Continuation sheet for Daybreak's application for grant aid

Purpose for which the grant is required. How will this project benefit the community.

Tragically, our kitchen equipment has reached the end of its life. It was purchased when we started in Kidlington 20 years ago. Now the refrigerator is unreliable, resulting in food waste and higher food and operating cost. The dishwasher is no longer working, resulting in extra staff time and cost for clean-up. The oven is at the end of its life, as well. When the oven stops working, we will no longer be able to serve lunch.

We must refurbish the kitchen so we can reliably serve people living with dementia in Kidlington. Once completed, we plan to hire a local worker to cook for our members, just as we do in our other centres. This allows us to cater to individual needs while being more cost effective and reliable. This will also make the centre more sustainable over time. Half of our Kidlington members live alone, and count on our lunch service as their primary source of food and nutrition each day. We are asking for your help.

We have spent a year working on other solutions, partnering with Kidlington businesses. This included moving our operations into Moorside Retirement Homes, catering through the Cherwell Collective, and attempting to hire catering through other local businesses. These solutions were either expensive, not-fit-for our purposes, or our attempts failed. We were left with only two options: either find the funds to refit the facility, or move out of Kidlington. Because we feel committed to our wonderful members, passionate local volunteers, and dedicated staff who live in Kidlington, we would very much like to stay.

In January, Rachel Faulkner and Alison Street visited the Lilacs centre to discuss the project. Rachel suggested I write this grant. Since then, more equipment has failed or is failing. I have spent the interim months getting a Kidlington refit bid, finding other grants to cover remaining costs, and arranging a temporary location for our critical service while the refurbishment is carried out.