

Lincoln Food Partnership

For fairer healthier greener food

Welcome to the March 2020 Edition of the Lincoln Food Partnership Newsletter

Covid-19 – the new Coronavirus – is changing the food landscape as we go to press (23 March). In this issue we summarise from what information we have received, the state of play of some of the organisations in the City that are setting up food responses. This will change day to day - and some of the information may already be out of date. We will be pleased to act as a conduit for information: do let us know of any initiatives of which you are aware and we will post these on our social media as an act of coordination.

Also in this issue, we have summarised Covid-19 responses in other cities in our Sustainable Food Cities Network. It is good to have such a network in these times and some of the larger (and more resourced) Food Partnerships are making good progress.

Lest we forget the rural parts of our County, we also have included a couple of short pieces on the food banks operating out of Sleaford and Horncastle. If you live in proximity, any help you can give them – in time or food – would be much appreciated.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome our new Web Developer and Social Media manager to the Food Partnership, Laura Stratford. She already has done a



brilliant job in transforming our web site, and a much greater social media presence is in train.

In next month's newsletter, we will be focusing on a range of local growing projects, both because of the time of year and for the potential it offers for us to 'dig for victory'.

Please do contact us if you would like to share your news stories about any aspect of local food – whether it is a growing project, local produce-making and sale, cooking communities, or tackling food waste. We would be pleased to showcase your work, no matter how small, in this newsletter.

Our email address is: lincolnfoodpartnership@gmail.com

If you are happy to continue to receive this newsletter and therefore be considered a member of the Lincoln Food Partnership community of interest, you need do nothing.

If on the other hand you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter, just email us. Many thanks for your interest

Nigel Curry,

Co-chair Lincoln Food Partnership

Correction

We'd like to apologise for mistakenly referring to the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership as the 'Lincolnshire Food Partnership' in February's article, Recycling Waste Food in Lincolnshire. It is, of course the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership that is committed to reducing 'off the plate' food waste in the county – something that the Food Partnership fully supports.

Some Covid-19 food responses in Lincoln City

The YMCA has a couple of drop off points for food donations, and toiletries, if you are able to give for the Nomad centre. These are outside the Tritton Road Sainsbury's and outside the Nomad Centre itself, in Rumbold Street. If you have food/toiletries, but need them collecting, email: fundraising@lincsymca.co.uk to arrange a collection.

Mint Lane is closed as a social café for now, but is still opening its 'thrifty' supermarket shop for ambient food, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 and 15:00. It will serve takeaway prepared food during these times and is also starting home delivery for the socially isolated. If you can make a food contribution or need food help, please access them via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mintlanecafe/> or at 12 Mint Lane, Lincoln LN1 1UD, at the above times.

Lincoln Community Larder food bank is asking us to keep donating food for distribution to those in food poverty. It has issued a particularly urgent call for UHT milk. Please contact them via lincolncommunitylarder@hotmail.co.uk or drop off food at YMCA Annexe, Rosemary Lane, Lincoln LN2 5AR between 13:30 and 15:00 on Tuesdays and Fridays, St Giles Methodist Church on Wednesdays from 11am – 12noon and Fridays from 9.30am – 10.30am or St John the Baptist Parish Church Hall, Laughton Way, Lincoln LN2 2ES, Wednesdays, 9:30 – 10:30.

Lincoln Food Bank has seven sites throughout the City and also will be grateful for any food you can spare. Please contact them at amy@lincolnfoodbank.org.uk

The Bridge and FiSH both offer food for children unable to access sufficient food away from school: meals.fishproject@gmail.com

Age Concern is setting up a plan to ensure our vulnerable elderly residents across the City have provisions including meals. Telephone 03455 564 144 – 36 Park Street LN1 1UQ

The University of Lincoln is lending support to school children normally in receipt of Free School Meals, via the schools themselves.

Community Websites such as 'nextdoor' (nextdoor.co.uk) have an increasing number of offers close to you, for cooking meals and food shopping for those of you who are not able to get out and about. Individual qualified cooks and chefs have offered their services through this site as well.

Lincolnshire County Council has a Resilience Forum's Communities and Volunteer Coordination Cell which gathers information on local activity, rather than mobilises directly. If you are aware of community activity, do contact them via email CEC_CVC@lincoln.fire-uk.org . They recommend linking with existing action groups. For their latest guidance please follow the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

General advice coming from a variety of these sources in relation to Covid-19 and food is:

- Do not put yourself at risk in any way
- Don't panic buy
- Pace yourself

Please do tell us your Covid-19 news via our social media or our email address: lincolnfoodpartnership@gmail.com

Covid-19 National Good Practice

Through our partners nationally in Sustainable Food Cities, here are some of the things that are going on, some of which could be tried in Lincoln.

