

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Oaklands Community Centre – Oaklands Information Café and Mobile Food Larder - Councillor Support Report**

Councillors attended 4 dates towards the end of 2025 at the request of the Oaklands Community Centre Committee, including 10am-12noon on: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November and Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The aim of the sessions is to provide residents with a friendly space to chat, ask questions, and find support from a range of local services. The local police service were in attendance monthly, as well as representatives from Cornwall Housing and MD Group who carry out local repairs, and our local Social Prescriber, as well as visits from Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank and the local Fire Service.

Oaklands Community Centre has been supported by many organisations in 2025 including (the not limited to!): the installation of an accessibility ramp using funding provided by Harmony Fire's Social Value Fund; regular activities like bingo, craft clubs, knit and natter groups, mindfulness sessions, and social events with Age Concern Saltash; as well as a community garden created by Friends of Tincombe, featuring sensory plants, a pergola, raised beds, a bug hotel, and a privacy fence. With funding from Cornwall Council Community Chest grants, the garden will soon expand to include a vegetable and wildlife area focusing on pollinator-friendly plants. In November 2025 Saltash Town Council also granted funds to contribute towards Stage 2 of the centre's improvement works, helping to purchase essential kitchen equipment. This has been vital in supporting the mobile food larder which is essential in supporting members of the local community who struggle to get to Fore Street.

Visit Saltash describes Oaklands Community Centre as:

‘...a vital hub for the Saltash community, offering a range of services and facilities for local residents and groups. It provides a safe and inspiring space for all ages to engage in various activities and access essential services. Additionally, it serves as a meeting place for local groups and is available for events such as meetings, Yoga classes, or art for example.’

**Oaklands Community Centre – Visit Saltash**

Mandy Thompson (local Social Prescriber) describes the Information Cafés as ‘going from strength to strength’.

Attendance numbers vary, it is hoped that the community will continue to use the centre and information sessions more and more based on word of mouth, social media posting and also continuing support from established local groups which have a wide reach such as Saltash Town Council. Councillors in attendance have been able to offer signposting to local residents, attendance and physical presence has exemplified STC's continuing support for community groups in Saltash.

James Jenkins (Chairperson) and Jackie Ashton (Vice Chair) have asked me to pass on thanks to STC for supporting the sessions thus far.

For as long as Councillors wish to volunteer to attend, my recommendation is to continue to support the monthly sessions and renew our commitment for a further 4 months, whereupon I am happy to write an updated report if requested.

Cllr. Mrs. Alice Victoria Ashburn Essa Ward.

End of report.