

Food for Thought Purbeck

Notes of Steering Group Meeting held by zoom on 7 December 2022

Present: Chris Bradey, Debby Monkhouse, Nicola Rogers, Helen Sumblar, James Mercer, Gail Mercer, Abigail Parker, Luke Luke, Avril Harris, Peter Jacobs

Apologies: Sarah Spurling, Rebecca Metteau

1. **Welcome:** Chris welcomed members to the meeting.
2. **Group name:** There was an email vote which strongly favoured 'Food for Thought', but which was followed by the Development Trust Solicitor suggesting we add the word 'Purbeck' to avoid any legal challenge by other organisations with the same name. The meeting agreed on the name 'Food for Thought Purbeck'. **ACTION: Nicola made the point that our name does not necessarily make clear what we do, and kindly agreed to develop a draft strap line to go under ' Food for Thought Purbeck'.**
3. **Steering Group Roles:** Chair - Chris Bradey, Secretary - Debby Monkhouse, Treasurer - Helen Sumblar, Minutes - Peter Jacobs, Publicity & Media - Abigail Parker, Fundraising - Peter Jacobs, Signposting Coordinator - Anne Bradey, Driver Coordinator - Peter Jacobs.
4. **Request to Join Steering Group:** Debby had thought there was a request from Cllr Joan Dragon, a Corfe Parish Councillor, to join the Steering Group, but had since clarified in a conversation with Helen that it was more a case of Helen inviting Joan to observe as Corfe Parish Council have set up a cost of living working group, which Helen and Joan are both on. We discussed that Joan would be very welcome to attend as an observer, and that, in terms of the Steering Group, 12 members is sufficient. Corfe have been working hard and, as well as their Cost of Living working group, Aquarius Ladies group run a free soup kitchen in Corfe Village Hall, and the Head of Corfe Primary will be opening the school as a warm space on Sundays.
5. **Project Update.** The FareShare larder van commences at St Mark's at 9.30 to 11am on Monday 9th January and every Monday thereafter.
a. Budget: Budget currently at greater than £14k after advice from Dorset Council. However the Dorset Council grant is for £14k, which means that after we have paid FareShare for the Larder we will have about £5k left to cover everything. We have already spent £227 on printing the leaflets and membership forms, more than the printing costs we had budgeted for, and we will also need to spend on fridge thermometers and cool bags, items we had not budgeted for. We could perhaps ask local charities for help - Rotary have some funds.

b. Development Trust: The Development Trust have submitted the claim for the £14k grant to Dorset Council. Debby offered to fund minor payments up front and then reclaim when the funds are available.

c. Decisions made on publicity and targeting sub groups: there were some decisions to be made between Steering Group meetings as we urgently needed hard copy leaflets and membership forms, and we needed to give each school a target number of families to sign up. The budget sub group had agreed to spend £227 on leaflets and membership forms and Gail reported that the targeting sub group had agreed that the initial 50 bags of food were to be proportioned between the schools on the basis of pupil premium, with a minimum of 5 bags per school.

d. Progress with schools signing up members: Little progress made so far but schools have only had the leaflets for a week. Heads have contacted families and we are waiting for feedback. Debby is concerned re membership forms and GDPR. Helen clarified that the leaflets state data is held only by FareShare. Gail was concerned about giving Heads more work if they have to scan and email the membership forms to FareShare. Debby is happy to co-ordinate and send off membership forms as needed. She suggested Heads keep a copy of the front sheet.

ACTION: Gail, Helen and Debby will contact schools and assess progress with signing up members before Christmas. Chris is happy to help contacting schools.

e. Negotiations for second larder. Meeting with Clare Martin on 20th December. Debby reported that 275 children in 190 families are on pupil premium. We aim to have as many of the initial 50 families as possible signed up by 20th December to establish the need for the second larder. Debby will circulate meeting information when available. All welcome. Cool boxes and fridge thermometers will be ordered online by Debby to be available on 9 January. Nicola offered to assist with short term cash-flow.

f. Plans to deliver food: Peter reported that he has 2 potential volunteers to stand in for Swanage when Peter is unavailable. James and Chris also volunteered to assist. Helen will be on back up for Corfe, Rob Stoner, the Head of Corfe Primary, will be the main organiser/deliverer for Corfe. Gail will deliver for Langton. Drivers to check with insurers if there is an additional premium for volunteer work. Peter reported that at Three Legged Cross the FareShare volunteers handled all the money. For remote collections we will have to collect the money and hand to FareShare, along with the cool bags, thermometers and membership numbers. This will be discussed with FareShare at the December 20th meeting to confirm the process for this.

g. Signposting to CAB and DBS progress: Chris reported that we have 6 volunteers for signposting. Anne, Chris, Nicola, Ruth Jordan and Peter. Debby is on back up with an FFP3 mask but probably can't assist generally due to medical advice not to meet with others indoors. Dorset volunteer centre Tony Lees will assist in obtaining our DBS certification, there is only a one-off charge of £30 to register our organisation, then all volunteer checks are free. Volunteers will need to photograph or scan and email documents to Tony. Chris will send instructions. Anne will produce a leaflet for volunteer signposters showing services available to enable signposters to encourage Larder users to take up support that Larder users may not otherwise be aware of.

h. Publicity and Media Update: Abi did 2 radio interviews this morning on BBC Solent which will both be clipped and shared to the group, and other interested parties (FareShare, Dorset Council Community Engagement, Help and Kindness).

BBC TV and Purbeck Coast radio will be at the launch on 9 January. Abi has liaised extensively with Kitty Langhorn the FareShare media manager, hopes to get some branded merchandise, and had requested branded coolbags. All the Steering Group are encouraged to attend the launch, 9.30am on 9 January at St Marks School. Abi and Peter are meeting Mandy Holdaway from FareShare and Al Stephens Pastoral Lead at St Marks tomorrow morning 8 January as Mandy is coming to have a look at the St Marks site. Abi will talk to FareShare and St Marks to agree the format of the launch. Sprout and Bean Foodtruck will be present at the launch to provide free food and drinks. Chris confirmed that there will also be an article in the Purbeck Gazette. Debby mentioned Swanage News could usefully be contacted.

- 6. Report from Three Legged Cross FairShare Larder Van:** Peter reported that he visited the nearest FareShare Larder Van in 3LX near Verwood in the torrential rain on Monday 21st November. Peter met with the team from Verwood Foodbank who run Foodbanks, static community larders and 3 visiting van larders. They advised that funding from Dorset Council had been easy to access this year but was expected to be much more difficult in future years. They offered to send a list of alternative funding options, which Peter is hoping to receive. They had a fold up marquee which they felt was invaluable. They started 18 months ago with 8 members and this built up gradually to 20 regular members now. People start to arrive early for the van. The FareShare driver and his assistant ran the larder with some assistance from the local volunteers with packing the bags. There were no meat or dairy products on the day. The local volunteer divided up the fresh veg. There was a very small ability to pick and swap a few items. Mostly it was a case of the FareShare volunteers dictating who received what. They recommend emphasising the reducing waste aspect of the larder as there is still social embarrassment about the issues of hardship and need. Debby advised that there is a bike shed at St Mark's, which may be better than a gazebo, this can be discussed when Peter & Abi meet Mandy and Al on 8 December. Abigail expressed concern that our launch goes well and FareShare are aware of this.
- 7. Any other Business:** Merry Christmas everyone! Next meeting to be Wednesday 4th January 5pm on zoom. Debby will circulate Agenda and Zoom Link nearer the time.