

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	20 JUNE 2017	8
OUTSIDE BODY REQUEST – JUST GOOD FRIENDS			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The report provides details of a request from the local charity organisation 'Just Good Friends' to be included on the list of Outside Bodies for Fylde Council. The group are based in St Anne's but work across the borough and the Fylde coast providing support most days of the week to vulnerable people who are isolated or lonely. The group believe there would be significant benefit to their work and profile if there was at least one nominated elected member representative from Fylde Council linked to the charity. An invitation is also extended to all elected members to engage with the charity to learn more about what they do and establish additional connections across the borough to assist identifying lonely or isolated people that the charity can support.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The committee recommend to Full Council that the charity Just Good Friends is added to the approved list of Outside Bodies for Fylde Council.
2. The committee nominate **at least one** representative for Full Council to approve as the representative(s) on Just Good Friends if it is accepted on the Outside Bodies list.
3. The committee formally extends the invite to visit Just Good Friends to all elected members and learn more about the work the charity does and support where possible referrals from the local community.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

There have been no previous decisions for this proposed Outside Body.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	

REPORT

1. During a recent visit to one of the weekly events held by the charity Just Good Friends the Chief Executive was asked about the process for member involvement. A number of elected members have over the five years the charity has operated been involved in the work, attended sessions, made referrals and championed the various events. The Chairman of Just Good Friends, Bev Sykes believes that formal member representation would benefit the charity, its members and the council. Ms Sykes was unaware of the Outside Bodies list and after having it explained asked if it would be possible for Just Good Friends to be included and to have at least one elected member formally representing the charity but placed no limit on how many members they would like. The view was that informal member involvement has added value in the past because elected members know their locality and are very well connected, ideally placed for referrals and advocating Just Good Friends to other community leaders.
2. Just Good Friends have the strapline 'Combatting Loneliness and Isolation', they have an established membership of over 200 Fylde residents that regularly attend one or more of the regular Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday events or the numerous other occasional events aimed at connecting lonely and isolated vulnerable people. The majority of the members are elderly but there is no age limit on isolation and loneliness and the charity is reliant on small regular contributions from members if they can afford, donations and fund raising.
3. The charity offers:
 - a. A meeting point, a place to go and to be with other people
 - b. Friendship and companionship for everyone
 - c. A full program of events, outings and activities
 - d. A feeling of belonging, of being valued and welcomed
 - e. An opportunity to become part of the community and not being an outsider looking in
 - f. An opportunity to use your experience of loneliness and isolation to help others
 - g. Access to impartial advice and counselling if required
4. Full details of the charity can be found www.justgoodfriends.org.uk whilst the group is primarily based in St Anne's they work across the borough and the Fylde Coast with other groups established to tackle loneliness and isolation which have been identified as significant wellbeing issues in Fylde.
5. Members are asked to consider recommending to Full Council the inclusion of Just Good Friends on the official list of Outside Bodies and if included to nominate at least one, but it can be more, elected member to be engaged with the charity. Just Good Friends have also extended an invite to all elected members to attend an event and find out more about the work they do and help to connect with anyone in the community who would benefit from their support.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None as a result of this report
Legal	None as a result of this report
Community Safety	None as a result of this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None as a result of this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None as a result of this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None as a result of this report

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		