**REPORT FROM CHAIR OF TRUSTEES OF WAVERLEY DAY CENTRE**

**AGM 29 SEPTEMBER 2020**

I want start by restating our strategic aim:

The Waverley Day Centre supports older people who live within CV8, helping them to maintain independence by providing a safe, caring and engaging daytime environment and giving support to their families and carers

Despite the pandemic – COVID-19 – we are dedicated to maintaining this aim. During the last few months it has become clear that many, many elderly folk are lonely. Waverley is not Kenilworth’s complete answer to this but we feel we can continue to offer a significant contribution.

This will be a challenge, bigger than anything we have faced previously and I want to address this rather than comment in detail on the year ended 31 March 2020.

Let me start, though, with Friday 20 March this year. Just three days before the official lockdown we closed Waverley for the duration. Staff were furloughed and because we recognise that it is the staff especially that make Waverley so valued we topped up their salaries to 100% for some months. Our Treasurer will give fuller details.

To ensure Waverley was still operating, albeit in name, I checked all emails and our Treasurer, Jeremy Eastaugh, took on the more onerous task of calling in weekly to ensure the premises were still in good order and deal with mail.

The staff voluntarily kept in contact with clients to make sure they were not forgotten. This was not simply a quick phone call but where necessary a lengthy conversation.

As trustees we had Zoom meetings every two weeks plus held formal meetings on the scheduled dates (also by Zoom).

As the lockdown eased we considered when we could open Waverley up to our clients, albeit with necessary safety in place. I have to commend Anne for her planning skills in this respect and also for maintaining the morale of staff throughout the lockdown period. We opened Waverley on 4 August although client numbers are far lower than before the pandemic struck. This was only to be expected. I know that Anne in her report will explain the measures we have in place to ensure the safety of clients, staff and volunteers.

Fortunately, we had reserves to tide us through this difficult period but they are finite. We can keep going for some months. Again, Jeremy will give more detail on this.

The big challenge for us is to strengthen our funding. The vast percentage of Waverley’s income comes from client fees. At £30 per day we need approximately 18 clients each of the four days we are open to just about breakeven. We are fortunate to receive additional income from donors plus room and bus hire. The split, though, between these two sources is roughly 90/10.

Currently, attendance levels are around 8 clients each day so we are keen to drive the numbers up through a relaunch programme. With the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 we might well fall short of achieving the aim of 18 clients each day, at least for the foreseeable future. We also need to build up our reserves again.

So, I see the big challenge for Waverley is to seek funding from additional sources. If I knew exactly what those sources might be then we would be knocking on doors right now. We do have some ideas, though. In the next few weeks we will be examining ways to do this, especially finding sources who will donate regularly rather than just as a one off.

I want now to pay tribute to all those who currently support Waverley in different ways. We are very fortunate to have very dedicated paid staff admirably led by Anne Cross. Equally important are the many volunteers who give their time to making Waverley an important part of the Kenilworth community.

Included in the volunteers are the trustees. I want to thank them for the support they give me as Chair. As part of our Articles of Association, trustees can serve only there periods of there years. This year sees Tony Dalton retiring from Waverley. He has been a stalwart on the board of trustees and we are all grateful for the many contributions he has made. As an aside, it was he who brought me into Waverley.

We are also saying farewell to Marilyn Bates who is moving away from the Kenilworth area. Although she has only been with Waverley for a short while she has been a valued member and helped out in several ways. Thank you Marilyn. We co-opted Pat Cain onto the board of trustees after the last AGM and she would have been up for ratification as a trustee at this meeting. However, Pat and her husband, Gordon, moved to Devon a few weeks ago. Pat worked hard for Waverley during the few shorts months she served on our board.

We do have two prospective trustees to interview formally so I am hoping our board will be strengthened by the end of next month. That said, we are always keen to attract new board members.

In closing, I want to thank our many supporters. Warwickshire County Council allows us to use this building at a peppercorn rent. That is, indeed, a great contribution. We have had support from many local politicians and are particularly grateful to our patron, Dave Shilton. There are many other supporters: both individuals and local groups. I mention Susette Garret, Sylvesters, Rotary, Round Table and Lions.

I will close by saying we still need volunteers; that is befrienders, minibus drivers, kitchen volunteers, fundraisers and, of course, trustees.

Finally, summarising our key aims for the next year, we need to increase the number of clients and seek additional funding sources.

Thank you.