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Sent: 1/5/2026 11:16:49 AM
To: "Greg Burt" <parishclerk@cocking.org>
Cc:
Subject: Grant application - St Wilfrid's Hospice

Dear Councillors,

How would you feel if you knew your life was going to be shorter than you thought, and that your time with your family was limited?

For many terminally ill people across our community, this is the reality they are facing every day, feeling anxious and scared about what their uncertain future now holds.

Will I be able to cope? How will my family adapt? Will I have to give up everything I love?

With the support of Cocking Parish Council, we can ensure patients in your parish receive the complete care they deserve, addressing their medical, psychological, and practical needs.

Thinking about death is difficult, but when you imagine yourself or your loved ones being in this position, being able to make choices about the care that you receive is so important.

I have attached an application document detailing further information about the Hospice and the difference a donation from Cocking Parish Council could make.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, please get in touch if you need any further information

Kind Regards

Christine

Christine Gillott

Philanthropy Manager

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St Wilfrid's Hospice
Making a difference to local lives

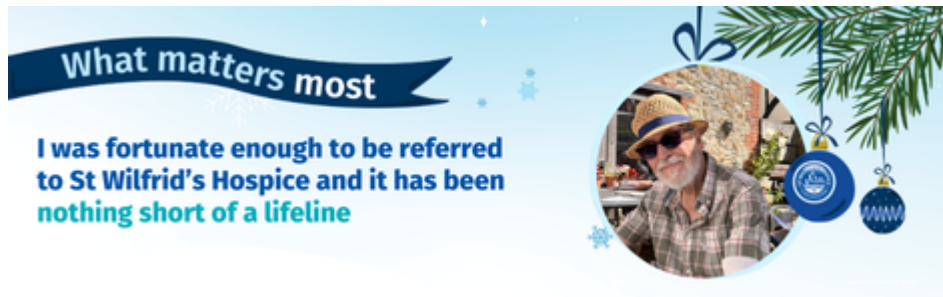
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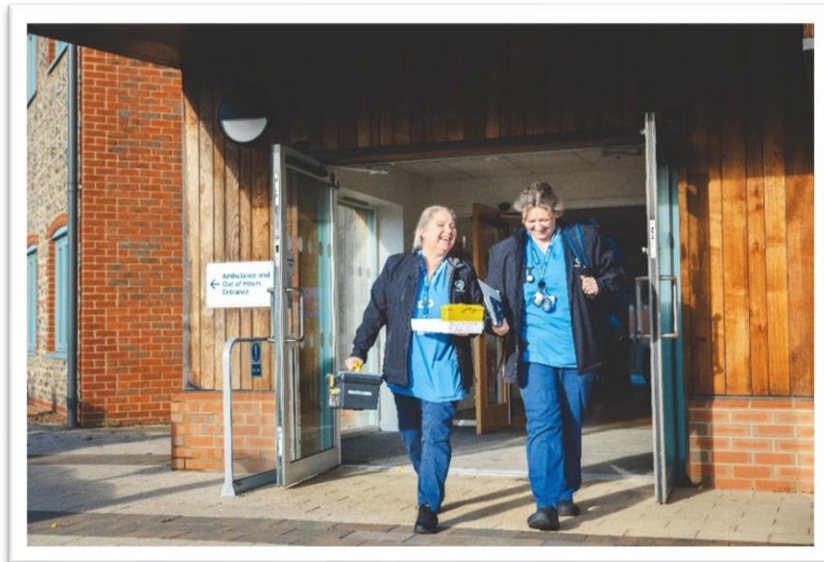
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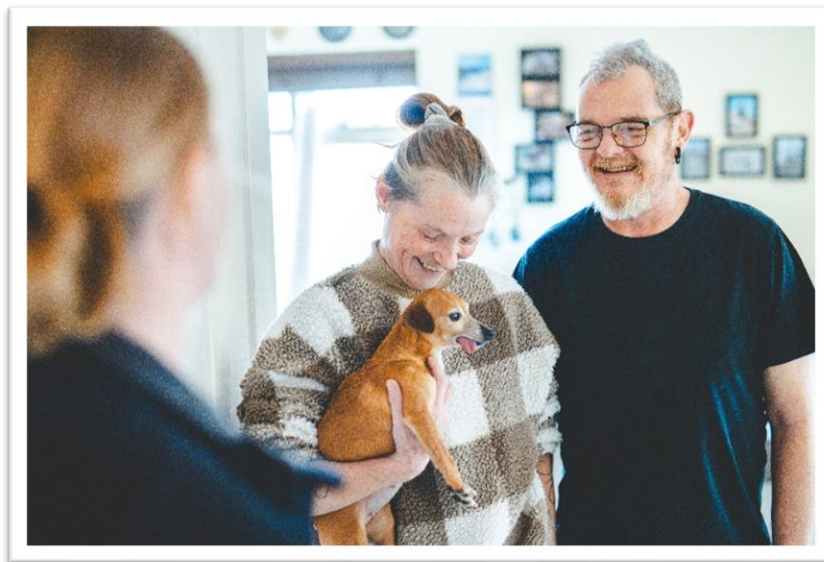
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St Wilfrid's Hospice

