

## **H.Gent report to Broadclyst PC : CLYST CARING FRIENDS DAY CARE CENTRE**

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August, myself and Chris Pepper, together with Sara Randall-Johnson, met with the Trustees and Management Committee of Cyst Caring Friends(CCF), at the Day Care Centre, to discuss the funding shortfall within CCF. The shortfall is partly due to the withdrawal, for the current year, of an annual grant of about £12,000 from DCC Social Services which went towards the Day Care Centre.

We have been given accounts covering the last ten years. The following points were made:

1. The day care centre does provide a worthwhile service which is integrated with the doctors.
2. The rent of about £10,000 per year is about 20% of costs. The venue is purposefully equipped for elderly people. It is under-used and a little use by other clubs provides a small income. There is potential for additional care or therapy activities, or toddler groups.
3. The day care centre is at capacity for the 3 days of the week when it is open. With more service users, it could open on more days of the week, but the additional running costs, especially staff, mean that there might not be any marginal improvement in cash flow. Nevertheless, I feel that, given the suitability of the venue for elderly people, the trustees should perhaps be looking to expand rather than retract, even though that is not currently viable.
4. The service users are about 60% self-funded, paying £32 per day, and about 40% paid by DCC Social Services, who pay £34 per day, which is about the going rate. A significant price increase would deter them all.
5. The maximum capacity is 15 per day but high levels of wheel chair users reduces capacity to about 12-13 people. There is a total of about 20 service users coming regularly; not all of them come on all three days. About 8 live in Broadclyst parish.
6. Some other services for the elderly which were previously provided by CCF have already been stopped due to the withdrawal of funding. Previously, £5,000 per annum paid for a "befriender" who met people in their homes and identified people who needed bathing or to come into the centre. So even before this latest cut, CCF was already "cut to the bone" ie down to the core activity, at least as far as care for the elderly is concerned.
7. The withdrawal of support by DCC has occurred in a period of exceptional pressure on the social care budget. But government policy is to join up the provision of health and social care. Day care helps to avoid the need for hospitalisation or residential care. Day care helps to provide care in the community, in order to get patients out of hospital. For these reasons, it is possible that DCC funding for the centre is not a lost cause. Sara Randall-Johnson explained the situation and undertook to look into it.

CCF is running the day care centre at a loss, because it has the cushion a legacy donation which it received in the past. However, it is "eating its capital" and this cannot go on. Unfortunately, we cannot assume that DCC will come up with the money for 2018-19.

At this stage the parish council must make a decision, in principle, to look more closely at whether we can help, and to what extent. If we do decide to go ahead, we can work more closely with CCF to put a proposal in front of the council, based on the guidance from the council about the scale of grant that is likely to be acceptable to the council. Such a proposal would need to be agreed by the Finance Committee and/or the full Council in advance of the budget-setting meeting of the Finance Committee which will take place in November.

***Henry Gent Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017***