot food and entertainment. Attendances have mushroomed on the Monday afternoons at the Venue with figures reaching 70 regularly. The grant ran out at the beginning of February and MTC has agreed to cover the costs for sessions up to Easter which will be eight Mondays in total and cost circa £1400.

The Community Services team continued to support Maghull Foodbank with a grant of £500 to purchase meat vouchers from local butchers for Christmas. This was topped up by £250 as the demand was so high the initial vouchers had all been allocated with a few days. The foodbank has seen an increase in people using it and new families which indicate the cost of living crisis remains very much at the fore affecting members of our community.

100 Christmas hampers were successfully delivered to vulnerable residents with support from volunteers and councillors. A 10% discount was obtained from the Community Champion at Morrisons. Working with partners including Sefton CVS, Westway Health Centre, Maghull Foodbank and Hudson Childrens Centre the hampers were targeted at those most in need. The Community Services team has received messages of thanks and acknowledgement from people in receipt of hampers and also their friends and neighbours who understand the need and stress that individuals and families face during the Christmas period.

The Christmas Tree switch on went ahead successfully on 25<sup>th</sup> November with the Mayor handing the switch on duties to the parents of Matthew Lock. An estimated 200 people attended and enjoyed the music and singing from Maghull Wind Orchestra and local church carol singers. Thanks were given to Morrisons for providing mince pies that were much appreciated by those present. The Mayor provided a speech and thanks to those involved in

**REPORT OF THE  
TOWN CLERK**

To the Chair and Members  
*Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

organising the event including Evolve Estates. One matter to note is that a larger sound system would be needed at a similar event for everyone in the crowd to be able to hear clearly.

Councillors conducted the annual Christmas shop window competition and managed to find three winners introducing two new categories for most humorous window and best charity shop window to accompany the overall winner. So winners of the most humorous window goes to Studio Ink on Liverpool Road North and in the Charity Shop category the winner was St Joseph's Hospice charity shop with overall winners being One Central.

Family events hosted in October and December in the Town Hall's Activity Room proved to be popular. Providing entertainment during the half term holidays and then offering children's mental health support were both good indicators for future activities that could be considered by MTC. It will be important to have partners onboard to deliver activities agreed by Council and how this links to the proposed Youth Council should be determined as soon as possible.

The advice centre has continued to provide support throughout the winter period. There was a notable drop off in clients during December with only 12 seeking advice. However, in January there was record demand with 61 people seeking some form of help. This compares with an average of around 35 people a month throughout the first year of the advice centre offering services. Big Help have now conducted 2 training sessions for volunteers which have been very well received and provided an introduction to dealing with welfare advice cases. The second phase of training will allow volunteers access to Advice Pro software that enable quick benefit calculations and will improve initial consultations with people using the advice centre. Volunteers have signed up to Big Help's confidentiality cover which will enable individual case discussions when needed.

**Recommendation(s)**

Community Services Committee is recommended to:-

- 1 Agree the work programme moving forward
- 2 Note the contents of this report.



Community Services to 27/2/24	Department 3				
Codes		2023/24			
		Budget	Actual	Variance	Explanation
<b>INCOME</b>					
4001	PRECEPT	88,967.00	74,139.38	14,827.62	
4391	FESTIVAL EVENTS INCOME	1,600.00	1,000.00	600.00	
4395	MISC INCOME	0.00	12,210.27	-12,210.27	Includes £1320 from Mayoral donation for Youth Activities. Magazine income (£6200), cozy club recharges (£1206)
		<b>90,567.00</b>	<b>87,349.65</b>	<b>3,217.35</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>SUPPLIERS</b>					
5330	NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTIVITIES	8,000.00	7,775.79	224.21	Magazine expenses £7140
5331	EVENTS	5,000.00	8,715.47	-3,715.47	Civic awards comes from this budget in February, cozy club purchases (£2099) in here
5333	CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES	5,000.00	2,635.01	2,364.99	Hampers £2228, Tree £312
5334	YOUTH PROVISION	8,000.00	1,170.00	6,830.00	Expect underspend as nothing planned
5335	GRANTS	5,000.00	3,602.14	1,397.86	
		<b>31,000.00</b>	<b>23,898.41</b>	<b>7,101.59</b>	
<b>OVERHEADS</b>					
7003	MOBILE PHONES	100.00	0.00	100.00	
7100	SALARIES	46,141.00	43,294.72	2,846.28	
7106	EMPLOYER'S NI	4,283.00	3,673.34	609.66	
7107	PENSIONS	9,043.00	7,619.90	1,423.10	
7846	MISCELLANEOUS		10.06	-10.06	
		<b>59,567.00</b>	<b>54,587.96</b>	<b>4,979.04</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>8,863.28</b>	<b>-8,863.28</b>	

