

BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

1st November 2022

24th October 2022

REPORT FROM COUNCILLORS N COOPER & D COOPER

AGENDA ITEM 7 WINTER WARMTH HUBS

AIM

To update members on what we currently know about planned winter warmth venues in Bridgnorth and invite discussion about what the Town Council might do to support these initiatives.

BACKGROUND

To help residents stay warm and safe this winter, Shropshire Council and partners have compiled a range of venues, including libraries, village and town halls, community centres and faith buildings, where residents can go during each venue's normal opening hours, enjoy the facilities, and keep warm. A list of the venues with the ability to identify what additional facilities they have (toilets, refreshments, etc.) can be found on the "cost of living help" pages on the Shropshire Council website at <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/a-warm-welcome-in-shropshire/warm-welcome-locations/>.

DISCUSSION

At the time of writing the only venue available in Bridgnorth is the Library in Listley St. However, there are community initiatives in the pipeline

- The Baptist Church in West Castle St is planning sessions on a Thursday potentially starting on 3rd November
- St James Hall Church on the Grove is hoping to run a warm café on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings, but this is subject to identifying sufficient volunteers to run the café
- Bridgnorth Senior Citizens Club meets on a Wednesday morning in the main hall of the Castle Hall in West Castle St. Could we approach them to ask if they would help to run a warm café in the lounge area at the same time?

We are unaware of other initiatives.

Whilst the Town Council itself has space in some of its buildings which are not always in use for other activities, providing a welcoming environment would probably require refreshment facilities and some degree of activity support which the Council would struggle to provide without volunteer assistance.

RECOMMENDATION(s)

The Town Council is asked to

1. Publicise the local warm hub venues on our website, Facebook feed and notice boards.
2. Invite local warm hub initiatives to apply for support (financial or use of facilities) from our Grants Budget.