

Churchdown Community Association -Report to Parish Council Meeting

8th September 2020

As Councillors might imagine this year has been one of the worst years for the Community Association since it was formed in 1965 by the Parish Council.

Our actual financial year runs from October to September, so we were fortunate that by the time the Coronavirus shutdowns commenced in March of this year we already had a satisfactory 5 months trading in our new year. I anticipate that you will understand the shock to everyone when we were forced by central government to close down in March and the confusion that arose, as no one had any idea of what such a lockdown would mean.

We were lucky to be able to apply for, and receive government grants, and to be able put the majority of our staff on Furlough. Obviously this did not mean that the Community Centre was not incurring costs as we had to keep some staff working just to keep the building from deteriorating and to do the admin necessary for the various grant schemes and government returns.

As you will have seen from our parish grant applications in previous years, we do have an Improvement Programme for the Centre and with the Trustees agreement we implemented a major improvement to the Coffee Shop / Bar and Games areas during lockdown. Whilst most of the work was carried out by professionals it was supplemented by a brilliant team of volunteers, who have redecorated all of the modified area such that it is now a very attractive area and an asset to Churchdown.

The Centre and the Coffee Shop and Bar opened again in early August having due regard to the limitations imposed by central government, which in itself meant a lot of work had to be done in sorting out the restrictions ,which was something of a nightmare.

The opening of the Coffee Shop in particular was very much appreciated by the Churchdown public and is once again a very popular venue. Regrettably the same cannot be said for the main Centre where due to the new restrictions it is very difficult to accommodate all of our previous users so we can only hope that some of these measures will be relaxed soon as we cannot afford to continue as things are. **The future of the Centre is of great concern to us all.**

Richard Smith - Chairman CCA Executive Trustees