**REPORT OF THE  
TOWN CLERK**

To the Chair and Members  
*Meeting 5th March 2024*

<b>Report to:</b>	Community Services Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Agenda Item Number:</b>	7
<b>Subject:</b>	Community Services work programme 2024/25
<b>Report of:</b>	Community Services Manager
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No

**Summary**

The Committee should consider its priorities for community activities during the coming year noting the budgetary constraints it is now necessary to operate under.

<b>Maghull Town Council Priority</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
1. A Sustainable and Greener Maghull	No
2. High Quality, Accessible, Biodiverse Green Spaces and Parks	No
3. An Excellent Offer for the Youth of Maghull	Yes
4. A Great Place to Live, Work and Visit	Yes
5. Statutory Requirement	No

**Recommendation(s)**

Community Services Committee is recommended to: -

1. Note the contents of this report.
2. Determine what are the deliverable priorities for 2024/25

**Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

Committee needs to agree activities and events within the community for the coming year and how these will be resourced

**Alternative Options Considered**

None

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

**(A) Revenue.**

Financed from Community Services budget and possibly external grants

**(B) Capital**

None

**Implications of Recommendations:**

<b>Resource Implications</b>	The proposals are supported by the council's agreed budget and staff resources
------------------------------	--

**REPORT OF THE  
TOWN CLERK**

To the Chair and Members  
*Meeting 5th March 2024*

<b>Legal Implications</b>	None
<b>Equality &amp; Diversity Implications</b>	Events and activities are inclusive of all sectors of the community. Partner agencies assist with targeting marginalised members of the community.

**Implementation Date for Decision**

Immediately following the meeting

**Appendices**

Budget agreed at Full Council (29 January 2024)

**Background Papers**

None

<b>Contact Officer</b>	Phil Dillon – Community Services Manager
<b>Telephone Number</b>	0151 526 3705
<b>Email Address</b>	Phil.Dillon@maghull-tc.gov.uk

**1. Background**

The Community Services team works to a programme of activities and events agreed by Community Services Committee. The budget for resourcing this work has been approved by Full Council which agreed an overall reduction of £7,550 for the coming financial year.

The key activities and events that have formed the bulk of the community services programme will have to be tailored to meet the new budget. Notably Youth Provision has reduced from £8,000 to £3,000. Given the underspend for the current financial year that may not have such an impact on services but the intention to establish more youth oriented activities will have to be reflected in the resources available. The grant of £1,000 funding to establish a Youth Council will require accessing as Council determines how it wishes to pursue this.

Similarly the reduction in budget for Christmas activities from £5,000 to £3,500 will necessitate a reduction in activities during the Christmas period. The option of providing a tree for Central Square without the expense of having to dress the tree is unlikely to be the case next year. Evolve have already remarked on the costs of installing and dressing the tree and would be looking for a contribution. In the past this has cost Council in excess of £1,000. The bulk of Christmas activity expenditure goes to providing 100 hampers for vulnerable residents. Running at circa £2,200 this is extremely well received across the town and with the range of partner agencies that help with this. Whilst it may be possible to reduce the costs associated with the hampers it is unlikely they would remain viable on the current scale if less than £1,500 was available.

