

TOWN CLERK'S REPORTS – 25TH JANUARY 2022 - COUNCIL

7. GRANT APPROVALS TO DATE AND AN APPLICATION RECEIVED FOR CONSIDERATION – GRANT APPLICATION - LISKEARD FOODBANK (SEE ATTACHED APPLICATION FORM 7. AND REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT 7.A)

– To consider the application to support the costs associated with the temporary occupation of premises (£1,050) as part of the pilot campaign funded by the Trussell Trust to increase the range of advice and support to those users of the Foodbank.

Background - The table below sets out the grants which have been approved from the grants budget in the current financial year 2021/2022. The table also includes the amount of grant budget currently available and the amount that would be left should the grant application from the Foodbank be approved.

Grants Budget 2021/2022	£10,000
Baby Basics – Set up of a local outlet of the initiative to support mothers with baby products.	£400
Early Learning Centre – additional performances	£2,500
Cornwall Pride Bus - event	£500
St Martin's Church – Inter Churches Christmas Carol event	£500
Liskeard Lions - Panto	£1,200
Liskeard Gleaning Project – To make use of crops that would otherwise be wasted by collecting them and distributing them to the Liskeard Foodbank.	£500
Approved	£5,600
Left to allocate	£4,400
Liskeard Foodbank – To cover the cost of temporary accommodation for the advice and support service to Foodbank customers pending the completion of the lease with the CAB.	£1,050
If approved at the 25 th January 2022 Council	£6,650
Left to allocate until 31 st March 2022	£3,350

Background - The Foodbank has been operating in Liskeard since 2010. Usually funding and food stocks are made by charitable donation. At the start of the current Covid Pandemic, the Foodbank funded the purchase of a van by Crowdfunding and voluntary donations. This arose from a need to change the way of working given the Covid situation. As far as is known the Foodbank have never made an application to the Town Council's grants budget, or the Social Emergency Fund operated by the Town Council earlier in the Pandemic (2020/2021)

Foodbank Use – in recent years, use of the Foodbank has increased each year with 1,787 people assisted in 2017 and 2,805 people assisted in 2021. This equates to a 57% increase over 5 years.

The Pandemic has increased the number of referrals in total. However, it has been most noticeable that there have been increased referrals from those organisations dealing with people in financial difficulty, including changes in their financial circumstances.

Organisation	Referrals in 2019	Referrals in 2020	Referrals in 2021
CAB	80	187	338
Age UK (formerly Age Concern)	0	13	51
Job Centre Plus	300	410	303
We are With You (Addaction)	80	143	201

Advice and Support - Trussell Trust Pilot – it was clear that a number of the people attending the Foodbank would benefit from advice and support on financial matters and hence improve both their immediate and long-term prospects. This is a specialist line of help and support that the volunteers at the Foodbank were not trained to provide, nor had the capacity to provide on top of their immediate food-box assembling and dispatch.

Application was made to the Trussell Trust to provide a Pilot project to provide an advice and support service for those people using the Foodbank. (the Trussell Trust is a national body representing Foodbanks and providing overall guidance on the operation of a Foodbank).

The application was successful, and the recruitment of the advisors has taken place. The Foodbank had been searching for a new base of operation since early 2021. The number of empty suitable premises proved to be nil. The board of the CAB have agreed to the request to lease part of the ground floor and garden area to the Foodbank. It should be noted that there are some mutual referrals of clients. However, the premises finding and eventual solution proved more time consuming and difficult than first envisaged. The growing need for the advice service and time scales set out in the grant offer letter from the Trussell Trust meant there was a need to progress the setting up of the advice service. As a temporary measure the Foodbank advice team have been operating out of the New Liskeard Room within the complex of buildings owned by the Town Council. This has been on a paid basis with the Chair of the Town Council's Facilities Committee estimating an appropriate monthly rental based upon £50 per week (£200 - £250 per month depending on 4 or 5 week months). This forms the basis of the application to the Town Council.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council considers the grant application from the Liskeard Foodbank for £1,050.

12. YOUTH COUNCIL – PROGRESS REPORT ON SET UP – To receive an update from Councillor Naomi Taylor

Report – “the first meeting was really positive and we had a number of young people attend ages roughly 11-15 (the council is open to anyone aged 10-18) we treated it as an initial kickstart meeting for the project.

We discussed how the young people felt about the balance of attracting big brands to the town versus protecting smaller independent businesses. What became clear from this discussion is they are very keen to have a place to go after school which there is a bit of a gap in the market for at the moment.

We also discussed events they would like to see in the town and markets were mentioned as a popular idea. They wanted to have a much closer working relationship between the school and the town as they felt the school sometimes feels a bit isolated in relation to being involved in town events so this is definitely something we can pick up on and will try and invite someone from the school to a future meeting to see how we can work closer together.

Future meetings will be in the Public Hall”