



## Mountsorrel Community Fridge

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Due to Sorrel Youth Café's closure at the end of March 2020 we have been looking for a venue to place the Mountsorrel Community Fridge.

The Community Fridge has been in place since June 2019 and has had success in alleviating food poverty in the local area.

The previous Food Poverty Development Officer provided the following antidotal examples:

- The Sorrel café manager stated that a member of the local community could not afford to feed her child for one week and was so grateful for the community fridge, saying that it had been a lifeline. This person also said she wanted to give back and stated that she may like to volunteer at the café
- Other members of the community voluntarily put a nominal amount of money in the café's charity box, as they were appreciative of the community fridge and also felt they wanted to give back, if only in a small way
- A local social media initiative WasteNot have also commented on the positive difference that the community fridge is making within Mountsorrel. WasteNot have also signposted members of the local community via their social media page.
- A resident of Mountsorrel stated that she was in debt and it was the first time she had felt able to access a community fridge or a food bank. This resident commented upon the quality of the food provided.

Our vision for Mountsorrel is

- Support the objectives of Mountsorrel United Charities in alleviating need, hardship and distress
- Enable all individuals, families and communities in Mountsorrel to have access to affordable, nutritious and sustainable food
- Advocate for the reduction in household food poverty in order to respect, protect and fulfil the right to food
- To provide food within an empowering and non-judgmental model of local food provision, in which agencies work together within a joined up and coordinated approach
- Provide locality-based access to nutritious food for residents who are experiencing food poverty within Mountsorrel

After looking into options around the village, we feel that the best place for the Community Fridge would be in the rear entrance hall to the Parish Rooms, where the fridges are currently being stored. The Parish Rooms are central to the village and have good opening times for people to access the fridge.

A racking shelves would be added for ambient goods and a notice board to use for signposting to other services and recipe cards. All of which will be purchased by us. We would aim to turn the area into an inviting community space.

I, the Charnwood Food Poverty Development Officer, will visit the site twice a week to refill and clean the fridges and will be collecting data and assessing the success. We will also be following advice from Environmental Health, so that we are operating within food safety laws.

We would be grateful if you can consider our suggestion and support us within alleviating food poverty in Mountsorrel.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

[gemma.skevington@thebridge-eastmidlands.org.uk](mailto:gemma.skevington@thebridge-eastmidlands.org.uk)

Gemma Skevington  
Food Poverty Development Officer  
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