It has already been noted at committee that the costs of hosting MaghullFest in its traditional form require reviewing as the event is susceptible to the weather and with its cancellation last year due to poor weather the Community Services team has investigated having an event that could be hosted largely in doors. Utilising the Activity Room and potentially The Venue could accommodate local voluntary groups and what activities Council would like to promote. The external event could take the form of a funfair which would pay Council to use

**REPORT OF THE  
TOWN CLERK**

To the Chair and Members  
*Meeting 5th March 2024*

KGV and could provide income to hire children's entertainers. A change of date from August to July has been suggested based on recent weather patterns. If the Committee approves this the community Services team would have to move quickly to start making arrangements to have things in place and ready to go for earlier in the year. It should be noted that Sharlands funfair is expecting to hold events on 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September on KGV Playing Field weather permitting. This would bring in revenue for the Council that could be used to support other activities.

The final significant corporate event of the year is the Civic Awards night which is hosted in February. The event in its entirety costs between £2,500 and £3,000 including, catering, room decoration, entertainment and the actual awards given to the winners. Committee needs to decide if this event continues in its current format. It is viewed as great recognition for the community and the people and businesses who attend. There may be a possibility of seeking sponsorship to offset at least part of the costs.

There will be a collective community grant fund of £3,000 available for local groups to apply for. This is down £2,000 from the previous year. £2,000 has been offered to MiB in recent years and £500 set aside to support Maghull Foodbank. This would leave £500 available unless a decision is made to reduce funding to the aforementioned groups. This would need to be communicated to them as they prepare for the new financial year.

The continuance of the community magazine in its current form requires reviewing given that reduced flexibility in the Community Services budget to cover any shortfall in advertising income. In 2023 three editions of the magazine have cost Council £914.00 with only one making a small profit. Older residents value the magazine and use it to inform themselves about local activities and events. Anecdotally younger residents under 50 years of age may be less likely to place value on the magazine even in its digital form. A decision is required as to the magazine's future form and distribution.

**2. Applying for funding to support MTC activities**

MTC has taken the decision to establish a Community Interest Company. Once this has been achieved there will need to be priorities established as to what type of projects and activities the CIC would seek in order to deliver activities and events for local residents to high standards and at acceptable frequencies. Of particular note is the need to increase resources for youth activities which could be directed by a new Youth Council. This will take time as bids will have to be drawn up and there is a time lag in any form of funding being accessed, even when a bid is successful. Officers view initiating bids as a priority if additional financial support is to be available for the summer or autumn.

**Recommendation(s)**

Community Services Committee is recommended to:-

- 1 Note the contents of this report.
- 2 Determine what are the deliverable priorities for 2024/25

**Budget 2024-25 Department 3 Community Services**

**INCOME**

<b>4001</b>	PRECEPT	77,170.00	
<b>4391</b>	FESTIVAL EVENTS INCOME	1,000.00	
			Includes £1,320
			Mayoral donation
			for youth activities;
			estimated Magazine
			income & other
			recharges eg Cosy
<b>4395</b>	MISC. INCOME	7,500.00	Club
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>85,670.00</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>SUPPLIERS</b>		
<b>5330</b>	NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTIVITIES	6,000.00	Includes magazine
<b>5331</b>	EVENTS	7,950.00	expenses
<b>5333</b>	CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES	3,500.00	
<b>5334</b>	YOUTH PROVISION	3,000.00	
<b>5335</b>	GRANTS	3,000.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>23,450.00</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
	<b>OVERHEADS</b>		
<b>7003</b>	MOBILE PHONES	176.00	
<b>7100</b>	SALARIES (From workings below)	48,779.00	
<b>7106</b>	EMPLOYER'S NI (from Dept workings)	4,680.00	
<b>7107</b>	PENSIONS (From Dept workings)	8,585.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>62,220.00</b>	

