



Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council

ABERTILLERY & LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL: **LONELINESS PROJECT APPLICATION 23/24**

About the Project:

The pandemic not only caused but has also highlighted the dire need to combat isolation in our communities.

The pandemic has left many with anxiety about mixing and many people are still afraid to go out and about. Many have lost the opportunity to connect with people and others. Post pandemic many have observed the massive need and focus on mental health and well-being, and combatting isolation in its many forms.

The People and Communities Committee at ALCC have set up the loneliness project in response to this.

The aim of the project is to provide and facilitate resources and opportunity for community groups, religious organisations and businesses alike; who wish to collaborate towards the common goal of combating the detrimental effects of loneliness and isolation suffered throughout our communities.

This application is for local businesses and other groups/organisations who are keen to give back and support their communities; assist and facilitate community based activities and projects; enabling those effected to have more active roles in their communities and participate in society with their peers.

Whilst we want to support activities which bring people together face-to face in a safe and secure way, funding can also be used to support online activities where this is the most appropriate or only way to build social connections e.g. where access to a venue is difficult or for those not quite ready to meet people face-to-face.

Project participants will be expected to report back to ALCC how the funding is spent and how many it has or will benefit in the community.

Please ensure you complete the application form in full and make sure we have all your details.
Please attach a brief cover letter explaining about the work your organisation does or is proposing to do.

Name of Applicant:	Eryl Dykes
Name of Organisation:	Ebenezer Baptist Church
Name of Project (if different to above)	
Geographical area of project (<i>please give details of the area it will cover i.e. county, town, community</i>)	AbertilleryTown / Community
Name of Main Contact:	Eryl Dykes
Address:	
Post Code	
Email:	
Daytime Telephone Number:	

Type of Organisation (please tick):

Constituted Group	Date Established;	
Registered Charity	Date Established; 1876	Charity No:1198946
Community Interest Company	Date Established;	CIC No:
Company Limited by Guarantee	Date Established;	Company No:

Grants are usually paid by cheque (please provide your organisations name as it appears on the account)

Account Name: Ebenezer Baptist Church	
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valued by the many Nigerian families and other ethnic groups who have come in the area.

Do you have necessary insurances in place to ensure the safety of your volunteers?

yes

Financial Details:

Please give a breakdown of the items/costs/materials you are applying for funding for:
(can be continued on another sheet if needed)

Each week we make fresh vegetable soup eg Leek and potato ,carrot and coriander and provide sandwiches and cake etc based on figures for 2022 October to March2023	£1,200
Room rent	£560
Total grant amount being requested:	£1580

You will be expected to be able to evidence costs itemised above (e.g. material costs, quotations, invoice, on line quotation).

You may also be asked to complete a brief monitoring reports and be able to provide evidence of the expenditure of the grant for the purposes applied for (e.g. receipts, bank statement, paid invoice)

SIGNATURES (you can do this electronically)

Applicant (authorised to make the application on behalf of the organisation)		Date
Name (printed)	Eryl Dykes	23/10/23
Signature	E.E Dykes	

Once completed, please return this either via email to either email addresses below with subject title "Loneliness Project" to:

clerk@abertilleryandllanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk

APPLICATION DETAIL

Tell us briefly what work you are currently undertaking or proposing, to support people in your area who are impacted by loneliness and isolation. How many do you think will be impacted by this project?

From October 2023 have provided soup and a sandwich lunch in 3 lunch times each week. We had been concerned for families in the area for some time so in the summer of 2022 we made plans to fit the lunches around our existing church activities

We quickly realised that whilst the Cost of Living Crisis was impacting families and making life very difficult for many people there was also a very great need to address the loneliness which has been exacerbated by the pandemic. What became evident last winter was that though many people were coming to the hub because we offered a warm space many more were coming in order to meet others. We saw loneliness at the heart of the need of the community. During the last year a number have become "regulars". When we began, we saw 50+ people through the doors on a quiet week. Since September due to volunteer commitments, we were only able to offer 2 lunches weekly but the experience of last winter showed us the value of community in combatting loneliness so we continue to open on Fridays for tea and toast. Initially we thought that the Friday numbers would drop off. In fact we have been surprised that the Friday profile has been almost exclusively older men who need someone to listen and chat to.

So we have been heartened to see a steady flow of visitors which over the course to the winter we expect numbers to increase.

How is this grant going to create, maintain or increase these activities?

The grant will make it possible to continue to maintain the opportunities we have created. We have worked with GAVO to recruit volunteers over the last year and some of the participants in our warm hub are now on the volunteer team.

We realise that it is important that the project becomes sustainable and the grant will enable that to happen. We are constantly looking at ways in which we can serve the community in this area.

Who is the main focus of your activity (i.e. older people, families in need, carers)?

The focus is a very wide one, quite a large number of families come including parents and toddlers some from our Friday toddler group as we have created an ambience where they feel welcome. Others especially on a Friday are men on their own who value a chat and who have their own concerns and worries. Mid-week we run a food larder and pre-loved clothing stand especially

joshua.rawcliffe@abertilleryandllanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk

Paper copy applications can be returned to:

Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 1AE

ALCC ClerkMailbox

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 September 2024 18:45
To: ALCC ClerkMailbox
Subject: Re: Loneliness Project

Good evening Molly

Thank you for your email

I would like to clarify the groups that we have coming into the church at a lunch hour

Some are young mums with babies and toddlers, a few are new to the area and value a place where they can get to know others without pressure, When you are a new parent the social circle which you built up over the years may not be available It very lonely place to be when you really don't know anyone , and when you are not quite sure how you fit in anymore

Some are people struggling with mental health issues which are camouflaged in a number of ways I appreciate that there are some places in the town centre which offer opportunities to buy food .However I believe that what we offer provides much more

Some have come in because they know that we have the time to sit and chat with them Not all lonely people are elderly although some are, some of the

loneliest people we see are in their mid years they may be struggling with health issues. Whether it be about the weather now the state of the world we tried to make time for them all

Others come because we have created a space where all are welcome. Some of very fragile individuals they know we will provide them with a meal and accept them as they are. some have walked in off the streets because they've heard about us

To all of them we give a very warm welcome

. To sum up we have mums and toddlers and babies, we have those who become like extended grandparents we have older people who are lonely and we welcome them all into the community here

Kind Regards

Eryl

On Wednesday 4 September 2024 at 08:48:48 BST, ALCC ClerkMailbox <clerk@abertilleryandlanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk> wrote:

Good morning Eryl,

Your loneliness project application was reviewed by the committee last night, where it was agreed to postpone a decision to request some more information. Please could you let us know which groups would be benefiting from the funding, as a few are referred to in the application but this is not listed in the breakdown?

I can then take this information back to the committee for their meeting in October.

Thank you!

Kind Regards

Molly Jones

Deputy Clerk

Office: 01495 217323

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council

Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery. NP13 1AE.

From: ALCC ClerkMailbox
Sent: 12 August 2024 09:06
To: 'eryl dykes' <eryldykes@yahoo.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Loneliness Project

Good morning Eryl,