

Figini, Stuart

From: Louise Godwin <louise.godwin@virgin.net>
Sent: 26 February 2021 13:10
To: Dunford, Peter
Subject: Calne Central

Hi Peter,

Thank you for your time this morning. Following on from our conversation I would be very grateful if you could speak to the councillors at the area board meeting next week about the possibility of allocating the remaining unclaimed charity funding budget of £650 to Calne Central?

Calne Central is a volunteer led drop-in centre for vulnerable members of the community. We run a community kitchen serving hot food six days a week and have a fridge and food pantry accessible 24/7 for anyone who needs it. We have a couple of computers with internet access so can assist people with things like applying for benefits, searching for jobs, completing applications and creating CV's. Equally as important as this practical support is the emotional support our volunteers provide. We offer a listening ear and company to the lonely and vulnerable in a warm safe environment. Everyone is welcome.

We raise money to keep the centre open through the sale of donated goods. This includes everything from bicycles, buggies and electrical items through to books, CD's and bric-a-brac. Goods are sold from within the centre, but we also use social media to advertise and sell things. We offer a shop window for local artists and jewellers, displaying and selling their work for a small percentage of anything sold.

On average we feed 12-15 people a day, six days a week, so need to continually fundraise to maintain this service. Since lockdown we've expanded to offer take away food to anyone shielding. We've also recently installed a phone line, which we're using to assist with combating loneliness amongst housebound individuals.

We set up a little over a year ago as an off shoot of another established Calne charity, Calne in Tune. As we've expanded and developed to meet the changing needs of our community we have decided to try and set up as a charity in our own right. We are currently working towards applying for registered charity status but are still approx. £1,000 away from the £5,000 income per year needed in order to apply to register with the charity commission.

If the councillors did decide that Calne Central would be a worthy cause for receiving their remaining budget for this financial year we would use the money to purchase food for meals and also put some of it towards the cost of heating and lighting our premises. As importantly, it would of course make a considerable contribution to our income for this financial year, and our ability to apply for registered charity status.

I am aware that the deadline for grant bids for this financial year has already passed, but as a relatively newly established charity, Calne Central would be very grateful if you could consider us for financial support.

Thank you again for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Louise Godwin
Volunteer Fundraiser for Calne Central