

Annual Conference 2022 – Cost of Living Discussion

R Shrive (Broughton PC) – We are planning to open a warm room and provide hot drinks

M Wixon (Towcester TC and Roade PC) – Community Larders are open in Towcester, Roade, Daventry, Brixworth, Woodford Halse and Moulton. They are safe places for people to come and buy food at reduced rates, they started to reduce food waste but this is a secondary reason for running the larders now. We are in partnership with the Hope Centre and are seeing the working poor access the larders on a more regular basis.

S Rodger (Nassington PC) – Councils should consider moving to energy saving streetlights. Social prescribers can prescribe volunteering as it has a lot of benefits.

D Aarons (Moulton PC) – Looking at solar panels for the community center to reduce power costs. The team is focused on health and well being and the Community Larder has been a really fun thing to do. Partnership working is really important and can achieve so much more working together.

D Rush (Cogenhoe and Whiston PC) – WNC have a really good page on their website to view cost of living grants, however, you have to have the internet to access it. In the pandemic we had a Street Champion scheme, this is being used to drop leaflets off to get the word out to allow people to access the grants. (E Earnshaw to pick this up)

S Kilby-Shaw (Kingsthorpe PC) - As a new council we do not have assets, but will support charities and donate to St Davids Foodbank. We want to adopt assets, but have made the decision to save the money and buy blankets to donate.

P Armstrong (Irchester PC) – We have Irchester in Kind who collect dried food and distribute it to people in need.

J Birch (Northampton TC) – We are working to help people to manage debt.

S Nash (Little Stanion PC) – We would like to provide hot meals but don't have a kitchen in the Welcome Centre so will provide coffees free of charge.

C Wheeler (Thrapston TC) – We work with the food bank and will help to provide warm facilities at the church and community centre. We have a community orchard/garden and support Volunteer Action.

L Taylor (Daventry TC) – You have to think outside the box, collaborations are important. We support organisations such as DACT, CAB and the community larder.

A Earnshaw (WNC) – The Anti-Poverty Strategy and Cost of Living Crisis papers are going to cabinet. Recognise the difficulty of those without internet accessing information so paper copies will be in GP surgeries etc. The Household Support Fund has just been released and a paper will be issued.

D Watts (NNC) – Household Support Funds paper will be out on 5 October, the Left Behind Communities review is ongoing. Lots of people want to help but don't know how.

M Stewart (Boddington PC) – We have a lot of cash poor people in expensive properties. Good Neighbour Scheme has been set up, but have to identify who needs help. We make donations to the foodbank. Free outdoor recreation is important to health and well being.

T Charteress (Wootton PC) – the number of people attending the seniors club has reduced as they are scared to mix.

R Lewis (Rushden TC) – we work with 10 churches and 40 groups in a co-ordinating role to help. We give grants to organisations and want to provide a warm space in the council offices.

K White (Mawsley PC) – Allotments have been requested and we are going through the long planning process, no decision made and it's been 6 months!

J Plunkett (Helmdon PC) – Starting the Warm Helmdon scheme to give advice to conserve energy and setting up a warm space in the village.