Making a difference to local lives



Cocking Parish Council



Who are St Wilfrid's Hospice?

For the last 38 years, adults in our community with life-limiting illnesses have been able to depend on St Wilfrid's Hospice to provide them with specialist palliative care. Patients and their loved ones have access to a range of services that provide holistic support, this includes; a 14-bed inpatient ward, Hospice Community Team, Family Services & Bereavement Support Team, and Rehabilitation Team.

Since receiving our first patient in January 1987, we have been developing our services to meet the complex needs of our growing community. Though we predominantly care for people with a primary diagnosis of cancer, we are now seeing much more complicated cases, with people presenting varied symptoms and diverse diagnoses. As an organisation, we are dedicated to evolving our knowledge and subsequent support in order to fulfil our patients' need for complete care.

For too long, the diagnosis of a terminal illness has resulted in patients being left bedridden in pain and discomfort. But, at St Wilfrid's Hospice, we know that this doesn't have to be the case.

Using a multi-faceted approach, we considerably create a bespoke care plan for each patient to help them manage their symptoms and address any concerns. We understand that the time patients have is precious, and our care should focus on the areas which are most important to the patient. Through this kind of specialist support, we can make this time as comfortable as possible and ensure patients are empowered to do what is right for them.

As the only palliative and end-of-life care specialists in our region, we receive over 1,000 referrals every year from people in desperate need of support. Since our inception we have cared for over 23,000 local people, and the demand for our services is only increasing due to a growing aging population.

At any one time, our dedicated teams are supporting 330 patients and their loved ones - with everyone receiving personalised care to meet their specific needs.

Anybody within our catchment area is eligible for our support, this area covers from Emsworth in the west to Arundel in the east and stretches from south of the Downs to the coast, taking in Chichester and Bognor Regis. Our purpose-built Hospice - housing the Inpatient Ward & Rehabilitation Team - is based in Bosham in Chichester.

"St Wilfrid's Hospice are an outstanding example of the care a Hospice can provide for their patients."
- IWantGreatCare review.

What does the Hospice Community Team do?

Over 90% of the palliative and end-of-life care we provide takes place out in the community; patients often choose to stay in the comfort and security of their own home, and our Community Team are able to provide specialist nursing care and support wherever it is needed. This care includes: symptom management, medication support, nursing care, personal care, and emotional support. The team are also equipped to provide help and advice for families to support them through these distressing times.

Each patient receives a bespoke medical care plan which is tailored to provide the care they want, as well as need.

After undergoing some structural changes to make sure we are delivering support as efficiently and effectively as possible, we now operate two separate community teams - one covering the east and one in the west. Each comprises of multi-disciplinary staff to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of our patients. One of the most crucial differences we have seen under this new structure is that patients are visited more quickly and do not need to wait to receive vital support. Being able to respond quickly to patients is critical to help them live comfortably and enable them to spend time doing the things they enjoy.

Whether it is having faster access to effective medication due to our Nurse prescribers or having someone there to speak to when they're feeling low, our patients rely on the Hospice Community Team to deliver the care they depend on.