0.00

**REPORT OF THE  
TOWN CLERK**

To the Chair and Members  
*Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

<b>Report to:</b>	Community Services Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Agenda Item Number:</b>	8
<b>Subject:</b>	Cosy Club continuation
<b>Report of:</b>	Community Services Manager
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No

**Summary**

The Community Services team has been supporting the Cosy Club Warm Space on Monday afternoons. This is attended by up to 70 predominantly elderly residents and was supported through the winter by a Warm Space grant via Sefton MBC. This funding expired at the beginning of February 2024 and which Council has agreed to continue with financial support until the end of March a decision is needed about extending into the spring and summer months.

<b>Maghull Town Council Priority</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
1. A Sustainable and Greener Maghull	No
2. High Quality, Accessible, Biodiverse Green Spaces and Parks	No
3. An Excellent Offer for the Youth of Maghull	No
4. A Great Place to Live, Work and Visit	Yes
5. Statutory Requirement	No

**Recommendation(s)**

Community Services Committee is recommended to: -

1. Note the contents of this report.
2. Determine further financial support for Cosy Club into April, May and June 2024

**Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

Committee needs to decide whether support will continue for Cosy Club which will determine whether it continues.

**Alternative Options Considered**

None

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

**(A) Revenue.**

Financed from Community Services budget

**(B) Capital**

None

**Implications of Recommendations:**

**REPORT OF THE  
TOWN CLERK**

To the Chair and Members  
*Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

<b>Resource Implications</b>	There will be an impact on Community Services events budget and on staff time required
<b>Legal Implications</b>	None
<b>Equality &amp; Diversity Implications</b>	Cosy Club supports some of the more vulnerable members of the community who benefit not just from the food provided but from social interaction. It also provides a place for carers to bring relatives they support.

**Implementation Date for Decision**

Immediately following the meeting

**Appendices**

None

**Background Papers**

None

<b>Contact Officer</b>	Phil Dillon – Community Services Manager
<b>Telephone Number</b>	0151 526 3705
<b>Email Address</b>	Phil.Dillon@maghull-tc.gov.uk

**1. Background**

Cosy Club relies on the financial support of Warm Spaces Grant obtained by FOMD and MTC. It also has a team of dedicated volunteers who run each afternoon serving food and assisting attendees who require personalised support. It continues to prove to be very popular with up to 70 people regularly attending. Many take advantage of the opportunity for social interaction and several new friendship groups have grown and thrive at Cosy Club.

With Warm Spaces grant running out at the start of February 2024 Council agreed to continue funding the enhanced warm space providing hot food and entertainment until the end of March. The approximate £1400 needed will come from underspend in the Community Services budget. Each session costs approximately £200 which works out at about £3 per person.

Moving forward the Community Services team has been asked about Cosy Club's future in the spring and summer months. Last year it moved from an enhanced warm space to a basic coffee afternoon with sandwiches and drinks. This cost £80 for sandwiches and £20 for additional costs of paper plates, cups and disposable cutlery, each afternoon. The Community Services team have looked at costs for providing similar this year and they have risen marginally. For the 10 Monday afternoons (excluding bank holidays) to the end of June this would come at a cost of circa £1,000. There is an option of simply opening the room for people to meet but this may marginalise those less able to bring their own food. Some attendees have offered to pay but again this would risk losing the people most in need of support and least able to afford it.

If Committee agrees to an extension with financial support the Community Services Manager would then propose closing Cosy Club for the bulk of July and August allowing for staff

**REPORT OF THE  
TOWN CLERK**

To the Chair and Members  
*Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

annual leave and volunteer holidays. A review could be conducted from September onwards when there should be an indication about further warm space funding to take us into the winter of 2024/25.

**Recommendation(s)**

Community Services Committee is recommended to:-

- 1 Note the contents of this report.
- 2 Determine further financial support for Cosy Club into April, May and June 2024