



# Peacehaven Town Council

## Event Review Form

<b>Event:</b>	Welcome Cafe		
<b>Date of Event</b>	Winter 2025/26	<b>Date of meeting</b>	01/04/2026
<b>Committee</b>	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	<b>Agenda Item</b>	CCE642
<b>Report Author(s)</b>	Cllr Wendy Veck		

### Summary of event

The Welcome Cafe has been open since last October providing free tea and coffee to residents financed by donations towards fresh cakes and light snacks. The cafe has provided a warm friendly space to residents offering advice and a connection to the services provided locally to our residents.

### Financial

<b>Income</b> There was no financial cost to the council	£113.28
<b>Expenditure</b> The cafe pays for itself via donations for food. Any surplus will be donated to the Committees chosen charity.	£zero
<b>Total Surplus</b>	£113.28

### Number of people at event

Attendance has ranged between 20 and 30 people each week. A large group associated with the U3A has attended regularly prior to their singing sessions in the Anzac Room, alongside a core group of weekly regulars. Additional attendees have also visited before the Craft Group meetings.

### Officers report

The café has been popular over the past few months as a place to meet and chat over a free cup of tea or coffee, with a tasty slice of cake. It has also provided the opportunity for residents to find information on a range of topics, including digital skills, and rubbish and recycling, as well as there being a stall selling affordable gifts and a stand that provides free warm coats. It has been a well-utilised and visited café for the community.

### **Councillor's report**

The Welcome Café has continued to provide significant benefit to the community, offering a warm, friendly space and a listening ear to many residents throughout the winter months. Attendance has grown steadily week by week, demonstrating the value and relevance of the service.

This year we have welcomed volunteers from a wide range of local groups, including Environment First, Neighbourhood First, Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), and Touch of Gentleness. Their presence has offered residents practical support and advice. The digital exclusion team from CAB has been particularly popular, and we have received several requests for their return. Environment First has also been especially helpful, providing guidance on waste collection and recycling.

Alongside the café, a number of small local stallholders have offered goods and services, supporting residents who may find it difficult to access shops. Our regular stallholder, who was recently diagnosed with cancer, has returned for the last two events following treatment, responding to strong community demand for her presence. The Council has also continued to run a free coat scheme, providing warm clothing to those who need it during the colder months. This initiative has been very well received. Haven's Health has again supported the café by supplying a box of surplus food, which has proved extremely popular with attendees.

As a councillor, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Steph, our Communications Officer, who has gone above and beyond in promoting the café, coordinating attending groups, and ensuring the smooth running of each session. I would also like to recognise Gill Veck, our regular volunteer, whose friendly presence and willingness to listen have been invaluable, particularly for older residents who may otherwise have found attending the café daunting.

We look forward to returning in October.

### **Climate change / sustainability factors**

The Welcome Cafe has promoted recycling via Enviroment 1st's attendance. Haven's Health have provided surplus food preventing food waste. The Warm Coat initiative promotes recycling of winter clothes.

### **Social value/ impact factors**

The Cafe fit's in with our social isolation project providing a warm space for residents to access local services

### **What would we do differently if we ran the event again?**

Invite more organisations to attend. Offer a more targeted approach during school breaks to younger mums.