Report on the October / November 2022 Meetings regarding a Social Supermarket for Swanage and villages

As previously circulated, I received an email invitation from Cllr Debby Monkhouse to attend a discussion about a Social Supermarket for Swanage and villages on 13th October.

At this meeting, the general consensus was that people felt there was a need for such a supermarket; attached is a report presented at that meeting about tackling hunger in Swanage and local villages to support this consensus. We listened to a briefing about how they had set up supermarkets in Weymouth, and people then offered to be part of trying to make a social supermarket happen, myself included.

Further to this, Debby and a few others realised that any community led social supermarket would not be in place quickly, and so looked into the possibility of a FareShare van coming here to help support our community this winter.

At the follow up meeting yesterday, 3rd November (agenda attached), the following were briefed / agreed:

- We have been offered a grant to cover the first year costs of a FareShare van to Swanage by DC.
- We were briefed on the arrangements if we are to join Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust as a Project.
- Each Project has its own committee, does its own fundraising and has a business plan agreed by SPDT; more details in attached document. SPDT try to give autonomy to Projects as much as possible. All marketing has to be joint branded with the project and SPDT. Unanimous vote to join SPDT.
- Name / branding – there was discussion about a number for this initiative, and it was agreed to continue the discussion outside of the meeting.
- Details of the Farshare van were discussed, and despite some challenges about this potentially not being sufficient food, there was a unanimous vote to request the van from January, and that the position of the van be proposed to FareShare as St Marks Primary School, probably at 9.3011.00 on a Monday.
- Citizens Advice already offer a drop in every other week at Herston village hall, and also drop ins at the library, so could not provide a service at St Marks at the same time as the van. However, it was agreed that a couple of volunteers would be present at the school to signpost people to the help available.
- It was agreed to set up a smaller sub-committee to agree how to fairly divide up the food, and I offered to be on this sub-committee.
- It was also stated that a Committee needs to be set up at the next meeting. I offered to give the role of Treasurer a go with support from SPDT, having previously acted as Treasurer for a PTA.
- The next meeting is on Wednesday 7th December at 5pm.

As this initiative is moving forward, and there is an initiative in the village for Free Soup and Pudding days at the village hall, mainly initiated by Aquarius, I feel it would be worth Council having a Working Party to report on, and take action as necessary, on the Cost of Living crisis. Therefore I would like to put forward the following Motion.

"Corfe Castle Parish Council creates a new Cost of Living Crisis Working Party." Report

by Cllr Helen Sumbler, 4/11/22.

Tackling Hunger in Swanage and local villages.

We first need to define hunger, look at how big the problem is here, and what is already being done to solve it. This summary draws on "State of Hunger: a study of poverty and food insecurity in the UK" Heriot Watt University, 2019.

What is Hunger?

The Heriot Watt report pre dates the cost of living crisis. It looks into the use of UK Food Banks, names hunger as 'Food insecurity' which is "A household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food".

The report states that:-

a) 8-10% of households in the UK are food insecure
b) 2.8% of households in the UK are severely food insecure
c) Less than 2% of households in the UK use a Food Bank

This suggests that the majority of households in the UK who are food insecure do not use a Food Bank.

Who are food insecure?

- households who have lower incomes
- people who are unemployed
- younger people
- lone-parent households
- single-person households
- households who rent (particularly social renters)
- people affected by ill health
- 23% of households on income below £10,400
- 13% of households on income between £10,400 & £26,000

Why do people use Food Banks?

Food Bank use was a symptom of severe food insecurity: 4 in 5 people using food banks were severely food insecure.

The evidence collected by the study shows that this demand is driven by a combination, or joint working, of 3 factors: 1) the make-up of the welfare safety net (low benefit rates and built-in mechanisms creating drops in benefit income), 2) higher than average exposure to challenging life experiences or ill health for people who have used a food bank, 3) people referred to food banks having no access to informal support or their informal support being exhausted.

The most common sources of income for people referred to food banks were state benefits, reported by 86% of people using food banks. Universal Credit (UC) was the most commonly received benefit in late 2018.

So what about Swanage and local villages?

In GB 5,275,248 were on UC out of a population of 64.6m i.e. **8.2%.** In May 2022 in Swanage and villages (BH19) there were 739 households on Universal Credit. Dorset Council area profile for Swanage suggests the average household size is low at 2.1 people, this would suggest over 1,500 adults and children in BH19 were living on UC in May, out of a population of approx. 11,000 ie **14%.** Other research by Dorset Council shows i) a higher percentage of low income households in Swanage compared to the Purbeck as a whole, and ii) Dorset Council cost of living modelling suggests that 160 households in the 'Family Basics' group in Herston and Townsend, with an average household size of 4, are likely to have between £0 and £50 discretionary income left after essentials are paid for October 2022 – December 2023. Older people reliant on state support, and people with disabilities, are also likely to have little discretionary income.

