

F & E Dec 2021 / Agenda item 15

Town Council support of Uttlesford Foodbank during the pandemic – Updated report to Committee

Purpose of report:

To update the Committee re the recent SWTC support of Uttlesford Food Bank and to determine whether Committee wishes to allocate some of the “Crisis Funding” directly to the Food Bank.

Revised Shopping procedure:

Lately this has been carried out responsively rather than proactively. The Foodbank Manager has been invited to contact the TIC staff member by Friday evening to place an order for the following week. If an order is received, the TIC staff member will call into Aldi first thing on Monday morning, select one each of the required items for the managing team to scan, so that multiple items can be ordered for the Ops Team to collect, pay for and deliver to the Foodbank midweek. *So far, in the last two months, this ‘TC service’ has only been taken up three times.*

Grant funding to date:

Following the original May 2020 Town Council budget of £1800 allocated to the Foodbank, the TIC applied for ECC Lockdown Support monies (£1950 + £500 + £3000). Nearly all of this has now been spent.

Future ECC Funding opportunities:

A ‘food and fuel fund’ opportunity is imminent (early Dec to Feb 2022) but qualifying conditions are not yet known. It will be administered by EALC.

Is SWTC ‘crisis funding’ necessary at the moment?

Whilst not externally funded, SWTC could continue to support the work of the Food Bank. However, the Foodbank manager advises (30th Nov 2021) that the Foodbank is well-funded at the moment, and well-stocked due to harvest and Christmas looming. It is still giving out more than it is getting in, but it has the money to pay for things at the moment.

Recommendation

- (a) To receive and consider the contents of this report
- (b) For Committee to determine whether to provision specific monies from the resilience fund (was called crisis fund) to the future purchase of food for the Food Bank. If Committee is minded to set aside specific monies, it is recommended a maximum allowance is set aside for the current financial year for further review in April 2022 at the start of the new financial year.

For reference the metrics the Foodbank uses are:

A kg of food is worth £1.75 (Trussell Trust approximations)

1 kg of food = 2.38 meals (from Feed Britain report)

So £1,000 buys 571 kg of food, which = 1359 meals

For a family of 5 that would feed them for 3 months (90.6 days)

Judith Thompson 30.11.2021

Tourist Information Officer