April '25 - Sept '25

- **491** referrals.
- Of these referrals, **117** people were seeking support due to non-cancer related illnesses.
- **516** Contacts made by the Community Support Team.
- The percentage of people who died in their preferred place of death (when disclosed) was **70.7%**.
- The average age of a patient was **77**.

In addition, collaboration is highly valued by our organisation as we understand the impact it can have on the quality of care our patients receive. As well as internal collaboration, the Community Team also works with external healthcare providers to ensure that our patients receive wrap-around care, helping to minimise stress.

As a result of the specialist care they deliver, the Hospice Community Team is invaluable to local people. They provide unwavering support and reassurance to patients when they are scared and in pain, helping them to regain control over their lives and devote precious time to their loved ones.

The Impact of the Hospice Community Team

All the facts and details we could provide about the Hospice Community Team will never demonstrate its importance in the same way that the words of an affected family can. We can easily tell you how brilliant our team are and how fantastic the care they deliver is, but the effect of our care can only truly be demonstrated by the impact we have on real people – people like Georgie and her loving family.

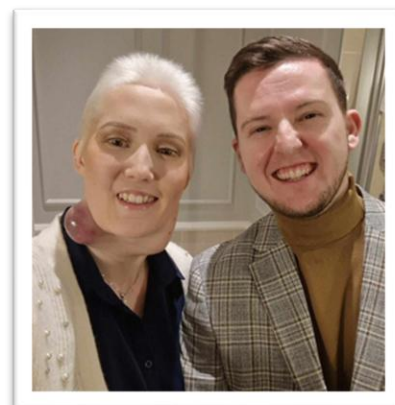
At just 22 years old, Georgie was diagnosed with cancer. Unfortunately, despite surgery and treatment, Doctors found that her cancer had spread, and her prognosis was rapidly declining. This was a situation that both Georgie and her family would never have imagined they would be facing. Being so young, Georgie's whole life should have been ahead of her – a life that she imagined would be spent with her partner, Chris.

It was at this time that Georgie was referred to St Wilfrid's Hospice, when there was nothing further that could be done to treat her cancer. Despite her preconceptions, Georgie realised she wasn't coming to the Hospice to die. All the support our teams provided was to help both Georgie and her loved ones enjoy the time they had together. The Hospice Community Team made frequent visits to Georgie at home to ensure she was comfortable and able to continue living the life she wanted – including marrying Chris at a special wedding ceremony at the Hospice! It was important to Georgie that, until the moment she died, she could stay true to who she was and live the way she wanted to.

"The care for our wellbeing has transformed us, my pain is under control and at a comfortable pace. I even have a portable emergency care kit so I can go out." - Georgie

"When we were at home I used to look forward to every morning when the hospice nurses arrived. It was a friendly face and because I'd see them every morning, it would make me feel less lonely. It gave me company, which is a strange thing to say because I had my wife sat there with me. But having those people come in every morning, day after day, month after month, was incredible. And that, in itself, is caring for me."

— Chris, Georgie's husband



The Impact of St Wilfrid's on our Environment

Since opening our doors almost 40 years ago, we have established ourselves as a valued organisation within our area. We have a reputation of being a responsible organisation in our community, and we extend this responsibility to not only the patients we care for, but our natural world too. The impact of St Wilfrid's Hospice on our environment is something that we are acutely aware of and continuously trying to improve.

We are doing as much as possible to recycle, reduce our energy consumption, protect our environment, and save money for patient care. Some of the actions we have taken are:

- We send general waste to an external recycling facility to be resorted; all non-recyclable waste is burnt at an 'Energy from Waste' facility which produces heat & power for the local community.
- We use a climate friendly laundry service; our external contractor uses 30% harvested rainwater.
- We use FSC certified & recycled paper towel rolls, toilet paper & blue roll for the kitchens.
- We send our food waste for anaerobic digestion to produce biogas, which is subsequently used for heat & power.
- We use recycled photocopier paper.

- We have had 205 solar panels installed on the Hospice building in Bosham.

