

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item No. 13

meeting date: TUESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2019  
 title: LUNCHEON CLUBS  
 submitted by: NICOLA HOPKINS - DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING  
 principal author: DILYS DAY – PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

**1 PURPOSE**

1.1 This report provides Committee with an update on the Luncheon Clubs support project which was given a budget allocation in 2015 following the cessation of the meals on wheels service.

1.2 Relevance to the Council’s ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – The provision of services supports older and more vulnerable people in the community and provides a point of contact for those residents with other partner agencies.
- Corporate Priorities – The service helps make peoples’ lives safer and healthier and helps to alleviate issues around loneliness and isolation.
- Other Considerations – future funding allocations.

**2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 LCC provided a match fund for the 2 years following the closure of the Meals on Wheels service. This resulted in a fund of £20,000 to be invested in new lunch club provisions and for the development of existing clubs, with the objective of them becoming sustainable.

2.2 In 2016/17 the Council’s budget allocation was £12,910, in 2018/19 it was £13,170 and in the current year £14,520.

**3 PROGRESS TO DATE**

3.1 There are now 25 lunch clubs registered on our database. This is a net increase of 8 since the start of the initiative. It is estimated that the new clubs have attracted around 300 additional people. Clubs of particular note include Ribchester which has a regular attendance of around 60 people, and West Bradford with over 50 regular attenders. Wilpshire attracts around 25 people, and Grindleton also has a membership of over 50 people.

3.2 A lunch club operating at Ribchester Hospital unfortunately had to close due to the difficulty in finding volunteers to keep the group going and this was one of the clubs subsidised by RVBC.

3.2 The following start up and support grants were awarded by the Council in 2018/19:

| Location                    | £               |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Grindleton Lunch club       | 109.00          |
| Mellor Luncheon Club        | 700.00          |
| Clitheroe Methodist Circuit | 400.00          |
| Pendle Luncheon Club        | 750.00          |
| <b>Total for 2018/ 2019</b> | <b>1,959.00</b> |

- 3.4 The Council continues to support 3 clubs on a regular basis – Pendle Club in Clitheroe, Chatburn and Mellor. All of these clubs have been in operation for many years, and have been supported by the Council by way of grant payments towards the running costs. Pendle Club has now reduced the frequency of the lunches to once every two weeks due to availability of cooking volunteers.
- 3.5 In regard to the future budgeting for Lunch Clubs, the existing regular provision can continue to be supported within existing budgets, with the surplus being available for situations where additional funds are needed for the continuation of a lunch provision or for the establishment of a new one. Whilst the Council has promoted within parishes the creation of new clubs, other initiatives are coming forward.
- 3.6 Over the past four years, the expectations around continued funding have been managed, and amounts paid frozen at 2015 levels as clubs have moved towards being more sustainable.
- 3.7 Additionally the clubs have the potential to access alternative funding which reduces the draw on the Council's budget. With the support of the Partnership Officer, Longridge over 60s Club was directed towards the Yapp Foundation which is a fund focused on supporting older people's groups. The Club was able to access funding to help with their running costs over the next 3 years. We also signposted the Gisburn Monday Club to Awards for All, and they too have secured funding to allow their group to continue.
- 3.8 All of the new clubs have been supported by the Partnership Team to help them to set up and become established. They are now thriving, and are sustainable with the current attendance levels.

#### 4 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.1 There are very few locations across the borough that do not have access to a lunch club or similar regular event. However, attempts to start new clubs are limited by a lack of volunteers. The lack of volunteers limits the ability of some clubs to continue (Pendle Club now has reduced frequency for example).
- 4.2 There seems to be a shift in the type of social activity that our older residents are interested in. Around two years ago, with our help, funding was secured by the Seniors Form to host tai chi classes for over 50s. They have been immensely popular, and the sessions across six locations attract over 150 people who benefit from the exercise and valuable social interaction. In Sabden, there is a monthly lunch club held at the local pub where people can access a quality great value meal, with the reassurance that there will be other like-minded people there to socialise and have lunch with.
- 4.3 Bearing the above points in mind, our future developments are looking at ways to reduce the reliance on volunteers, and to put lunch clubs into established venues which offer a feeling of normality, with the reassurance that there will be others to meet with. This model also helps support local business. Working with the RVDAA and Age UK Lancashire, the Council have just opened a lunch club which is dementia friendly at Taste Buds café in Whalley. The cafe is prepared to offer a closed off space and a subsidised lunch menu. This forms the first venue for us in our 'Meet & Eat' initiative.

#### 5 MEET & EAT

- 5.1 'Meet & Eat' has been established to promote regular gatherings in established cafes and pubs. The essence of the gatherings will be that there will be a warm, dementia

friendly, welcome on hand at set times, together with a specially priced menu. Whether alone, or in a group, people can be reassured that they will be looked after, and have someone to sit with. This supports not only our desire to overcome loneliness and isolation, but also helps to support the rural businesses that take part.

- 5.2 There is a plan to have an accompanying guide to the 'Meet & Eat' venues.
- 5.3 Going forward opportunities develop new models including how the Council can best support needs in relation to activities that support well-being for older persons in particular will be explored.

## 6 **CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 That Committee note the contents of this report.

DILYS DAY  
PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

NICOLA HOPKINS  
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

For further information please ask for Dilys Day, extension 4549.