



The Rev'd Kevin Price
Clerk to Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council
Braeside
Low Greenhills
Crook
Kendal
LA8 8LA

28 Feb 2021

Dear Rev'd Price

'KL Community': Community Hub, Cupboard, Food Club & Community Lunches - Request for funding

Firstly, we would like to express our sincere thanks to Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council for the financial support which you kindly gave to both the Community Hub and Cupboard back in April, this funding was so important and enabled us to get the phone line up and running and purchase enough stock to begin supporting households immediately. Secondly, we are also writing to ask Councillors to consider our request for further funding to support our community initiatives over the next 6 months.

The Community Hub (Hub) was set up by volunteers in March 2020 to help people in the community who are self-isolating and unable to leave their homes, an invaluable point of contact for many. The Community Cupboard (CC) was established in May 2020 by volunteers in response to the Covid-19 crisis and the growing concern for those in our community who were suffering from the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The CC and Hub have been working in partnership over the last 11 months to support our community since the crisis began, recently merging under one umbrella. Together we have continued to respond to emerging needs within our community, and consequently our operation has grown considerably.

Working with an incredible army of over 40 volunteers, we are now running the Hub helpline, the Community Cupboard, a weekly Food Club, and most recently introducing twice weekly Community Lunches and family meals. Through these initiatives we are currently supporting over 150 households and have answered over 1000 requests for help. As we focus our attentions on delivering urgent support, the name and official structure comprising these joint initiatives is yet to be discussed and decided, but for the purposes of making things as clear as possible for this request we will refer to our joint operation as 'KL Community'.

'KL Community' has evolved quickly as we have reacted to urgent situations; every day brings new challenges, and we are constantly adapting to rapidly changing circumstances. We are still learning, but we strive to respond and react to every new challenge with positivity. We hope that as times goes on, we will have more opportunities to reflect on our learnings and look to the future – and we would very much value input from the Town Council throughout this process. For now, our priority remains to provide the ongoing support our community needs to get through this crisis together.

The Community Cupboard, Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC, Underley Park, Kirkby Lonsdale, LA6 2DS

015242 36404 admin@klcommunity.co.uk www.klcommunity.co.uk

We have given considerable thought to how best the Town Council can support our work and, after careful consideration, we are requesting a grant of £5,000 to provide flexible core funding over the next 6 months. Whilst so much is unknown and unpredictable, it is vital that we have the funds in place so we can keep going, continue responding to need, expand if needed and react quickly when necessary. This is only possible if we have enough flexible core funding in place. We would also like to request that the 'KL Community' initiatives remain a regular agenda item on all Town Council meetings for the foreseeable future whilst we remain on an 'Emergency response' footing (until need and circumstances are reviewed).

We have attached a document which we hope provides the supporting information needed for the Town Council to consider our request fully, but please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information or if it would be beneficial for representatives to meet on Zoom to discuss ahead of the Town Council meeting.

Whilst this pandemic has created so many difficulties and caused so much sadness, the 'KL Community' initiatives have come to embody so many positives that exist in our community. We have been overwhelmed by the incredible support, generosity and understanding that our wonderful community has tirelessly offered. With the support of the Town Council, we look to the future with optimism and an enhanced ability to meet the Community's ever-changing needs.

We would like to thank the Town Council for taking the time to consider our request and for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Bradshaw', written in a cursive style.

Janet Bradshaw

Chair of the Community Cupboard Committee