

REPORT FROM CHAIR OF TRUSTEES OF WAVERLEY DAY CENTRE

AGM 7 SEPTEMBER 2021

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

The pandemic is not over and it would be foolhardy to think we know when life will return to some kind of normality. That said, Waverley has come through so far and I feel reasonably confident that we can continue to offer a great daytime experience to elderly folk in Kenilworth.

You may recall from last year's AGM how we had coped up to then and my fear that I might be the last Chair of Waverley was unfounded. However, little did we know then that a year on we would have had to cope with more lockdowns.

We did cope and I cannot praise enough Anne's leadership and the dedication of staff and volunteers to offer our service whenever Covid restrictions allowed it. In many ways we are back to normal although we cannot take anything for granted. Anne will expand on this in her report.

We have had financial support to keep Waverley going. This ranges from the government's furlough scheme to donations from local councils, charities and individuals. Jeremy Eastaugh, our treasurer, will give details in his report.

As a board of trustees, we held our first face to face meeting in this room at the beginning of July, albeit with social distancing and plenty of fresh air flowing in. Up to then we kept in touch via Zoom meetings every two weeks.

With a maximum trustee tenure of nine years, Tony Dalton stepped down at the last AGM. Tony had given really valuable service as a trustee and it was him who persuaded me to apply to become a trustee. We have in the meantime recruited two new trustees who will – I trust – be confirmed later in this meeting. Anita Dalton has joined the board and has made a strong impact already. Her social media skills have enabled Waverley to have a much stronger presence in the virtual world. She is a valuable asset to Waverley.

We have also been fortunate in recruiting Felicity Bunker as a trustee. Her vast experience of local government is already benefitting Waverley and we are grateful for the contributions she makes. You might recall that I stated at last year's AGM that we should seek funding from additional sources thus making us less dependent on fee income from our clients and the generosity from individual donors. Felicity has volunteered to coordinate our efforts in this regard and I know she will drive this along.

One small effort that we are making is to link with the Priory Theatre on Monday 25 October. We have agreed to block buy tickets and resell them at a small premium that will contribute to Waverley funds. The production is The Grey Mist – a ghostly mystery story. If you would like to buy a ticket please speak to any of the trustees or Anne Cross.

We know that there are many elderly folk in Kenilworth who are lonely and could benefit from spending a day or so at Waverley. It is not easy to access these people but we are working with other local groups to see how we can spread the word plus issuing social media to get the message out.

In closing, I want to thank our many supporters who support us year in, year out. Warwickshire County Council allows us to use this building at a peppercorn rent. That is, indeed, a great contribution. We have 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. We are also fortunate to have a great many volunteers supporting Waverley. We still need to recruit more volunteers - befrienders, minibus drivers, kitchen volunteers and, of course, trustees.

So, in closing, we have come through the pandemic – so far – and I am particularly optimistic that we are in good shape to continue to offer elderly folk in Kenilworth a good place to maintain their independence and to support their families and carers.

Thank you.