

## **Appendix 7 - Yearly Report: Food for Nought**

**Period:** April 24, 2024 – March 25, 2025

### **Introduction**

This report details the activities and impact of Food for Nought (F4N) in Huntingdonshire during the period of April 1st, 2024, to March 30th, 2025. The findings presented highlight the organisation's contribution to Huntingdonshire District Council's (HDC) strategic goals. Specifically, this work supports the Corporate Plans' priority of 'Improving Quality of Life for Local People', in line with the objectives of HDC's Health and Wealth Building Strategy, which include promoting economic resilience, improving health and wellbeing, strengthening social connections, promoting volunteerism, reducing inequalities, and helping towards environmental sustainability within Huntingdonshire.

Food for Nought (F4N) aims to reduce the effects of food poverty and food waste, whilst lessening the environmental and economic burdens associated with surplus food within the district. The project operates by collecting surplus and unwanted food from local shops, farms, and supermarkets, and redistributing it to communities in need through a network of community fridges which provide accessible and safe spaces for residents to obtain food items and other essentials. Key objectives are:

**Improving Food Access:** Providing vulnerable individuals and families in Huntingdonshire with reliable access to nutritious food.

**Reducing Food Waste:** Diverting surplus food from landfill, minimising environmental impact within Huntingdonshire.

**Alleviating Financial Strain:** Helping Huntingdonshire residents reduce their grocery expenses, freeing up income for other essential needs.

The offer operates through two community fridge locations in Huntingdonshire:

- **Oxmoor Community Fridge:** Based at Thongsley Primary School, Oxmoor. Open every Thursday at 2pm
- **Yaxley Community Fridge:** Based in Yaxley. Now open every Monday at 3pm, and Wednesday and Friday at 10.30am

These fridges, supported by Food for Nought, are a key part of a community-led solution to food access in Huntingdonshire. Food for Nought and each community fridge is run entirely by volunteers who manage all aspects of the network, including sorting, packing, driving, loading, and supporting residents, with the initiative requiring funding for running costs only. F4N's redistribution network serves community hubs across Huntingdonshire and Peterborough, requiring both districts to collaborate to effectively support their residents. Peterborough City Council has agreed to continue their support with the continuation of funding (reflecting its larger resident base) for 2025/2026.

It is expected that community fridges will help offset F4N's mileage costs.

**Data: Food Weight Distributed (kg)**

The following data represents the weight of food distributed by the community fridges during the reporting period:

**Yaxley Community Fridge 2024/2025:**

- April: 969 kg
- May: 939 kg
- June: 852 kg
- July: 1074 kg
- August: 2189 kg
- September: 3695 kg
- October: 683.42 kg
- November: 722.8 kg
- December: 11124.22 kg
- January: 3542 kg
- February: 3541 kg
- March: 2629 kg

**Oxmoor Community Fridge 2024/2025:**

- April: 312.5 kg
- May: 244.2 kg
- June: 235.7 kg
- July: 390.4 kg
- August: 446.4 kg
- September: 358.7 kg
- October: 325.6 kg
- November: 328.7 kg
- December: 2642.2 kg
- January: 339.9 kg
- February: 175.9 kg
- March: 134.5 kg

**Note:** A small portion of the weight of food recorded, specifically at the Yaxley Community Fridge, consistently shows a higher weight due to ongoing additional contributions from local partnerships. Furthermore, the Yaxley Community Fridge began operating 3 days a week in January 2025, which has also contributed to these slightly larger monthly figures in recent times.

## **Analysis of Data**

The data can be analysed in several ways to demonstrate the impact of F4N's activities in Huntingdonshire during the last year.