We proudly divert 100% of the waste that we produce away from landfill, using several different facilities to reuse and recycle as much as possible. Aside from our general waste, food waste is sent to produce biogas which is subsequently used for heat and power, cooking oil is converted into biodiesel, and our garden waste is all sent for composting.

We have plans for the future to make more adjustments which will enhance our sustainability and further improve our impact on both the local people and environment.



Why we need help from Cocking Parish Council

You may have seen recently that Hospice Care has had a spotlight in the media. This has arisen due to Hospices across the country struggling to find the funds they need to continue operation, with particular attention being given to the level of government funding provided.

St Wilfrid's has one of the lowest levels of state funding in the whole of the UK. Our NHS grant covers around 16% of our costs, meaning we rely more heavily on alternative income streams to ensure patients receive essential care. Up to now, the board at St Wilfrid's has carefully managed our expenditure and reserves to ensure that - despite the increasing financial pressures - our patients and services are not affected.

However, in 2025/26 we are facing a deficit budget; this shows that, despite our efforts, we are feeling the effects of the funding gap more and more - and unless we can secure funding, our patients and services may suffer in the long term.



Visits from Community Nurses like Sadie can be the difference which means patients are able to sleep peacefully at night, instead of being awoken in pain.

The UK Government have committed to a £100 million funding project for Hospices as a consequence of the National Insurance contribution increases; whilst this funding is hugely appreciated, it is restricted to only be spent on capital projects, such as infrastructure - therefore not addressing the issue of rising costs for essential daily care. For this reason, we are looking to funders such as Cocking Parish Council to provide the support we critically need to deliver impactful care to patients.

In addition to these funding challenges, the need for our services has never been greater, with the demand only expected to increase as the number of older people living in the UK is predicted to double by 2045. In West Sussex, the aging population is projected to grow at the fastest rate - with more than 30% of residents anticipated to be over 65 by 2039. This aging demographic will lead to a greater demand for our services, meaning our resources will be stretched even further.

How Cocking Parish Council can help

It costs over £10.5m every year to keep St Wilfrid's Hospice in operation and provide services, free of charge, to local people. This cost is continuously increasing due to the difficult financial climate we are in, and we are needing to find more funding every year to cover the costs of providing the support our patients need. This is why we are reaching out to Cocking Parish Council. By making a donation of £100 you would be directly supporting the delivery of vital care to the local community, offering hope and a helping hand to people in desperate need of relief. By working together, we would be able to provide wrap-around support to vulnerable families, making a positive impact on their lives at one of the most distressing times.

The cost of care

As an independent charity, we rely on donations to ensure we can continue to provide support and stability to those who need us. We have grown our fundraising to utilise as many income opportunities as possible; this includes donations from trusts, individuals and businesses, as well as retail income and legacy donations. We also host multiple events every year in an effort to generate income and raise awareness within our community.

However, our financial circumstances are becoming more and more challenging, and we cannot avoid the fact that our costs are increasing at a rate which we will be unable to cover without additional funding.

Between the financial years of 2023/24 and 25/26, the annual expenditure budget for the Hospice Community Team has increased from £1,015,637 to £1,230,559 – this is a growth of £214,922 (equating to a 21.2% increase). This growth can largely be attributed to staffing salaries and comes as a result of the rise in National Insurance contributions, as well as needing to keep salaries competitive in order to retain our team to meet the needs of our patients.

Please see the table to the right which displays our full annual budget breakdown for 2025/2026.

It is only because of support from Cocking Parish Council, and organisations like you, that we are able to meet these increases and fund the services that patients rely on.

Annual Expenditure Budget 2025/26

<u>Hospice Community Team</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Salaries	£1,150,509.00
Bank Staff	£45,510.00
Travel and Expenses	£23,500.00
Equipment Purchase	£1,700.00
Equipment Maintenance/Service	£3,540.00
Clinical Waste	£816.00
Staff Uniforms/H&S Clothing	£500.00
Nursing and Therapy Consumables	£4,080.00
Sundry Expenses	£404.00
Total Expenditure	£1,230,559.00

Thank you for your kind consideration of our application!



“All the carers have been so kind, considerate and caring to mum and my family, they are amazing - I couldn't have coped without them.” – Review on Iwantgreatcare.



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