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Document / Report #415

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Title	Community Fridge - January
Date	8th January 2026

1. Purpose

1. To update the Committee on progress in developing the Welshpool Community Fridge project, including recent engagement with an established food surplus organisation, steps taken to ensure compliance, and the proposed next stages of delivery.

2. Background

1. Welshpool Town Council is developing a Community Fridge initiative aimed at reducing food waste and supporting local residents by redistributing surplus food that would otherwise be disposed of. The project aligns with the Council's wider objectives around community wellbeing, cost of living support, sustainability, and partnership working.

3. Progress to Date

1. On 24 November, the Town Clerk and project lead visited Newtown Food Surplus to learn from their established operation. This included a tour of their hub facilities and a visit to one of their food share sessions. Despite arriving an hour before opening, around 30 people were already queuing, demonstrating significant demand. It was also noted that some users currently travel from Welshpool, indicating a clear local need.
2. The Welshpool Community Fridge has now been registered as a Food Business. A Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate has been completed, an initial risk assessment prepared, and early contact made with local food businesses regarding surplus food donations.

4. Next Steps

1. Publicise the project and recruit volunteers.
2. Continue engagement with local food businesses and supermarkets.
3. Begin promotional activity and build awareness.
4. Organise a launch event (provisionally January).

5. Links to Strategic Objectives and Interim Strategic Plan

1. N/A

6. Resource & Legal Implications

1. The project was funded by a grant of £2500 by Powys County Council Anti-Poverty Fund nominated by County Cllr Richard Church.

7. Decision

1. To note for information only.