

Ms Karen Bell
Interim Head of Oakham Town Council
RoI House
Long Row
Oakham
Rutland LE15 6LN

15 March 2023

Dear Karen,

Once again it that time of the year when Citizens Advice Rutland (CAR) reaches out to our friends and supporters in Rutland and requests donations from Parish Councils in order to allow CAR to continue to serve the most vulnerable in our community.

Citizens Advice Rutland is an independent charity, funded by the local authority, donations by Town and Parish Councils and grants for projects, and we are very grateful for this support. In these difficult times, the day-to-day workload increases, and our local authority grants diminish. We are seeking financial help to ensure the continuity of this vital service, both on-line but also via face-to-face appointments in Oakham.

While all of us living in Rutland face the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis, there are hundreds of residents within our community who are most acutely affected. Residents who are already held back by their debts, residents reliant on benefits and residents whose financial circumstances are most negatively affected by rising food and energy prices.

At Citizens Advice Rutland the demands on our advisors have never been greater in our 49 years' of operating in the County and the numbers we have assisted thus far are likely to be just the tip of the iceberg.

Over the past year (2021/22) we saw over 2648 unique clients who brought 9,378 different enquiry areas to our service. Approximately 48% of our clients live in the wards and parishes outside Oakham and Uppingham. 55% of the enquiries received were regarding Welfare Rights (benefits) issues.

