



Age Concern Todmorden

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To whom it may concern,

We at Age Concern Todmorden believe that loneliness and isolation is one of the primary factors in poor physical and mental health, and particularly affects older people who are often living alone, in poor health already, bereaved etc. The opportunity to socialise with people, get to know others and contribute to your community has long term benefits for individuals and neighbourhoods. An important aspect of this is providing community space. Walsden has few local amenities for socialising such as cafes or community centres. The closure of the local library will be a significant loss.

We support the idea of a community garden to provide both a project for people to involve themselves in, and a space for people to share, thus enhancing community connections at a time when loneliness has become a significant health problem. Garden spaces, with accessible seating are particularly welcomed and utilised by older people, not least for their ability to incorporate all ages and sectors of society, so helping older people to feel part of a community rather than a passive recipient of services.

Best wishes,
Alexandra Boyle,
Manager, Age Concern Todmorden