Because 'food' is not a clearly defined local authority portfolio everywhere, most of our Food Partners are still researching possibilities for orchestrated provision.

Bradford – food collection and distribution points set up at Neighbourhood Hubs. Plans to open school kitchens for children's lunches.

Brighton and Hove – has an orchestrated plan. Their blog is:

<https://bhfood.org.uk/coronavirus-and-emergency-food-in-brighton-hove/>

Their 'what you can do page is: <https://bhfood.org.uk/get-involved/covid-19-what-you-can-do-to-help/>

And their 'help' directory is: <https://bhfood.org.uk/how-to-hub/covid-19-hungry-isolated-or-cant-access-food/>

They also have a crowd funder page to buy bulk food.



Cambridge - a spreadsheet documenting all City actions that it comes across: www.cambridgesustainablefood.org

Malden – Salvation Army to act as food collection points. Local taxi firms have agreed to deliver takeaways.

Manchester – trying to set up an online credit facility for families in receipt of FSM

Preston – City Council is funding a free delivery service for food banks and community cafes to supply those on their 'books', and has set up a donations service.

Shropshire - supermarket vouchers are being bought and given to children on free school meals (FSM), through schools. Main problems: hand sanitizer for those involved in a direct delivery; lack of volunteers through self-isolation.

We'll keep you updated with 'best practice' nationally, through our social media.

Tackling Food Poverty in Sleaford and Surrounding Villages



It is easy to think that food poverty is concentrated in our cities and metropolitan areas. It is not, of course, and some of the most deprived wards in our county are on the coast and in our rural areas.

Sleaford New Life Community Larder is addressing these needs in North Kesteven District, offering a three-day

supply of food and other items to around 1,300 people a year. Running since 2008, the Larder has secured a number of awards for its community work.

The Larder is supported by volunteers and is stocked entirely by donations from local businesses, schools and churches. Food donations are made up into food parcels, and gifts of cash are used to buy perishable items such as milk, bread and toiletries.

Acknowledging the dispersed nature of rural food poverty – it is sometimes difficult to get to food bank centres from remoter rural areas – the Larder is sometimes able to deliver food to the door of those without access to transport or a local shop.



The Larder receives referrals from local agencies and these have increased nearly ten-fold since the Larder began. If you would like to support the larder through donations or volunteering, then do contact them through their web site: <http://www.communitylarder.co.uk/>

Food Need in Rural Lincolnshire up 400%



Horncastle Community Larder operates out of the Horncastle Community Centre. Run by volunteers, it serves not only the town, but villages in the rural hinterland. Through referrals, it provides food parcels to those in food need as a stop gap whilst more permanent solutions are sought. And so far in 2020 there are *four times* as many people needing help than there were in 2019!

Volunteers collect non-perishable food at several points in the town, and further afield such as in Coningsby. Collection efforts extend to the local school - Queen Elizabeth Grammar School – which provided valuable donations of all types for the difficult Christmas period.

To help make the most of distributed food, Horncastle Community Larder also runs a recipe page on its web site, with some very simple recipes making use of ingredients found in a typical food parcel. This is educational as well as practical.

The Larder recognises that there is also a need for a range of other products to help people in need – particularly washing powder and washing up liquid: their range of provision is broadening all the time.



If you want to know more about Horncastle Community Larder, contact them via their Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/Horncastlecommunitylarder/>

LFP welcomes new web developer and social media manager

We are really pleased to have the skills of Laura Stratford to lead the media work of the Lincoln Food Partnership. Laura describes herself thus:

“I'm Laura - hi! - I'm super excited to be working behind the scenes on LFP's social media. The amount of good stuff going on in Lincoln keeps on and on impressing me, and I'm really happy to have a part in getting it out there!

Most of the time I am doing the work of motherhood.



Projects that I have put my creative energy into include Transition Town; permaculture design; cooperative education with the Social Science Centre; Lincoln; and Steiner education through Lincolnshire Waldorf Group.

I'm a writer, a creative, a student and a gardener.

Come and say hello on social media, it's always good to know about you; if your organisation is tackling food poverty or working

towards healthier and more sustainable food, I want to share your stuff with our networks. We're currently active on Facebook and Twitter, but if you use other channels where you think LFP work needs to be seen, I'd like to hear from you.

Get Involved: Tell a Friend...

If you know of other people or organisations who would like to be involved in the Lincoln Food Partnership, please help to spread the word. Why not start by forwarding this newsletter to them?

Thank you!