**Report to Parish Council from John Huntingdon’s Charity (JHC)
10 October 2017**

\* 280 clients seen so far this year – last year the whole year we saw just over 300, so demand is growing and expecting more next year with roll out of universal credit.

\* 240 bags of food given out, this is already more than the whole of last year (230).

\* Enquiry type –Benefits remains the top enquiry, grants 2nd with over £13,300 given to individuals, this is already more than the whole of last year with 3 more months to go, Housing 3rd, and debt/finance fourth. Next year debt clients expected to rise because of universal credit – it is anticipated that claimants will have to wait at least 6 weeks for the benefit to kick in, therefore accumulating debt during that period.

\* 58% of our clients were either disabled or had health issues.

\* It is anticipated that we will deliver between 50-60 Christmas hampers at the end November beginning of December.

\* We have a new family support worker – Corinne Hammond well known locally as former locality worker, she will be working with children one to one and also with their families.

Other JHC info

Grants given to a numberof organisations working in the village totalling £14,000. This is expected to be more than £24,000 by the end of the year, an increase on last year of around 15%.

The old office building on Tannery Road – conversion to 2 bedroom houses, work starts Monday 9th October and is expected to finish the beginning of February 2017. Regent Construction is the contractor. It will reopen as Cullum House.

Properties on Mill Lane – twice submitted plans for pre app planning advice – both times rejected! Now planning to tweak the plans & submit for formal planning permission, as we really want to get this moving it is costing us money, as well as delaying the provision of more housing. Want to demolish properties and build 4 x2 bed room apartments on the plot but this is proving problematic for planners.

Care network coming to do a presentation on 23rd October at 11am at JHC on new project called HOOP – Housing Options for Older People, which aims to get older people to think about their housing options and any adaptations which may be needed in advance to enable them to live well into old age. The pilot, which covers South Cambridgeshire, is running for just six months initially beginning in Sawston and Linton before going across the district. All parish councillors or interested parties invited to join us.

Coffee morning at JHC for friends & clients Tuesday 12th December 10.30 until 12.30, please feel free to drop in or let people know.

Kieran Cooper