

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MONITORING OFFICER	COUNCIL	17 JULY 2017	10
<b>APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

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

### SUMMARY

A request was received in June 2017 from the St Annes based charity 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.

The Environment, Health and Housing Committee considered the request at its meeting on 20 June 2017 and subsequently recommended the inclusion of the charity on the list of Outside Bodies for Fylde Council. The committee also recommended that Councillors Willder and Goodman be appointed as representatives.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To approve the recommendation of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee that the charity Just Good Friends is added to the approved list of Outside Bodies for Fylde Council;
2. To approve the nomination of Councillor Viv Willder and Councillor Gail Goodman, by the Environment, Health and Housing Committee, to represent the Council on Just Good Friends; and
3. To note the invitation from Just Good Friends extended to all Councillors to visit the organisation and learn more about the charity, the work it does and support, where possible, referrals from the local community.

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

20 June 2017 – recommendations from Environment, Health and Housing Committee to approve the inclusion of Just Good Friends on the list of approved Outside Bodies for Fylde Council; to nominate Councillors Willder and Goodman to represent the Council at Just Good Friends and to recommend extending the invite from Just Good Friends to all councillors to visit and learn more about the organisation.

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

## 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](http://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 of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee supported the work of the charity and recommend to Full Council the inclusion of Just Good Friends on the official list of Outside Bodies and nominated Councillor Viv Willder and Councillor Gail Goodman to be engaged with the charity. The committee also fully supported the invitation from Just Good Friends 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 arising from this report.
Legal	None arising from this report.
Community Safety	None arising from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Environment, Health & Housing Committee	20/6/17	<a href="#">Environment, Health &amp; Housing meeting</a>

