

Lincoln Food Partnership

For fairer healthier greener food

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

This month, we bring you news from the national level, through to the local. The end of July saw the publication of two important national reports. The first National Food Strategy for 70 years was published on the 29th July and we report on its main findings. The Lincoln Food Partnership had an active input into this Strategy, so it is pleasing to see that some of our views are reflected in the report.

But this strategy was pipped at the post by the Government's Obesity Strategy of 27 July. Two national policies on food in 2 days certainly shows the importance of food in Government in the context of Covid 19.

In the County, the County Council has undertaken a preliminary survey of how well the County's food banks have been fairing under Covid. We report on findings from all 28 of them.

At the City level, we are trying to increase the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables going into the City's food banks – the two National reports have both shown how important these are to people's diets. We report on progress and ask for your help, too.



Finally, at the most local level, we are pleased to welcome Igor Gonçalves Queta to our Lincoln Food Partnership media team. Expect his experience to influence what and how you find out about us in the coming months!

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 to 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

First National Food Strategy in the UK for 70 years

A full National Food Strategy was to be published Henry Dimbleby and his team in June. But Covid 19 has changed both its timing and content. The new 'Part One' Food Strategy was launched on 29 July: the Lincoln Food Partnership was invited to the launch as a consultee to the report.



The Strategy addresses two issues, the first prioritised explicitly by Covid – *how to feed our most disadvantaged children well* – through more free school meals, more Healthy Start vouchers and orchestrated holiday food activity.

The second theme is about international food trade in the light of Brexit: we must strike food deals that *improve* food quality and the environment. Our new-found food sovereignty allows us to do this in a more controlled way than even when we were in the EU. We mustn't squander this opportunity.

The report is free to download and is good to absorb as it offers some compelling data on the state of the food nation and those

who consume it. The executive summary and summary of recommendations are short and digestible too, if you do not have time for a fuller read.

<https://www.nationalfoodstrategy.org>

‘Working out’ the National Obesity Strategy

The National Obesity Strategy was launched on 27 July to tackle one of the largest long-term health challenges in the UK: nearly two-thirds of adults are above a healthy weight as are one in three children leaving primary school. The Government’s main measures are:

- A campaign to get overweight people to reduce their weight using apps;
- Improve the NHS weight management service;
- Consult on the current traffic light labelling for healthy food choices;
- Legislate for calorie labels for larger food retailers;
- Consult on calorie labelling for alcohol;
- Legislate to end the promotion of food with high fats, sugars and salts;
- Limit the advertising of foods with high fats, sugars and salts.



This is a great step in the right direction but perhaps underplays – even for the Lincoln Food Partnership – the importance of healthy exercise, too. As short-term proposals these inevitably have an emphasis on addressing symptoms rather than causes – perhaps we should turn our attention to education about food for longer term solutions that tackle the causes of obesity.

County’s food banks struggling under Covid

Did you know there are 28 Food Banks in the County across 10 towns: in Deepings, Gainsborough, Grantham, Horncastle, Lincoln, Louth, Skegness, Sleaford, Spalding and Stamford?

People using the food banks had risen from nearly 1,600 in May 2019 to 7,216 in May 2020 – an increase of 450%. The biggest increase has been in Gainsborough where it is over 1,300%.

Whilst most rely on volunteers, many are finding it harder to cover their running costs. One needs a new vehicle for pickup and delivery. Another needs a new kitchen. At the same time, money donations have fallen as we're discouraged from handling cash. And bidding for funds is more competitive: more are facing financial hardship.



Securing sufficient food has also become a bigger challenge – nationally some food banks have had to close because of supply shortages. And finding volunteers is an increasing problem as older folk self-isolate.

If you are able to offer any help to these initiatives, just look up your nearest one – they will always be grateful for donations of food (and money) and of your time to help distribute it.

Fresh Food to the Food Banks

Since the Lincoln City Food Banks have been working together through the Lincoln Food Partnership Emergency Response Group, we have been exploring ways of improving our supply of fresh fruit and vegetables to people who are in food poverty.

We have been really fortunate to enter into an agreement with the University of Lincoln's Riseholme campus for the supply of seasonal fruit and vegetables. And the Washingborough Academy also is delivering all of its produce surpluses as seasonal food ripens in abundance.

