

## Report to Bickleigh Parish Council in respect of The Woolwell Centre

2021/2022 has been another challenging year for the Woolwell Centre coming out of Covid lockdowns and continuing high levels of Covid infections. Whilst the Centre remained open throughout, user numbers dipped during high infection periods as people remained cautious about mixing with others which affected income. Usage levels have now increased to approximately 80% of pre-covid levels and future bookings look very positive,

The breakfast and afterschool club continues to be successful, providing wrap around care for children aged 4-11, allowing parents to work. Both children and parents are happy with the service and 50% of any new children are the result of good feedback from existing users.

The community café continues to flourish but did suffer during lockdown. We have many regular users, both young and old. Similarly, the community bar has regular locals' nights which are well supported especially if England are playing football!

The Parish Council have undertaken many maintenance issues within the building to ensure the building is fit for purpose and following legal requirements. New windows, fire doors, external doors, plumbing and roof repairs have been completed, along with the new Parish Clerks office.

The Trustees would like to thank the Parish council for their ongoing support without which the Centre might have needed to close during the pandemic. This has now left us in a better overall position than we expected and an opportunity to build on for the future.

Carole Spencer, the centre manager of 13 years will be leaving at the end of May and Lynn Tamsett - White will replace her. The 3 remaining Trustees have indicated that they would also like to step back but are prepared to stay on to assist the new manager. New Trustees are being sourced as a matter of urgency.

Carole Spencer

Centre Manager