

# WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL– WELLBEING COMMITTEE 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

## ITEM 27– TO SUPPORT A PROJECT TO DELIVER A COMMUNITY FRIDGE/LARDER

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<b>Author:</b>	Clerk – Michelle Legg
<b>Strategic Goal:</b>	Goal 1 – To continue to support the village so it becomes a vibrant and sustainable community for everyone
<b>Strategic Aim:</b>	1.1 work with others to improve and promote our village
<b>Summary:</b>	To consider supporting a Community Fridge/Larder
<b>Legislation:</b>	General Power of Competency (Localism Act 2011)

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### Background

A version of this report was initially presented to the council in February 2021, and whilst the parish council was willing to support the initiative, it was not able, at the time, to drive the project forward, however it is being presented to the Wellbeing Committee, with the recommendation that a small working group, involving members of the Wellbeing Committee and representatives is created to explore the project further.

### Community Fridge/Larder

The number of community fridges/larders/food clubs has increased across the county and country, partly to support the growing number who need additional support, but also to share excess food and to reduce food waste.

Following on from discussions at the council meeting in January the Clerk has produced information on local schemes that could be replicated in Wheatley.

#### Range of options

1. Community Fridge – fridge accessible to the community offering perishable items (not meat)
2. Community Larder – expansion of above with dry goods and operates as a ‘food club’ – a weekly subscription (example £3.50 per person of £7 a family for 10/20 items of food. In return £7 can equate to around £24 a week of supermarket food each week. Over the year that can equate to approx. £500.  
Generally fruit and veg is non restricted, although members are asked to only take what they will use within the week.

### ***Blackbird Leys Community Fridge, Larder/Food Club***

Oxford City Council support this scheme operated with support from the community and food for charities.

The Community fridge and larder is located within the local community centre and stocked by volunteers (mainly from the charity) with food donations from Sainsburys (city centre), Co-op and ASDA (Wheatley).

The Food Club is operated under SOFEA. There is an initial £10 joining fee.

There is mainly operated by volunteers, although the community centre staff to offer some assistance and cleaners undertake some cleaning tasks.

Due to C-19 some restrictions on access have been in place and alternative locations have been considered.

A similar scheme operates in Rose Hill, although this has been instigated by the local primary school but operates out of Rose Hill Community Centre.

### **Botley**

Botley offer similar schemes, with the [community fridge](#) running out of the local church and the [community larder](#) operating weekly from the local pub.

### **An option in Wheatley?**

A Wheatley based initiative will support those in need but will also appeal to those who are committed to reducing food waste and sharing seasonal fruit and vegetable from their own gardens and allotments.

There are still many questions to be answered (where, who, how, costs, etc.) but with so many active groups and organisations and businesses, as well as active volunteers within the village, an initial push from the parish council may be the spark that the community needs it putting together an option for the community.

We have many businesses, including 2 supermarkets, as well as Cost-cutters, Farm Shops and other food outlets that already do or may be willing to support such a scheme.

Any scheme would be in addition to any current provision, (pupil premiums, COVID-9 food parcels, food bank etc.).

The scheme should aim to break down barriers, try to tackle the stigma around asking and accepting offers of help. Messages should be around tackling food waste, shopping locally and supporting one another.

### **Resources**

Key resources included:

Venue – with space for 1/2 fridge/freezers and shelving space, that would also be accessible to the public once or twice a week.

Volunteers – to help collect food, manage the scheme, help during opening hours

Financial assistance – it would be hoped that the scheme would be run with the support of volunteers in a venue with free or low-cost hire charges.

**Useful links** – some links have been included in the text below are a few additional links

- [Food for charities](#)

- [http://www.lambethlarder.org/uploads/5/4/7/4/54741809/ll\\_the\\_basics\\_community\\_food\\_projects.pdf](http://www.lambethlarder.org/uploads/5/4/7/4/54741809/ll_the_basics_community_food_projects.pdf)