Town Forum meeting 4th November

Item 9 Foodbank Update

Since the last Forum meeting there have been recent local press articles about falling donations and supplies to the foodbank; a visit by our local MP and how the Town Council has provided support to help the foodbank with future plans.

Cathy Lake, the Assistant Manager & Head of Volunteering has provided the following update for the Forum:

"We are pleased to let you know that we have now secured new more affordable accommodation in Liskeard.

We will be based at 11b Miller Business Park which is positioned on the estate off Station Road where Geoffrey Harris tyres are based, and our unit will be the first turn on the right, behind Glyn Valley Chef Wear premises.

This will be a much smaller warehouse and the front of house team will be accommodated in a separate building across the yard. This move will hopefully save on expense whilst providing a base to serve our clients in need of support. We are moving the warehouse on the week commencing November 2nd with the help of ratings from HMS Raleigh who will be sustained with pasties provided by Scott Weller of Original Cornish Pasties down at the same industrial estate. We will start face to face support at those premises beginning 4th January 2027.

It will be a work in progress as it is a former agricultural machinery warehouse.
We had to make this decision as the cost of rent for the warehouse and Dean Street was absorbing the money that we could have used to buy food due to a drop in donations.

As you are aware there has been a swift decline in donations that have come into the food bank mainly due to the cost-of-living crisis but also a reduction of donors who previously received the Winter Fuel Payment.

Without ongoing support this move would not have been possible. This included a Town Council donation of £900 to in part renovate the new building to provide a disabled access toilet and the new front of house office. The total cost of this was £1298.00 and we have been able to secure the extra money to complete this from a donation from Cllr Kevin Grey's Community Chest.

We would like to take this opportunity to specifically thank the people outside of food bank volunteers, who continue to arrive every day come rain or shine and help. Particular thanks for recent help are due to:
Jane Pascoe for her continued ongoing support of the food bank and donation of £150 for emergency food.
Kevin Grey again for his donation and ongoing support of the food bank.
Rachel Brooks for agreeing to nominate us for a Town Council Grant of £900.
Naomi Taylor for seconding the above application.
Council Clerk Steve Vinson who is always there to listen.

Jack Hart, our builder for getting the renovations done quickly and efficiently.

Figures that may unpleasantly surprise you are that **since the last Town Forum meeting usage of the food bank has increased**, you can see the statistics from the same period in 2025.
From August 2025 to October 2025, we supported 937 families and individuals
From August 2026 to October 2026, we supported 1196 families and individuals

Unfortunately, the figures are not decreasing but we have continued to support as many local people as possible who are in a crisis situation. Donations we received through Harvest Festival from individuals and community groups were bountiful and will be much appreciated by those in need.
We would like to acknowledge
St Martins Church Liskeard; St James' Church Torpoint; Millbrook All saints Church; Grace Community Church Looe; St Cleer Junior School; Dobwalls Primary School; Cornwall Dairy (formerly Trewithen dairy) who provide fresh milk weekly; Ginsters who provide us with baked good fortnightly as well as the many individuals who regularly provide donations “