

DERWENT CAFÉ PROJECT GRANT UPDATE

Report of the Head of Housing Management

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Operational Board approved a £20,000 Grant to the Derwent Café Project in September 2021. This report is to update the Board on the progress of the grant.
- 1.2 The Derwent Café project has been developed to benefit Derwent and Chaddesden wards and create much needed community space. The project is working towards the reinvention of the large, accessible space within St. Philip's church on Taddington Road.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the update of the project.

3. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To note how the grant from Derby Homes has supported a community facility, allowing community activities to take place, impacting neighbourhood satisfaction and community development in the area.

4. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 In September 2021, the Operational Board were presented with a report to request grant funding for the Derwent Café Project. The project was to rejuvenate St Phillips Church in the Derwent ward after consultation with residents. It was noted that there was a desire for a 'meeting point' and more community space in the area.
- 4.2 Residents discussed what they felt a new 'meeting point' could look like and felt that there would be many benefits to having a café. The idea gained wider support following discussions with local Councillors and partners.
- 4.3 After Board approval and installation of a new kitchen, the café was launched in December 2021. Derby Homes were invited to speak at the event, and the ribbon was cut by Derby Homes' Customer Voice Chair, Lesley Buxton-Kay.



Opening of the event, 3 December 2021.



4.4 St Philips' community cafe' is now open weekdays from 10.30am-1pm for light refreshments. Weekly events that take place in the café include:

- Toddler group,
- Coffee and crafting
- Grief Café
- Dementia Support Service
- Menopause support sessions
- Derby County Community Trust Team Talk

- Men's Group
- Local Area Coordinator meetings

- 4.5 The vision of the project was 'to create a community space and cafe that serves the local community through working in partnership with local groups and organisations seeking to empower and improve quality of life'. The community space is working to increase community-based activities and support local groups and services focussed on improving mental health and well-being.
- 4.6 Reverend Sarah Watson has been talking to customers as they visit, and she has been surprised at the amount of people that come specifically to look for mental health support and to tackle isolation. This was something Amanda Solloway MP noticed on her visit, as she discussed the monthly grief café as a community asset. Amanda and Reverend Sarah Watson pictured below.



- 4.7 Local residents have been using the café regularly, with an average of 40 people visiting each day. There are some older couples visiting on a daily basis. Although the café has been successful, a success that was not anticipated was the popularity of the lunches. On an average weekday lunch, there can be 25 to 30 jacket potatoes purchased, with additional guests requesting refreshments and snacks. The demand has been higher than expected, which has led to the need for an increase in volunteers.

- 4.8 On a Wednesday Lunchtime, Derby Adult Learning service have a dedicated lunch service, where they use the facilities for training and upskilling people for catering qualifications. This project has been so popular that they are also looking to expand into Tuesday Lunch, too.
- 4.8 The next phase in the cafés development is to:
- Work with Community Action Derby to gain more volunteers. This will be facilitated from the Customer Engagement Team
 - Increase the social media presence, focussing on Facebook
 - Look at different options to create a community garden space, including planters and seating.
- 4.9 The café will be continually developed, adapting its use to the needs of the community and acting as a hub of engagement.

5. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

IMPLICATIONS

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report:

Consultation
 Financial and Business Plan
 Legal and Confidentiality
 Council
 Personnel
 Environmental
 Equalities Impact Assessment
 Health & Safety
 Risk
 Policy Review

If Board Members or others would like to discuss this report ahead of the meeting please contact:

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Background Information: Derwent Café Grant December 2021.

Supporting Information: None

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Finance Director/Derby Homes Accountant	Helen Samuel	12/5/22
Company Solicitor	Taranjit Lalria	24/05/2022
Head of Service (Operational Board reports)	Lorraine Testro	29/04/22
Other(s)	[Name]	[Date]