



27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

To whom it may concern.

The Haslemere & District Community Centre (HDCC) trading as Haslewey and located on Lion Green would like to be considered by Haslemere Town Council for a Revenue Grant of £10,000 as part of your annual budgeting process.

Haslewey stands alone as a community centre delivering support to the most vulnerable local people. It has an onsite Podiatrist, Hairdressers & Post Office together with the vibrant Wey Terrace Café providing an affordable lunch in a sociable, bright space. These services alongside activities and room hire have allowed Haslewey to shine brightly within Waverley, not being reliant on large service level agreements like many other centres. Before Covid-19 Haslewey was being used as a template for other centres to mirror over the next few years, enabling them to run independently like Haslewey and free up vital diminishing resources within WBC.

Obviously much has changed with lockdown and Covid-19 and Haslewey finds itself in the unenviable position of having the most to lose... indeed the centre has seen room hire income fall from an average £2700 per week to just over £450 per week over the last 5 months with regular activities not looking to come back until well into 2021.

The Café was initially closed and since reopening has seen revenue drop from an average £400 + daily to just over £100. We introduced some dine out specials as per the government incentive, allowing our chef to enjoy freedom to use luxury produce and charge a small premium (with a 50% discount) that our regulars have thoroughly enjoyed, however even with these incentives our revenue is dismally low.

These losses have been compounded by the need to continue to deliver the Community Meals Service (CMS) during lockdown - numbers rose from 37 to over 60 daily for over three months and even now are stable at around 50 meals daily. Whilst we are proud and delighted to have delivered this vital service it has come at a very real cost to Haslewey.

CMS was always run on a charitable basis with 2 courses costing £6.50 to the client, the actual cost of providing the meal was £6.40 before lockdown. The infrastructure for CMS was supported by the café and its staff meaning that during lockdown Haslewey has been unable to furlough staff who have been busier than ever cooking meals, organising rotas and volunteer drivers. Presently each meal is costing £10.40 in total [including delivery] and the centre is suffering real losses of around £5000 per month.

Like other charities we have also missed out on fundraising opportunities. Haslewey was one of the Mayors chosen charities, the centre was also due to be the main beneficiary of Little Lumpy, now cancelled until next year. All of our inhouse fundraising has been cancelled due

to social distancing restrictions and through these revenue streams alone we have missed out on approximately £15,000.

Moving forward we will need medium term extra support/funding to enable Haslewey to remain this most vital community hub. All PPE and Risk Assessments are in place and we look forward to welcoming activities back when people feel safe return. The long-term goals are to offer inhouse diabetes prevention and nutritional support in line with government guidelines - a member of staff is fully qualified in this field and raring to go. Haslewey will continue to offer free counselling and Money Matters, a support group run by 3 Counties Church have come back to the centre as more people than ever are struggling with their finances. The centre will run more computer courses for the elderly as Zoom and Face Time have proved to be the new way to stay in touch with loved ones etc. Haslewey will always be forward focusing and looking for new ways to support and engage with our community, knowing we are financially solvent is vitally important. There will be many challenges, even with much needed extra support Haslewey will make at least one member of the team redundant with the possibility of reduced hours for others. These are worrying times for all and I feel a Community Centre that offers a warm welcome in a safe environment is more vital than ever for people's wellbeing and mental health.

I hope the Town Council can support Haslewey with a Revenue Grant of £10,000 going forward. We enclose our Revenue Grant application form together with our last audited accounts and Trustees are happy to attend a Town Council or Budget Committee meeting in support of our application and provide any further information you may require. If any Councillors wish to visit the centre please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Penny Bradley

Chair or Trustees