

OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Ware Charities

Purpose:

Relief in need, poverty, sickness, education. Applicants must reside in the town of Ware and parishes of Wareside and Thunderidge. Promotes education/training, health and the prevention or relief of poverty, by making grants to individuals and organisations.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Cllr Pope

Update:

The Trustees meet four times a year. In the twelve months under review I attended three of the four meetings.

The number of financial hardship related applications being referred to Ware Charities by Housing Associations continues to rise. A useful meeting with Network Homes was held in December 2021. Ware Charities also makes a grant to the CAB.

Ware Charities used to derive the majority of its income from its freehold interest in 75, High Street Ware (HSBC were the tenant). Following the closure by HSBC of its Ware branch, the Trustees are looking at developing the site and a planning application is being developed.

Ware Charities sold the two small alms houses that it owned in Park Road, Ware in 2021. The proceeds of the sales have been added to the Ware Charities' reserves.

Ware Charities is currently undertaking a strategic review (including,

as part of a wider investment review, what to do with both the proceeds from the sale of the two small alms houses in Park Road and also with 75 High Street). I am a member of the sub committee that is carrying out this work. The strategic work aims to provide some objective background to prepare for an organisational change. It is apparent that Ware Charities has a number of strengths that it could better deploy, and that the nature of 'need' in the society it serves has changed. There are also a number of weaknesses that need to be addressed going forward.

Update provided by: Cllr Mark Pope

Date: 6 April 2022