



Boughton Aluph & Eastwell
PARISH COUNCIL

Proposal: to support and enable the provision of warm spaces/hubs over winter 2022/2023

28/9/22

Background:

The rising cost-of-living in the UK and cost of heating homes is likely to result in unprecedented pressures on people this winter with difficult choices over essential spending.

Proposal:

To provide warm spaces that can be accessed this winter, free of charge.

The Parish Council does not own any premises, the idea is therefore to work with business and community partners to provide warm spaces that can be accessed by residents.

A local business in the Boughton Lees has already offered to host two sessions a week for a nominal sum and a business in the Goat Lees area of the Parish is interested in the idea pending a conversation with area management.

The ideal is to have a more than one space, across the Parish area at different times of the week ideally utilising those spaces that are already staffed and open to the public to ensure safety and to offer hot drinks.

Depending on usage, space and time there may be an opportunity to use the space to offer or connect with other services. It may be that people may also use the space to reduce social isolation.

Contact has been made with Ashford Borough Council to see if there may be any opportunities locally for funding, joint working or to learn from other ideas or good practice in this area.

Recommendations:

To approve the provision of sessional community warm hubs/spaces by working alongside partners and businesses to help the local community.

Initial budget allocation (to keep reviewed): £2000 from 'other projects'.

To delegate to the Clerk to liaise and book sessions with potential providers (within budget). To keep under review including with users, consulting Chairman & Vice-Chairman as needed and report monthly to council.

Rachel Girt, Parish Clerk