

Agenda item 6

For information - Community Fridge location update

Author: Sarah Williams, Business Manager

Frome's Community Fridge has been housed in a small brick outbuilding at the rear of the Town Hall since around 2020 when work on the drains at the Loop de Loop building in the Market Yard began. The works were completed last year, and we have since been waiting for Somerset Council to issue the lease. We have now completed, and FTC have taken a four year lease of the Loop de Loop building at zero rent, with maintenance and electrics being shared with our sub-tenants.

We have a sub-licence signed by Edventure who have overall responsibility for the Community Fridge operations and who have been given an FTC grant towards the work of the fridge co-ordinator Terri Pitts. Terri keeps the fridge stocked, volunteers trained, collections and deliveries made, and is aiming for October to re-open at Loop de Loop. She is intending to continue to keep the Town Hall fridge open as well. Terri is also helping Frome College set up their School Fridge.

FTC has carried out works over and above pest control and drain capping, including electrical repairs and a water heater installation for the section where it is hoped Mahesh's Lunghi Babas will reoccupy. We are currently awaiting a response from Mahesh. The last works will be water testing and treatment then both sub-tenants can move back in. Terri with the help of Edventure, will try and replace the other unit doors as well as repaint the outside of the Loop de Loop building. She has been fundraising with the tombola and crowd funding.

FTC spent £5k in 2023-24 on Terri's fridge co-ordination works, electrical works, and pest and drain works. The steel doors to the Market Yard fridge (and to the Town Hall brick outbuilding) were paid for by Terri's fridge crowd-funding exercise some years ago. This year's plumbing works were £1,400 and the future water testing and treatment exercise is likely to be approximately £500. There is limited scope for rental income from the small space available although negotiations with Lunghi Babas are ongoing.