

Committee	COUNCIL MEETING
Date	15th July 2019
Agenda Item	13

Halstead Community Fridge

Halstead Community Fridge first suggested by Cllr Sandra Dingle, who had heard how successful the concept has been in Southend, in preventing food waste and in making available to all wholesome food which would otherwise be thrown away. At the time the idea was put forward, councillors were unwilling to take responsibility for the fridge, and the Halstead Community Fridge Trust was set up to manage the project. The trust consists at present of Sandra Dingle, Shirley Diver, Garry Warren and Sarah Greateorex. They set the fridge up as a charity, secured a grant to buy the fridge from the Essex Community Foundation, bought the fridge from the Co-op (with a £400 donation from them) secured a hygiene certificate from BDC, and persuaded local businessman John de Bruyne to allow the fridge to be housed in the Lodge Gate building on the Causeway. The trustees open and close the fridge every day, with the help of a few other volunteers, and also collect food from some supermarkets. Most donations are delivered by supermarkets or cafes in Halstead, or by allotment holders. Food does not stay in the fridge long.

As 2 of the founder members of the trust are moving away, more volunteers will be needed soon. It has been suggested that HTC might reconsider taking responsibility for the fridge, in order to ensure a constant supply of volunteers. The only other duties are occasional cleaning and taking and recording the temperature in the fridge. The trust has a bank account, which currently has very little in it, but there are few expenses.

Recommendation : that HTC either

1. takes over responsibility for the fridge with a rota for opening and closing
or
2. guarantees a regular supply of volunteers from amongst councillors

Sarah Greateorex

Sarah Greateorex Town Clerk