

## **Thatcham Town Council – Finance and General Purposes Committee Funding Request Report**

### **Project Title:**

Thatcham Train Station Volunteers: Suicide Prevention Training

### **Requested Funding:**

£250

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### **1. Objectives of the Project**

The aim of this project is to provide suicide prevention training for 10 volunteers who will be present at Thatcham Train Station. The training will equip volunteers with the skills and confidence to intervene appropriately if they observe someone in distress or behaving unusually. This initiative supports the wider goal of ensuring the station is a welcoming, safe environment for all passengers.

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### **2. Details of the Project**

Thatcham Town Council has recently adopted Thatcham Train Station and has already taken steps to improve the environment, including:

- Commissioning a mural,
- Installing posters in the ticket office,
- Planning the installation of new painted planters in Spring 2026.

Volunteers are being recruited to manage the day-to-day upkeep of the station. To enhance their role, we propose offering suicide prevention training delivered by Sue Bennet (via VCWB). This training will prepare volunteers to act confidently and effectively if they encounter individuals showing signs of suicidal ideation.

Currently, four volunteers have expressed interest. If funding is secured, we will promote the opportunity further to recruit additional participants.

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### **3. Resources and Project Cost**

- Suicide prevention training: £25 per volunteer
- 10 volunteers x £25 = **£250**

Funding already secured:

- £750 from GWR Community Fund (posters, planters, equipment and ongoing costs for 25/26)
  - £1,000 in-kind support from Together UK (mural painting)
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#### **4. Timescale**

The project will commence in January 2026 (unless we can bring this forward) and continue as volunteers are trained and engaged in ongoing station support activities.

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#### **5. Project Management**

The project will be overseen by **Emily Moseley, Community Engagement Manager**.

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#### **6. Background**

Thatcham Train Station has experienced a higher-than-average number of fatalities in recent years. In response, we are working closely with GWR, the Suicide Prevention Action Group, and Samaritans to create a positive, supportive environment at the station and to help disrupt thoughts or plans of self-harm among vulnerable individuals.

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#### **8. Evidence of Need**

The station ticket office is only staffed between 6am–12pm, leaving long periods when no personnel are present. GWR has identified Thatcham as a high-risk station, highlighting the need for volunteers who feel confident to intervene if appropriate.