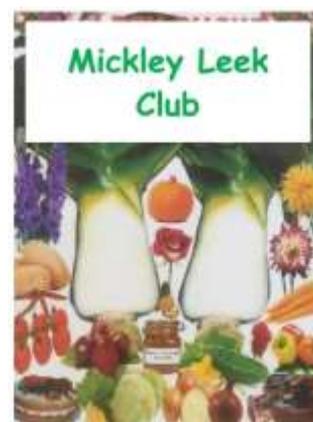


12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Councillor Cuthbert.

As you may be aware Mickley Square has a thriving Leek Club consisting of 25 members who use Mickley Club as their base for meetings and the annual Leek Show weekend.

The Leek Club is entirely separate from the Social Club and is funded by the members who each pay subscriptions and take part in fundraising throughout the year in order to fund the annual show.



The show consists of numerous traditional industrial categories such as baking and preserves. It also has a children's category which is entirely free and open to all children and is usually sponsored by a member of the community who chooses to remain anonymous. It encourages the children to grow vegetables and to bake.

The Leeks are judged by a professional judge and the winner is the talk of the town! A supper and evening entertainment is then provided completely free of charge for anyone who wishes to come. It has become such a success that people often enquire when it will be held well in advance of the planned dates so that they can attend.

The whole weekend usually costs in the region of £2600. This is made up of Members Subscriptions (£1000), annual fundraising (£1000), and weekend auctions and raffles (£600). In early 2020 the Leek Club made plans to hold a fundraising event in March. This event was going to help fund raise not only for the Leek Show but also some of the proceeds were going to local cancer Charity "Daft as a brush", who provide transport for cancer treatment.

Due to the Covid pandemic we were forced to abandon the event which was one of our main fundraising opportunities for the year.

The members still paid their subscriptions however due to the national lockdown over the summer we were unable to have any more events. The Leek Show did go ahead in September 2020 however it had to be on a reduced scale, and we were prevented from auctioning the industrial categories due to Covid. The prize money had to be drastically reduced due to being unable to fund raise in the usual way.

The money raised from the Show weekend is the starting point for the following years Show. At the start of 2021 we were still in lockdown and therefore were unable to hold our usual general meeting. Due to the uncertainty of when things would return to relative normality, we did not ask our members for the usual £40 subscriptions. This was also due to the financial hardship which some people are in due to the pandemic.

Whilst we are fully committed to continuing the traditional community calendar event this September we are in a situation where we can hardly afford to fund the basics of the show weekend. We are really concerned that if we are not able to do this, this may send out the message that we are no longer hosting the community family-based event, something which we are determined to avoid.

One of the members who resides in the Stocksfield parish informed me that some of the Leek Clubs in that area have been provided with funding to help them through this difficult time and we wondered if our Parish Council may be able to support us.

If we were to qualify for some financial assistance every penny would go back into making the show a fantastic event and something which we feel the whole community needs coming out of what has been a very difficult time.

We would be very grateful if Prudhoe Town Council would support Mickley Leek Club. Councillor Cuthbert would you be willing to take this forward on our behalf?

We wondered if you may be able to suggest any other form of funding such as the community chest or perhaps help us qualify for funding from local businesses who may be interested in supporting a local club like ours which encourages children and the community to grow vegetables and bake.

Mickley and its adjoining villages are an extremely proud and close-knit community, we believe that if we can get this funding support from our local Council this will allow us to create a foundation on which to take the Leek show forward.

This would be with a view to making it more prominent and look to hold more events which would be open to local families and the youth.

If we were to secure some funding this would potentially allow us to donate some of our vegetable produce on the show weekend to food banks, the newly established Community Buddies, or the Rose Tree care centre. Both of these are in close proximity to where we hold the show, and both are in the lovely village of Mickley.

In addition to the work we do for the Leek club, the members have also been responsible for creating the community planters which you can see on Station Bank next to the allotments. They provide fresh food free of charge for people to collect as they walk up and down the bank.

You may have noticed that Mickley Club has also undergone some much-needed renovation and improvements in the last couple of years. Much of this was completed completely free of charge by the Leek Club members who are unwaveringly dedicated to where we live. Several rooms have been created for use by the community which includes St George's Church who regularly held meetings there whilst they had a new roof constructed.

This year's fantastic external flower display at Mickley Club was also nurtured in its early stages by a Leek Club member at the village allotments. I hope you will agree that it enhances the village at such a prominent location.

So by now you will hopefully understand that whilst the Leek Club and Mickley Social Club are completely separate from a financial and funding perspective, they are very much united in making where we live a successful, inclusive, and welcoming place to reside and visit.

Susan Wylie who is a Mickley village resident and Leek Club member is our treasurer and would produce our records for the previous few years, if required, which will evidence the claim that until Covid 19 we were a successful self-funded and thriving Leek Club.

Yours sincerely

Richie Ghani on behalf of Mickey Leek Club  
(Contract Details provided)