

Proposal from Cllr Travers, November 2020

We are now sadly in the grip of Covid19 second wave....

This pandemic is now starting to have a major impact on local families. This week the support group has helped more local families access emergency food bank supplies and has also helped several families with applications to OUC for their hardship grants. Universal credit is taking weeks to be processed, six weeks is the average. These families are attempting to access CAB, are leaving their details but not receiving the promised returned call... this is happening more and more often.

As you may be aware the Covid19 hardship fund set up by OTC has only paid out £50 so far and has seen very few applications. This is in fact, due not to lack of need but to the following paragraph within the grant criteria....

“Providing direct financial aid to individuals who reside within the town boundary, who have exhausted all other possibilities (have applied, and been turned down for other grants, and sources of funding; ie WDBC’s grants) and have been referred to the Council by:”

OUC also offer a hardship grant of £250 with a similar criteria to OTC.... we therefore point these desperate families towards the OUC grant rather than OTC.

We therefore ask for an amendment to this paragraph to read “providing direct financial aid to individuals who reside within the town boundary and have been referred to the council by:”

We ask that this is put on the next agenda and addressed as a matter of urgency, the local situation is worsening every week and we feel the council needs to be seen to be assisting our local residents.

Debra Travers & Greta Button

Dear Emma

This email is to confirm my support for the request sent to you directly from Cllr Travers but from us both asking that the following paragraph:

“Providing direct financial aid to individuals who reside within the town boundary, who have exhausted all other possibilities (have applied, and been turned down for other grants, and sources of funding; ie WDBC’s grants) and have been referred to the Council by:”

Be amended to read:

“providing direct financial aid to individuals who reside within the town boundary and have been referred to the council by:”

It would be great to have this put on the agenda for the next council meeting on 30th November 2020.

Kind regards

Greta