

LEEDS METHODIST MISSION - Council Meeting June 2016

Report relating to “Tea Room Café”

OVERVIEW

It is now 6 months since we agreed to take responsibility for running the café and employing the 2 members of staff. At the last Mission Council it was agreed that the arrangement would continue until August 2016 and the future of its operation would be considered at this forthcoming meeting.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

This financial and statistical summary covers the period to the 26th May last. Since taking over the running of the café on the 9th December the café has been open on 105 days and has provided 1,347 buffet covers in support of the conferencing, plus providing light refreshments at all these events and many more. Day to day the café is visited by many members of the public and also provides refreshments etc for many of our tenants.

In the period to May 2016 the café currently shows a surplus of £2,124 this however I feel will be reduced or even be eliminated by the end of August as we enter the summer period when meetings and conferences are at a low. Against this we should take into consideration the potential income that will be generated during September to November which I hope will result in the café being viable over a 12 month period. A more detailed breakdown of the figures will be available at the Mission Council meeting if anyone would like them.

LOOKING FORWARD

In considering this we must bear in mind that the Mission cannot in the long term subsidise the café. The relationship between the café and conferencing is important, whilst the conferencing could function without the café by bringing in buffets, the café would not be viable on its own, therefore we need to maintain a strong conferencing presence. We need to investigate how we can increase the footfall into the café on a daily basis, and extend the atmosphere the cafe already brings into the Mission whilst it is open which is not there at other times.

CONCLUSIONS

We believe that the failure of the café by the previous organisation was due to their lack of involvement in its day to day management. The café venture is still fragile and to provide some security to the staff we would like to propose that we continue the café until February 2017 which will then have given us results from a full 12 months trading. We propose meeting with those involved in the running of the café shortly to discuss ways we can improve the services especially through publicity. Any proposals or suggestions from Council members would also be welcome.

Deacon Jenny Jones
Bernard J Neville