

NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL

GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE

3rd August 2021

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Grants Sub-Committee to be held using the Zoom video conferencing platform on Tuesday 3rd August 2021 at 11.00 a.m. when the business set out below will be transacted.

**Stuart Carter
Interim Town Clerk
28th July 2021**

**Guildhall
Northampton
NN1 1DE**

A G E N D A

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. Grant applications to the Community General Fund for this Financial Year**
 - (a) Food Aid Alliance West Northants (FAAWN) - £7,500 –application please see below
 - (b) Music 365 - £5,000 – application attached
 - (c) Wall Games - £2325 – application attached
 - (d) West Northants Social Enterprise Towns - £10,000 – application attached
- 4. Grant applications to the Councillor's Community Fund**
 - (a) Northampton Town of Sanctuary - £900 – application attached
 - (b) Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Forum - £100 – application attached
 - (c) Annual Spring Boroughs Festival - £1000 – application attached
 - (d) Rectory Farm Pocket Park – application to follow
 - (e) Shine Development CIC – application to follow
- 5. Dates for future Grants Sub-Committee meetings**

Suggestions include: 14 September (Community Services on 20th September)
30th November (to inform Annual Budget prep meeting of Community Services Committee on 8th December)
14th February (Community Services on 21st February and last meeting of committee in the financial year)

Members of Sub Committee: Cllrs Birch (Chair), T Eales, Holland-Delamere, Lane
Named substitute: Cllr Hibbert

Cc'd electronically to all other councillors for information

Name:

Robin Burgess - Food Aid Alliance West Northants (FAAWN)

Position in Organisation:

Co-ordinator

Email Address:

robin@northamptonhopecentre.org.uk

Name of Organisation:

(a) Food Aid Alliance West Northants (FAAWN)

Organisation Type:

Community Organisation

Do you have a constitution or governing document?

No

What are the aims and objectives of your organisation?

FAAWN is the local functional alliance to co-ordinate action by the vast majority of food aid providers in west Northants. We source, store and distribute food and other essentials for vulnerable people through our members' distribution systems, reducing costs and separate admin. We enable sharing of excess food, co-ordinate central campaigns for donations, work to develop good practice, and identify and fill gaps in local provision. We save money and time for members, leaving it for beneficiaries

Please provide details of your organisation's membership:

Groups cover the whole of Northampton with a few more covering the rest of West Northants. between us we cover nearly the whole of the town, and all citizens within it, whatever their race, from such foodbanks as Hope, Restore, St Davids, Shine, Springs, Castle Hill URC, NPH, Impact Now, Far Cotton, UAA, the Sikh community associations, McCarthy Dixon Foundation and many others

How is your Organisation Managed:

We do not have separate legal status, following guidance from the national body that accredits us as the local food aid partnership, Sustain (see below in additional info). Instead any funds are administered by Hope for the alliance, using a separate bank account. We are working on a set of governing instruments, produced through our executive steering group (Hope, Springs, Far Cotton FB and Re:Store).

Trustees/Committee Members:

4

Staff:

1

Total Project Cost:

275000

Contribution From Other Sources:

250000

Total Requested from Northampton Town Council:

7500

Please detail contributions from other sources:

The West Northants Council has said they will continue previous grant aid from NCC to enable us to buy food and other essentials, as we did in 20-21. This makes up the totality of the other sources. We do not know its actual value yet, so we have extrapolated from last year. £18k of that contributes towards a full time project admin who takes the practical lead on tasks above of sourcing food.

Hope also allocates considerable resources to the work of storing and distributing food to the others in the alliance, requiring us to rent a warehouse of 1800 sq ft to store around £25k of food available at any time on a rolling basis. This costs Hope around £11k per year. We also contribute all overheads such as insurance for the warehouse, contents and vans, and the time spent convening and organising the alliance.

We of course receive donated food from a multitude of sources - the public and business and even government.

Please detail any non-financial 'in kind' support you have for your project:

This is partly covered above. All the insurance, comms, IT, website hosting, warehouse heat and light, fridges, freezers, van maintenance, travel costs to pick up alliance food, zoom subscriptions are all absorbed by Hope, that support the worker devoted to the alliance, subsumed in those contracts or payments.

The value of donated food varies and is hard to estimate. It is potentially up to £100k in value.

Does this project involve collaboration with other organisations?

