



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 it's 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:	Mollie Matthews
Name of Organisation:	Aberbeeg Sewing Circle
Name of Project (if different to above)	
Geographical area of project (please give details of the area it will cover i.e. county, town, community)	Town / Community
	Aberbeeg and adjacent areas
Name of Main Contact:	Mollie Matthews
Address:	[REDACTED]
Post Code	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Daytime Telephone Number:	[REDACTED]

Type of Organisation (please tick):

Constituted Group	Date Established; 2009	
Registered Charity	Date Established;	Charity No:
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:	02645448
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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)	
Rent	£1000.00
Machine Servicing	£250.00
Material & Sewing Kits	£250.00
Total grant amount being requested:	£1,500.00

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)	JANET PEARCE	01-11-23
Signature		

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

- clerk@abertilleryandllanhillith-wcc.gov.uk
- joshua.rawcliffe@abertilleryandllanhillith-wcc.gov.uk

Paper copy applications can be returned to:
Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 1AE

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?

The grant will be used to support members of our group to undertake the activities we run, such as sewing and knitting projects. We are an established organisation but have limited resources, and given the growth in our membership, we will require additional support. Our members are socially isolated due to either age or illness/disabilities. We are predominantly a group of older ladies who offer company, support and a place of belonging for over 10 members. Many of our members have limited interactions with people, which makes them feel lonely and isolated within the community. Recently, a member of our group lost her husband and said that attending the Sewing Circle has helped her stay connected and in touch with people during a difficult period, something she would have struggled with if it was not for the Aberbeeg Sewing Circle.

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

The grant will help us create, maintain and increase our sewing circle by supporting us with the following items that we require:

We would like support with the cost of venue hire at Aberbeeg Community Centre. The present venue we use is a perfect location for the Sewing Circle as it is easily accessible to members and is suitable to the needs of the members with the facilities it offers. The room size and storage options are very helpful as we can store our machinery and material safely and securely in the room given the activity. We have to pay a charge for hiring, and whilst we charge a small membership fee, support for rent would be very helpful as members are finding it difficult to due to the cost of living.

We would also like support with covering the costs of Sewing machine servicing. The Sewing Circle has its own sewing machines, but they require servicing to keep them in good condition and safe for the members to use. With our skills and machines, we have previously undertaken various projects for the community, such as supporting poppy-making for Remembrance Sunday. These types of projects are something we would like to continue with but are currently unable to due to financial reasons.

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

The main focus of our sewing circle is to provide a safe and friendly space for members of any age to learn, share and enjoy sewing. At present, we are mainly comprised of elder women who undertake and create projects for both community and families.

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

Yes

CONSTITUTION

NAME:

The group's name is **Aberbeeg Sewing Circle**

PURPOSES:

- To improve the arts, crafts and sewing skills of local residents
- To encourage lifelong learning opportunities which will be open to all living in the community
- To promote equal choices and opportunities which will encourage good neighbourliness and community spirit
- To work for the benefit of the community to provide opportunities for social interaction and promote social inclusion.

CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES

In order to carry out the purposes of the group of the group the committee may:

1. Raise funds and receive grants and donations
2. Buy or sell equipment, take on rentals / leases and employ staff
3. Co-operate with and support other groups with similar purposes
4. Do all such lawful things as are necessary to achieve the aims.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the group is open to any person over the age of 18 who wants to support the aims of the group regardless of sex, sexual orientation, race religion or other belief. People who wish to become a member should apply to the committee. An up to date membership list will be kept.

The committee may expel someone from membership, providing it is in the best interests of the group to do so, and they are given the right to be heard by the committee before a decision is made. A representative may accompany them.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. The Annual General Meeting will be held every year with 14 days notice being given to all members.
2. The committee will present the annual reports and yearly accounts.
3. There must be at least 3 members present at the AGM.
4. Any member may put themselves forward for election as a committee member at the AGM
5. Every member has one vote
6. Members will elect between 3 and 10 members to the committee.

COMMITTEE

- a. The committee will hold at least 2 meetings per year.
- b. At least 3 committee members must be at a committee meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.

- c. The committee may vote for 2 co-opted members in addition to those elected at the AGM.
- d. The committee will keep accounts, which may be viewed by any members on request.
- e. Committee members cannot be paid or gain financially from the group.

MONEY

- 1. Funds will be held in a bank account operated by the committee in the name of the group. Two out of three committee members must sign all cheques.
- 2. Funds shall only be used to support the aims of the group.
- 3. Cheque signatories will not be related or reside in the same household.

THE CONSTITUTION / DISSOLUTION OF THE GROUP

Changes to the constitution or a decision to wind up the group must be made by a majority vote of the committee. The meeting to make this decision must be promoted and advertised with 24 days notice to all members. Any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to a charity / group with similar aims.

No amendments can be made to the following clauses:

- Name of the group
- Aims of the group
- Dissolution clause

SETTING UP THE GROUP

This constitution was adopted on 1st June 2009 2009 by the people whose signatures appear below, who will act as the committee until the first AGM which will be held within a year of this date.

Signed [Signature] Chair

Print name S. VAUGHAN Address: [Redacted]

Signed [Signature] Secretary

Print name M. E. MATTHEWS Address: [Redacted]

Signed [Signature] Treasurer

Print name JANET PEARCE Address: [Redacted]



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About the Project:

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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:	[REDACTED]
Post Code	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Daytime Telephone Number:	[REDACTED]

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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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

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@abertilleryandlanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk

joshua.rawcliffe@abertilleryandllanhilleth-wcc.gov.uk

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