And we have been fortunate to enlist the services of the Mint Lane Community Café as well, to process this food and – where appropriate – freeze it, to prolong its life.

Now we are appealing to our readership. If you have an allotment or simply grow food in your back garden and you have surplus beyond your own use, please would you consider giving it to the food banks. The contact details are on our poster here:

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To all allotment holders

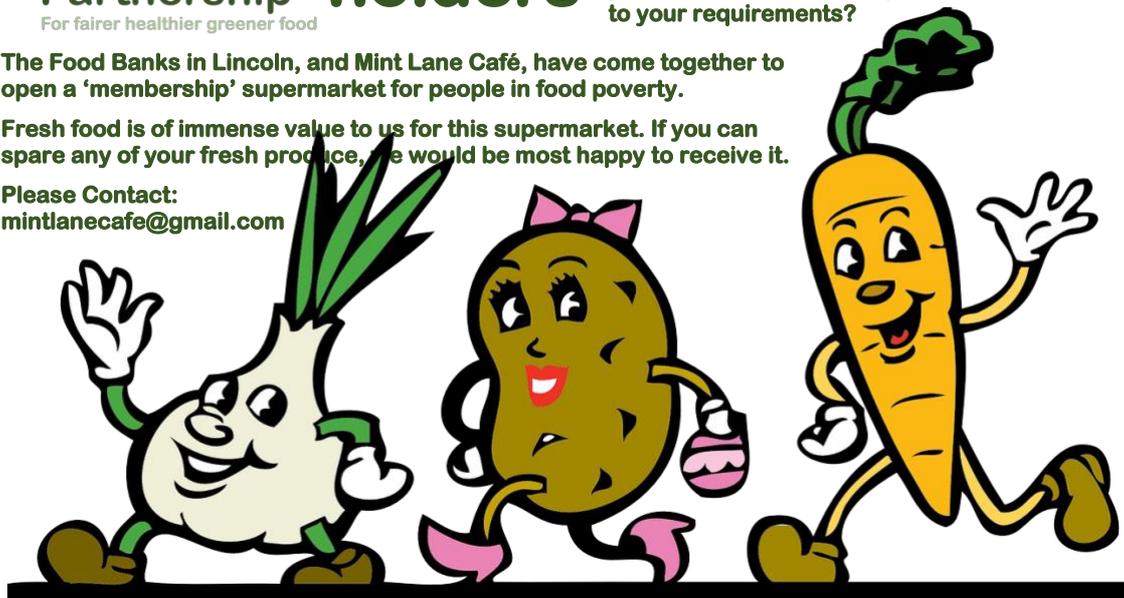
Do you ever have food from your allotment that is surplus to your requirements?



The Food Banks in Lincoln, and Mint Lane Café, have come together to open a 'membership' supermarket for people in food poverty.

Fresh food is of immense value to us for this supermarket. If you can spare any of your fresh produce, we would be most happy to receive it.

Please Contact:
mintlanecafe@gmail.com



If you're interested in taking on an allotment, [check out our blog](#) – **Welcome to my Lincoln Allotment** - for inspiration where you'll find regular posts featuring local allotments and tips from experienced allotment holders. You can apply for an allotment online via the [Council website](#). There are short waiting lists at most sites in Lincoln, but some sites have vacant plots available immediately.

If you have an allotment that you think could inspire others, please get in touch so we can pay you a visit.

Igor joins the media team at the LFP

We are delighted to welcome Igor Gonçalves Queta to the LFP as a volunteer in the media part of our work. Igor is a recent Marketing graduate from the University of Lincoln.

He has a passion to be involved and help towards making a positive impact in the local community with his skills. He is also actively keen to engage in public speeches to share his life experiences and ideas.



Additionally, he is also a linguist who is capable of speaking a number of languages with some of those being Portuguese and Spanish, whilst also having plans to add other languages into the list, as he has a goal of being able to communicate with people from different cultures.

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?

If this has been forwarded to you, you can sign up to receive our newsletter directly to your inbox next month [here](#)

Thank you!

[Active buttons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram](#)

Keep an eye out for our next newsletter in September

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You can ask us for a copy of your details at any time. Please let us know if any of them change or if you no longer want us to hold them.

Our registered address is 12 Mint Lane, LN1 1UD. **Our mailing address is** lincolnfoodpartnership@gmail.com

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