Using the data from the Heriot Watt report, 8-10% of households are food insecure. The Dorset Council area profile for Swanage (this does not include the local villages that also make up BH19, or Corfe which falls under BH20) shows 4,504 households in Swanage, with an average household size of 2.1 people. If 8-10% are food insecure, this suggests between 360 and 450 households in Swanage alone are food insecure – between 750 and 945 people.

Data is not available at this time on the number of people supported by the Swanage Food Bank, however the research suggests that food banks largely support the extremely food insecure leaving 3 or 4 times as many people who are food insecure not accessing help. With the cost of living crisis perhaps this is the time to consider further support in addition to the excellent work the food bank, the new community pantry (which aims to recycle supermarket and allotment 'spare' food), and local schools offering breakfast clubs and other food support, are already doing.
Could our community find a way to co ordinate food availability for all our members who are food insecure, perhaps through some kind of social supermarket offer?

Food for Thought Steering Group Meeting
3rd November 2022, 5pm, on zoom

AGENDA

1. Introductions, ok to share emails among steering group?

2. James Sinclair Taylor of Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust will talk us through the steps we need to take to become an organisation under their umbrella

3. Group name

4. FareShare van
   a) Proposal: to have a mobile FareShare Larder in Swanage from January. This would come once per week to a fixed location and offer bags of food for 2-3 days on a scale from £2.50 for 8 items a single person to £5 for 15-20 items for a family of 4 or more. Items a mix of dry cupboard, fruit/vegetables, protein and dairy. People join FareShare – there is a membership form and they need to provide ID and proof of address - then they can access the Larder every week. The cost to have the Larder is £8,788 in the first year, which Dorset Council has kindly agreed to fund. There will be approx. 50 bags of food on the Van. We may be able to negotiate a few more. However if the demand is substantially higher FareShare would look at a second van (?with a second lot of first year costs)
   b) Location – offers from St Marks and Swanage School
   c) CAB support
   d) Targeting the food
   e) Getting the food to other areas – business insurance

5. We need you!
   a) Committee roles – for election at future meeting: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer We are also likely to need:
   b) People willing to do outreach work
   c) A publicity/media person
   d) One or more drivers for outreach areas
   e) A named person coordinating orders/payments/driver for any outreach area we plan to drop food to

6. Date of next meeting

WHAT BEING PART OF THE SWANAGE AND PURBECK DEVELOPMENT TRUST (SPDT) MEANS FOR YOUR PROJECT

ABOUT SPDT AND WHAT IT PROVIDES TO THE PROJECTS

1 SPDT is a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Registered Charity
2 To help achieve its objects SPDT works with Projects that have similar objectives
3 Each Project is legally part of the Trust and benefits from the Trust's Charity Registration and Limited Liability Protection.
4 SPDT undertakes to give each Project the maximum freedom to develop and grow. However, Projects must comply with the Manual and operate consistently within the Trust framework and requirements.
5 Certain administrative services including insurance, banking, accounting, audit, Gift Aid and reporting to the Charity Commission and Companies House are more efficiently supplied centrally by the Trust.
6 The Trustees of SPDT are legally responsible to the Charity Commission and to the Registrar of Companies, for all that happens in the Trust, including all Projects and employees.

SPDT REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROJECTS

7 Each Project must be set up to carry out the activities outlined in its Business Plan and raise its own funds.
8 Each Project will pay its share of the costs of the administrative services provided by the Trust under 5 above.
9 Each Project will report its financial position, on a quarterly basis, in a specified format to the Trust's Treasurer
10 Each year Projects will prepare a simple template budget and key targets (via a business plan and performance reports). These will feed into the Trust annual report and be monitored through the year.
11 A Project cannot authorise expenditure not outlined in the agreed budget, where such expenditure is 10% more than the agreed budget, unless it has obtained written confirmation from the Trust and has funds to meet such cost.
12 If a Project wishes to take on a licence, lease, loan or other such liability, it needs to obtain the agreement of the Trustees before it makes a commitment. Any such agreed liability will need to be held in the name of the Trust.
13 Project Committees should meet regularly and comply with good practice and Trust policies: a) data protection and confidentiality, b) Safeguarding, c) financial records, d) insurance e) risk management, health & safety and,
14 Branding, including all written and electronic material must, for legal reasons, contain the full name of the Trust, charity number, address and that it is registered in England. Also included should be the logo of the Trust as well as the Project logo.
15 Each Project is expected to provide a copy of this document to all existing and new Committee members, as a reminder of the requirements of being a Trust Project.

The Trustees believe that Projects will achieve the best results by being given broad freedoms within the Trust support framework and requirements and welcomes them into the Trust.

Swanage & Purbeck
Development Trust