

TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 27th September 2022

REPORT OF: EVENTS, PROJECTS AND TOURISM OFFICER

SUBJECT: HELPING DAWLISH UPDATE

PART I

RECOMMENDATION

To receive, note and approve the direction of Helping Dawlish funding and activities over the next six months as detailed in section 3 of the report.

1. BACKGROUND

Helping Dawlish (HD) in its third year of operation as a collaboration and continues to meet on zoom every two or three weeks with emails and WhatsApp contact in between meetings. In the most recent meetings discussion has focussed on the recent ending/continuation of grant projects, cost of living crisis (including the Dawlish Community Larder operation) and support to Ukrainian refugees/guests and host families working with other local support groups. The Town Council directly facilitates and co-ordinates the HD response, with the Council acting as the grant holder where required.

2. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

A. TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL HARSHIP COMMUNITY FUND GRANT

Helping Dawlish was awarded £9,900 for the Click and Collect – Tablet 2 Go Project. An extension was awarded to the project which ended in June 2022 and reports were made to the District Council on outcomes. These were reported to the Town Council earlier this year. Some of the tablets were returned from users and there is approximately a £3,600 underspend on the grant. The District Council has been approving of all the reports submitted on the project and has agreed that the residual funding can be best used as

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decided by Helping Dawlish for the sustaining of the digital project into the future.

Plans are underway as follows:

- Some tablets are still with clients and they are receiving support;
- 3 tablets have reallocated to Assist Teignbridge to assist with the increased number of benefit enquiries dealt with by their volunteers;
- A project is under discussion with the Dawlish Library on using the remaining tablets and funding to facilitate the continuation of training and loans of equipment in the community.
- The Digital Champions Network training places left at the end of the grant to be used by either of the organisations above or others in HD.

B. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL COVID 19 SELF ISOLATION GRANT

This grant covered various costs to the end of March 2022 including freezers for the larder, delivery of food and activity packs and leaflets about self-isolation. At the end of the grant £1523 was unspent and the County Council agreed this could be used towards resilience of the larder for the future.

C. DONATIONS

These continue to be received by the Council from the public for Helping Dawlish.

D. TEIGNBRIDGE CVS – UKRAINE GRANT

Helping Dawlish has a grant of £2372.50 to support the Homes for Ukraine Programme across Teignbridge to the end of October 2022. This has supported informal Bring and Share evenings, a trip to the Ibounce centre in Exeter and other drop-in activities.

3. NEXT SIX MONTHS ACTIVITIES – FOR APPROVAL AND TO NOTE

A. DAWLISH COMMUNITY LARDER AND SUPPORT FOR FOOD/OTHER SUPPLIES/ACTIVITIES

Dawlish Community Larder is managed by ROC Dawlish and makes reports to, engages with, and receives referrals from Helping Dawlish and beyond. It is currently seeing increased referrals to the larder both from individuals and from the schools.

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Dawlish Community Larder has supported from January 2022 to date: 330 adults, 218 children, 64 pets. Aside from the individual families that the larder has delivered to, they have supplied fresh and ambient goods along with flowers in 78 separate deliveries to Chances, Westcliff School, Dawlish College, Gatehouse School, Dawlish Hospital, Palm Court, Sefton Hall, The Rise Care Home, Assist Teignbridge, Strand Centre, St. Gregs Clothes Swap, Ukrainian Teaching English Group & Dawlish Action for Youth.

The larder does not replace the use of district wide food banks and works with partners on referrals (such as CAB and THAT). The larder also collects surplus food from local supermarkets thereby reducing the food miles in potential food wastage/redistribution. The larder needs additional volunteers for packing bags and for deliveries at the current time.

Support has been given to funding the Dawlish Community Larder through Helping Dawlish in two ways for this financial year:

- the payment of £750 for FareShare deliveries. FareShare is the re-distribution of excess supermarket food in the region; and
- reimbursement for larder restocking.

The cost of this is less than the excess left from the Covid 19 Self Isolation Grant (2B above) and donations.

For this financial year the Council put aside £2,000 in reserve for Helping Dawlish. It has not been used to date.

Over the coming months it is requested that the Council gives approval to using these funds and continued public donations as Helping Dawlish is requesting below:

- Dawlish Community Larder funding - The FareShare agreement runs out in early October and will need renewing at the cost of £1000 for another year. The larder will also need increased financial assistance to restock and there are increased requests from school ladders for mid-morning snacks, and after school activities.
- Other projects related to the cost-of-living crisis will need financial assistance.
 - Helping Dawlish will be looking to facilitate evening energy and other advice sessions in the Manor House/Riverside Centre and would like to use some Helping Dawlish funding or the Council to

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waive charges for room hire for these sessions if they take place. The sessions would be with recommended community energy provider ECOE for example who are working with Teignbridge CVS.

- Secondly working with Teignbridge CVS and Learn Devon to facilitate some slow cook sessions at the Hope Centre in early 2023. The sessions would be run by Learn Devon. The funding would be to meet room hire charges at the Hope Centre. The provision of slow cookers after the session may be funded via some church funding locally. This would be a project that meets multiple objectives in the crisis and is an example of partnership working both within and beyond HD organisations.

B. DIGITAL PROJECT – TABLET TO GO

As outlined in section 2A above the Council is asked to note and approve the sustainability of the Tablet 2 Go project moving forward with Assist Teignbridge and Dawlish Library.

C. UKRAINE GRANT – CVS

To note that Helping Dawlish is currently discussing with Teignbridge CVS whether a new grant for working with both hosts and Ukrainian guests is workable going forward as organisations within Helping Dawlish are concerned about resource implications i.e. volunteer support.

D. COST OF LIVING CRISIS

To note that HD is increasingly focussed on the cost-of-living crisis and ways of helping the community as shown in the sections above. As part of this there is a revamp of Helping Dawlish website and social media to publicise warm spaces in the Parish, access help etc currently underway. Many of the partners in HD are involved in the discussions with Teignbridge CVS moving forward and want to help support the community by working together – the ethos of Helping Dawlish from day one in March 2020.

Angie Weatherhead
Events, Projects and Tourism Officer