

Report To: Planning & Environment Committee

Date: 06 October 2025

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison

Subject: Community Pantry

1. BACKGROUND – COMMUNITY PANTRY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Planning & Environment Committee with an update on the West Swindon Community Pantry.
- 1.2 Following a slow start over the course of 12 months, the Parish team have had surplus collections allocated from Sainsburys, Asda, Bookers and Aldi. Generally, Sainsburys, Asda and Bookers have proved to be unreliable for donations with many weeks having nothing to collect. Some collections have also proved to be problematic with a lack of continuity from staff. Food has been distributed to local businesses and Freshbrook Church.
- 1.3 More recently, the Parish team have been allocated a twice weekly collection from Aldi. This has proved to be well organised, reliable and offering a range of items including household products and sealed food goods. As a result, the team have been able to revisit the community pantry.
- 1.4 The Community Pantry installed in West Swindon Library's foyer entrance, has now been stocked with surplus food and home products from supermarkets through the waste recycling scheme. This has been enabled due to Aldi being added to the Parish Council's pick up list.
- 1.5 It is proposed to continue to monitor the pantry ensuring that the goods are in date, sealed and appropriate.
- 1.6 Social media posts will gently launch the library Community Pantry as a trial and we are inviting local people to make donations.



2. FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 2.1 The cost of the community pantry is primarily in staff time in collecting the donations, and distribution. This can account for 2-3 hours per week. At a future period, this could be run by volunteers.

3. RECOMMENDATION:

- 3.1 That the Team continues to maintain and distribute the litter picking boards, taking into account unsuccessful sites and considers opportunities to grow and promote this initiative.

Paula Harrison
Parish Manager/Clerk