

Just Good Friends Club

LSW Nomination Bid

Just Good Friends Club is a registered charity that supports adults with learning disabilities. We provide a safe and friendly environment in which members enjoys both evening and daytime social events. Whilst offering respite for those living with adults with learning disabilities, we offer our members the freedom to explore new activities independent of their parents and carers. Our loyal volunteers support our members and staff whilst also having a great time socialising and integrating throughout our clubs.

Initially starting in Whitwell we have grown to also cover Clowne, Bolsover, Pinxton, Chesterfield, Dronfield & Worksop.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 and the decisions made to close day centres we have now moved our services into the day time too which have been extremely successful in providing our members with social interaction, learning transferable life skills and being part of a team within a safe environment on every level.

One of the main barriers we are facing is transporting our members to our different sites and particularly the new project area in Whitwell where JGFC have adopted a small piece of land at Whitwell train station. Our members have put planters around to make the place feel more inviting and they maintain these on a regular basis as part of their life skills.

We currently have to rely on using our staff members own cars. This isn't an efficient way or sustainable long term. It puts constraints on what we hope and plan to do going forward. What we desperately need is our own minibus. This we will have to find funding for ourselves.

If we have a minibus it will provide our members with the freedom and security of moving around between our different sites so the whole team can interact and build together. Not only will a minibus provide this but also will be used for our smaller daytrips throughout the year to such places as Alton Towers, Magna, Yorkshire Wildlife Park and when we have our weekends away. Having a minibus will have a massive positive impact on our members and the community we serve.

To fund the acquisition of a minibus we need to raise up to £9000 for a second hand minibus including insurance and road tax.

Pump Master, who share a yard with us and have agreed to provide maintenance and up to date MOT legislation along with ad – hoc repair labour where possible. Crossroads Business Park have agreed to provide storage of the vehicle too.

Further costs shall be covered with other money already raised or donated as well as income from our Charity provided by Derbyshire County Council.

We do have funding for promotions and merchandise which will allow us to have the minibus displaying Just Good Friends Club and Louise Smalley Walk working in conjunction for the community. If we are accepted as the LSW charity nominee for 2023 it will make a huge difference in pushing us to reach our target and acquire the minibus that we so desperately need.