

APPENDIX A

Public Questions - Extraordinary Full Council 28 September 2022

1. “Thank you for the opportunity to address the meeting this evening regarding Agenda Item 14 - a motion from several councillors referring to the potential problems the community could be facing in the months ahead - and apologies for not being able to attend in person. At the Community Hub it was very sad recently to hear an elderly lady say that when it gets cold this winter her and her husband intend to stay in bed until after midday and return there around 5pm/6pm in order to stay warm, given that they will not be able to heat their house. This is not an action that anyone in our community should have to consider in 2022, and so, alongside all the other community activities that Chippenham Community Hub offer, we intend to create the ‘Hub Living Room’ where our doors are open two days a week offering a warm quality social space.

It would, of course, be fantastic if the people of Chippenham and the surrounding villages could have a complete weekly calendar of these ‘Living Rooms’ where they can avoid social isolation, loneliness and all the effects of prevailing national conditions that might make this winter one to endure, rather than one to live to the full. This really is achievable and so my question to Councillors this evening is “Would you please consider asking officers to co-ordinate a meeting of the many superb organisations in the town who can, and will, offer this help in order that it is both effectively executed and efficiently communicated to our community”?

Together we can be a force for good, so let’s show the people of Chippenham the quality that comes from the community working as one. Lets make this a town of Living Rooms. Kind regards, on Behalf of Chippenham Community Hub”

2. “I am the member of the leadership team at Sheldon Road Methodist Church on the corner of Sheldon Road and Audley Road and I wish to address you briefly on a project that we have been running and an initiative that we wish to develop. We’ve been acutely aware for some considerable while in the current economic climate many families and individuals are struggling to make ends meet, we recognised that people find themselves in these difficult situations not often of their own making and it is if you like, if I can use that word, our mission to bring hope to those who find themselves in difficulty. We have been delighted to be able to run a community lunch project on Saturdays from July to September, we are now able to also confirm this Saturday 01 October we are able to run this again, weekly on a Saturday to 17 December. Anybody who walks through the door on a Saturday, we don’t ask to qualify them, we don’t ask any questions, and they are provided with a free 2 course lunch. That can be people with all sorts of needs and difficulties.

We are also grateful for grant money that we receive from Chippenham Borough Lands Charity and Chippenham Lions, the total grant money is about £3250, which allows us to continue this project beyond hopefully the new year again as no doubt everybody is aware the situation is not going to improve. There is a need we also believe to grab an initiative of the warm spaces project, to provide spaces for people who are having difficulty in heating their homes, or having difficulty in making ends meet, as simple as that. We need a coordinated approach, no one organisation can do that on their own. We, Sheldon Road, are talking to other faith groups and non-faith groups in Chippenham to try and have a cohesive and coordinated approach, nobody can do this on their own. We've led the way we hope in implementing the community lunch project, in a warm and friendly atmosphere on a Saturday and we anticipate that as the autumn turns into winter the demand is going to become even greater. May I pose a question to the Council, will the town council take a lead in coordinating this initiative across the town to provide a warm space somewhere across the town each and every day?"

APPENDIX B

Not part of the meeting

Response to Public Questions asked at Extraordinary Full Council on 28 September 2022:

1 & 2: Thank you for your public question to Full Council on Wednesday 28 September 2022. Councillors passed the motion to write to Wiltshire Council requesting that Wiltshire Council consider the setting up of 'warm rooms', for Chippenham residents. To note allocating space at the Olympiad, Monkton Park Offices and the Library, which will be available to Chippenham residents as places to sit and keep warm during the forthcoming autumn and winter. The Chief Executive was also delegated to investigate making the reception area within the Town Hall available for residents during the day, as a place to sit and keep warm. Thank you for your ongoing work and support as a community group in Chippenham. The Council is currently considering organising a meeting with stakeholders and community groups.