

Update

At the July meeting of the Town Council the following resolution was passed

“To authorise the Clerk to undertake further research into the establishment of a Warm Hub Project in the town and report back at the next meeting. “

Over the last month staff have investigated the need for a project of this nature in the Town and have come to the conclusion that there are already several free (or minimal cost) coffee mornings / drop-in sessions in existence that actually cover most days of the week.

It was also difficult to identify a day which didn't clash with the existing drop-in sessions and was on a day when the town bus is running. Concerns were also identified that if the Town Council were to establish its own drop-in there was a danger that it may have an impact on people attending existing sessions.

Therefore it is recommended that

Instead of developing a standalone warm hub, as proposed in the July report, it would be more appropriate to promote the existing services in the town under the title of “Wem's Warm Spaces”.

The Town Council could then produce a leaflet to be delivered to every household in Wem which could include the following:

- Listing of all of weekly and monthly drop-in sessions held in the town with location, days and times they can be accessed. In order to qualify as a warm space, the criteria would be that the drop-in sessions charge no more than £1 for entry/refreshments
- Details of library opening hours and new services they are offering
- Details of Town Bus service times
- Financial Help information
- Food Help information
- Energy saving tips

Prior to the printing of the leaflet the organisers of all the current drop-in sessions will be contacted to ensure they are happy to be included.

Financial Impact

The cost to the Council would be the printing of the leaflet at a cost of £600 which could be taken from the underspend in the small grants budget, this would mean that there is no need to apply for a Connexus grant for the project. This cost assumes that the leaflets will be delivered by Councillors to keep costs down.

Timescale

The timing for the delivery of the leaflet should be by the end of 1st week in October as this is when the fuel cost rise comes into force.