1. **Total Food Distributed:** **37,795.14 kg**
2. **Average Monthly Distribution:** **3,149.595 kg**
3. **CO2 Emissions Avoided:** **30,236.112kg CO2e**
4. **Monetary Value of Food Saved:** **£94,487.85**

### **Calculations:**

#### **1. Total Food Distributed: 37,795.14 kg**

*Yaxley Total:*  $969 + 939 + 852 + 1074 + 2189 + 3695 + 683.42 + 722.8 + 11124.22 + 3542 + 3541 + 2629 = 32,160.44 \text{ kg}$

*Oxmoor Total:*  $312.5 + 244.2 + 235.7 + 390.4 + 446.4 + 358.7 + 325.6 + 328.7 + 2642.2 + 339.9 + 175.9 + 134.5 = 5,634.7 \text{ kg}$

*Total Distributed:*  $32,160.44 \text{ kg} + 5,634.7 \text{ kg} = 37,795.14 \text{ kg}$

#### **2. Average Monthly Distribution: 3,149.595 kg**

*Dividing the total by 12 gives an average monthly distribution.*

$37,795.14 \text{ kg} / 12 \text{ months} = 3,149.595 \text{ kg}$

#### **3. CO2 Emissions Avoided: 30,236.112kg CO2e**

*Using an average emission factor for food waste using guidance from DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) and considering factors relevant to the UK's waste management infrastructure and data, an estimate for the CO2e from 37,795.14 kg of food is calculated using 0.8 kg CO2e per 1 kg of food waste.*

$37,795.14 \text{ kg food waste} \times 0.8 \text{ kg CO2e/kg food waste} = 30,236.112 \text{ kg CO2e}$

#### **4. Monetary Value of Food Saved: £94,487.85**

*Using the national average food price of £2.50 per kg to estimate the monetary value of the food saved.*

$37,795.14 \text{ kg} \times £2.50/\text{kg} = £94,487.85$

## **Successes and Impact**

The food distribution network, driven by the work of Food for Nought, has achieved significant success in several areas, directly supporting Huntingdonshire District Council's strategic objectives:

- **Food Waste Reduction and CO2 Emissions Avoided:** F4N's redistribution network has delivered environmental and economic benefits in the past year.

By redistributing 37,795.14 kg of food, we have prevented an estimated 30,236 kg of CO2 emissions according to DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) guidelines. This volume is comparable to the weight of three small cars each month, highlighting the significant amount of food being rescued and redistributed.

- **Financial Savings for Community:** By providing an estimated £94,487.85 worth of food to the community, the project has generated a substantial economic benefit for Huntingdonshire, aligning with HDC's priority of improving quality of life. By reducing food costs for residents, the project contributes to economic resilience within Huntingdonshire. The project helps to free up income that can be used for other essential expenses, thus reducing financial vulnerability within the district.
- **Improved Dietary Habits:** F4Ns work enhances the quality of life for local people by providing access to fresher, healthier food options. This not only improves immediate dietary habits by encouraging the consumption of more fruits and vegetables but also fosters increased knowledge about diverse foods and new recipes. These factors contribute to the long-term health and wellbeing of Huntingdonshire residents, supporting a thriving and healthy community.
- **Community Engagement:** The project has promoted strong community engagement through volunteer involvement. Volunteers are crucial to the daily operation of the fridges, collecting, sorting, and distributing food. Volunteers also play a vital role in direct engagement with residents, providing support and connecting them with resources. Key to F4N's operation are the partnerships established with local businesses and shops, which consistently contribute essential food supplies. The active involvement of parish and district councils further strengthens this community-wide effort to address food insecurity and build resilience across Huntingdonshire.
- **Developing Skills and Resilience:** A range of training programs are available through the Community Fridge's to equip residents with essential life skills, including practical cooking, effective budgeting, and much more. The goal of these initiatives is to foster long-term food security and overall well-being within the community, building resilience that addresses more than just immediate needs.
- **Referral Support in a Safe Space:** Community Fridge's offer a welcoming, safe, supportive environment to connect with others and trained volunteers can provide signposting, crucial advice, referral pathways to other support services.

## **Conclusion**

The findings indicate that Food for Nought has had a positive impact on Huntingdonshire in terms of addressing food insecurity, minimising food waste/reducing CO2e, promoting community involvement and healthier food choices. This project's outcomes are consistent with Huntingdonshire District Council's strategic priorities of enhancing the quality of life for residents and promoting environmental sustainability, as articulated in the Corporate Plan 2023-2028. Moreover, Food for Nought's activities directly support the objectives of the Health and Wealth Building Strategy, contributing to economic resilience, improved health, stronger social connections, and environmental stewardship within the district.