The project is entirely about collaboration. We created this partnership: before April of last year there was no functional food aid alliance. There was a group hosted by NCF which focused on campaigning, but it did not do anything about the practicalities of enabling practical sharing of food and appeals for the whole network - and it was much smaller. We have expanded the network from an initial 6 organisations to close to 40, and we have regular calls, share good practice and daily share food through our dynamic whats app group - 'We have an excess of tomatoes, who wants them'. Because we are a multi-partner alliance, this has enabled further leverage, especially through the local business community, who are keen to support us, both in terms of food and corporate volunteering. The steering group ensures we are democratic and represent our members and through them, the community we serve. Many projects engage people with lived experience as volunteers, helping to steer their projects.

Please explain the project:

The alliance will bid to WNC to receive around £250k in the next year to spend on food and other essential for the alliance members to use, and we will add donated food to this total. This will include a proportion of our food worker staffing costs - not all.

In the next 12 months the alliance will:

- Continue to source, store share and distribute a very significant volume of food to the poorest people in Northampton, covering all areas and communities. This will include fresh food, that without the alliance, many providers could not source nor distribute. We store food because most don't have any space and we save costs by buying in bulk.
- We will feed as many as £5000 people a week

- We will map need, and gaps in provision, and through our members set up new food aid provision to fill these, as we have done in Briar Hill in 20-21.
- We will formalise our governance
- We set out a common set of standards for operation, including use of data, criteria for food and explore opportunities for common training, joint insurance, campaigns for food and volunteers, joint vehicles, to reduce costs and admin for individual providers, many of who are tiny
- By working together we will reduce costs, reduce competition, better promote available services through one dynamic directory, avoid duplication and fraud
- Support and sustain our membership, who work under considerable stress
- Create a single advice service capacity available to all alliance members for support of the wider needs of food aid customers, managing immediate crises and helping people to move on from dependency into work or management of the issues that cause poverty - this will be much cheaper and more reliable to do collectively.

We are asking you to support one key element of the cost base of the whole project: the rental costs of the collective warehouse used to store alliance food.

Through all these things, we will:

- Sustain, develop and support the community sector that supports people in need; helping agencies to grow and be successful in partnership, not competition
- Support as many as 5000 individuals in poverty with access to immediate support with food etc, plus immediate support to manage crises in their lives, plus help to move on out of dependency
- Ensure there is a full town coverage of food aid provision accessible wherever people live

Please set out what outcomes you believe your project will achieve:

The outcomes are to the sector and the beneficiaries of each service.

- The sector will be stronger and better able to support people in need, through access to common standards, ethics, purpose, systems and food without endless need to bid separately for funds - they can rely on the alliance for food. The sector will be more cohesive and co-ordinated.
- More people in desperate need will be helped, to meet their immediate needs for food, thus reducing mental and physical health issues and preventing crime, as well as improving child engagement at school through better diet: greatly potentiated by an alliance working together rather than a cluster of unconnected agencies diverting their time spending time chasing food, funding etc
- Cheaper cost of overall food aid supplied
- More people will be diverted out of dependency on food aid towards self-sufficiency - less likely without the alliance and the integrated support service named above.

Item Description 1:

Share of rental of the warehouse used for storage of food for the alliance - separate but contiguous from Hope's own stores, so we have no ability to separate - it was the cheapest available and we get a charity discount. As said the full cost of this is c£11k per annum after an increase this year (invoice attached). We ask you for £7500 towards this, more if you can spare it - we are trying not to be greedy

Cost: 7500

If the council is unable to fund your project, what would the impact be?

Directly, the inability to store food for the alliance as we can't afford it - most members can't store to replace us. As a result - Reduced service, less co-ordination, less services, unmet need, more distress among people, competition amongst charities

Do you have suitable Public Liability Insurance to cover your project Yes

Additional Information:

We have bid here for a contribution towards on element of our overall cost base. If the council, through use of a building as a warehouse, has any potential to support us in kind by use of a suitable building to match both the alliance warehouse and the hope one, total 4500 sq ft, the grant might not be necessary. We attach a table of warehouse costs above, the lower cost element is the second warehouse - £876 last year per month, with 5% increase this year

Read our website: <https://goodfoodnorthants.org/foodaidalliance.html>

This is the advice document from Sustain as to the merits of being managed through one organisation - most alliances are, rather than having separate legal status - <https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/Portals/4/Documents/Governance%20and%20Structures%20Guide%20FinalAM.pdf>