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Ms. Christina Harrhy c.c. Mr. Mark S. Williams c.c. Cllr. Sean Morgan



Reference 2023 Budget Proposals.

Dear Ms. Harrhy.

Members of the Community Centre Management Committee read with interest your "2023 Budget Proposals" in the local media.

One of the proposals was to reduce the subsidy to Community Centres by 50%. The only subsidy we currently receive is the 11hours for the caretaker.

We as a committee are concerned that if this is the case then the remaining subsidy of 51/2 hours will be totally inadequate to keep the centre to the expected level of cleanliness and therefore usage, as the caretaker not only cleans but opens and closes the centre for users.

If the expectation is that we pay the 50% reduction in subsidy then this would be both unacceptable and unaffordable. We are already struggling to meet ever increasing energy costs, water rates and continued increases in the price of cleaning materials and sundry necessities and in these challenging times when many venues are no longer available, we are trying to keep the costs to an affordable level for our user groups.

We firmly believe that the officers who make these proposals especially the proposed cuts to Community Centre subsidies, either do not know or do not understand how much time, commitment and sacrifice the members of the Management Committee give to their community via the Community Centre.

They cover for the Caretaker when she is sick, they open and close very often at unsociable hours or weekends, they clean the centre including the toilets which sometimes need to be unblocked when people misuse the toilets or leave the taps running. These unpaid volunteers fund or carry out interior decorating and minor maintenance.



When the Management Committee discussed the proposed cut they did a quick calculation and noted that Committee members have raised in excess of £158,000 for work and improvements to help maintain the building to the highest standard, bearing in mind that the centre is actually owned by CCBC.

If councillors support this proposal it is obvious that they have no knowledge or understanding of the needs of their own community.

We earnestly ask you to reconsider the proposal to reduce the subsidy to the Community Centre by 50%.

Chairperson.