

Drinkstone Parish Council Meeting 10th Oct 2022.

Community Engagement report

Richard Edmundson set in motion an initiative called CAFÉ, Community Action Food & Energy, with the aim to help the community to pull together during this current fuel and financial crisis. This is being supported by the church, the village hall and the Parish Council, with a steering committee made up of Ruth Farrell, Sue Foulsham, Cllr Edmundson and Cllr Emery.

The original idea for this initiative was to discuss the merits of providing a warm space during the winter, however currently it is unknown what assistance/ amenities would be helpful and what could possibly be provided. In order to establish what direction the group should take there is going to be an “idea gathering” event at the village hall on the 15th Oct 2022 and sign post visitors to relevant government information that is presently available. The format will loosely follow the idea of a “wedding fair”, there will be several information tables set up around the hall. There will be a table covering financial assistance relevant to this crisis and Shelia Blake who was a senior manager at Age Concern will be available all day to talk about Attendance Allowance as part of the grants. There will be a tables covering ideas on energy saving, food sharing and reducing food waste and a table highlighting the existing activities which take place in the hall. There will be a chance to taste some meals prepared in energy saving crock pots

As the aim of the event is to learn what assistance is needed there will be an opportunity for the visitors to share their ideas/ feedback, to invite people to volunteer and to get some indication on whether there is a need for a warm space initiative.