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## **CATERHAM FOODBANK TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

### **OUR AIMS AND PURPOSES:**

Caterham Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust network of foodbanks and together we provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty. In this past twelve months we have seen unprecedented numbers of people using foodbank and this increase is mostly due to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. The two main reasons that people have needed to use foodbank have been low income; and benefit changes and delays. Our referral agencies gave out 1016 vouchers, each voucher providing a minimum of three days nutritionally balanced emergency food to those in difficulty. Looking at our data, we can see that in 2020, we provided food for 2945 people (1599 adults and 1346 children).

When we can speak to our users face to face (when Government guidelines allow) we like to refer our users to various agencies who can help them in their current situation by providing additional support so that they will not need to use foodbanks in the future. This may be by signposting to Job Clubs, Citizens Advice Bureau, Budget Planning, Counselling Services etc.

### **OUR OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:**

At last year's AGM, it was highlighted that there was a need for a larger warehouse unit as our user numbers had increased substantially since our opening in 2013 and this became an important objective. However, finding suitable premises proved initially difficult. In May 2020, we were offered a semi-basement owned by Tandridge District Council. This required significant renovation and works before the warehouse was up and running. The pandemic impacted in different ways e.g. solicitors working from home, it was difficult to find builders, trying to get quotes. We finally opened the warehouse last October and there was a great deal of effort and support in this and we are very thankful to all the people that helped.

Flooding of the warehouse was an ongoing concern but fortunately Tandridge District Council now seem to have solved the drainage problem. The tenancy is for five years and our objective is that foodbank will not be needed at the end of that tenancy in line with the Trussell Trust five year strategic plan.

The Trustees were made aware of the need for a Warehouse Co-ordinator. Early last year we took on Euan Lee who has become a dedicated and much valued part of the team. The paid hours of our Project Manager, Gill Bailey, were increased as she was working above and beyond her contracted hours due to the pandemic.

We often raise foodbank awareness through talks and fundraising activities. However, this was not possible due to the pandemic but our local community showed amazing generosity which can be seen in our accounts. Huge thanks to the many individuals that have donated food and money over the last year, it has been heart warming to see such support. Less than 2% of our food stocks were purchased items for essential supplies, showing that kindness from our donors.

Special thanks go to aspiring tennis junior 7 year old Lucius. In June he played tennis for 11 hours and 5 minutes (the same length of time the longest tennis match ever played) raising £2,175 which was match funded by Microsoft to total £4,375. Our thanks also go to the local Rotary clubs for their practical help and their donation that enabled the fitting out of the new warehouse. Our thanks also go to the COGS Lion's Club for the donation that enabled us to supply much appreciated Christmas Hampers to 379 recipients.

### **PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD:**

This year the Trustees are looking at using the services of Community Debt Advice who are a charitable organisation who provide expert financial advice. This would be a helpful service for many of the people that use foodbank and once guidelines permit, a volunteer from CDA will be in the centres.

Due to the pandemic, the centre at the Sacred Heart Church in Essendene Road, Caterham on the Hill was closed which meant that foodbank was only operating in Caterham Baptist Church, Beechwood Road in the Valley. We have now agreed with Oakhall Church to use their premises in Chaldon Road, Caterham on the Hill which means we will have a centre in the Valley and another on the Hill. This planned move is scheduled to happen on 15th February 2021.

We will continue to work with the Trussell Trust to create a hunger free future through their "Together for Change" to help change communities, policies and minds. Please do look at the Trussell Trust website and support us in campaigning for these changes. We are aiming to support those who live in the locality but who cannot get to our centres. We will also be looking for additional support for our Project Manager, Gill Bailey, who throughout this pandemic has worked tirelessly to implement all the necessary changes following new rules and guidelines that this pandemic has brought upon us and to whom we owe a big thank you.

Finally, we will continue to provide food and support whilst adhering to government guidelines with, hopefully, a return to face to face interactions with the people that use foodbank later in the year.

### **VOLUNTEERS:**

Our thanks go to all our valued volunteers – without them this much needed community project would not have been possible. They have socially distanced, worn PPE and dutifully repeatedly washed their hands, all doing their best to combat the spread of the virus.

Our thanks also go to Caterham Baptist Church, the Sacred Heart Church for the free use of their buildings which have saved our charity a considerable amount financially. We would also like to thank all those who have so

generously contributed to our stock where we currently have approximately 4,360 kg of food which the Trussell Trust value at £1.75 per kilo.

### **FINANCES:**

Below you will see a copy of our finances showing that we have received a total income of £82,023 a considerable increase on past years. Of this, £10,000 is a grant specifically earmarked for future warehouse rent payments. It is a requirement by Trussell Trust that we have a minimum of six months running costs in reserve which we estimate to be £12,000. As you can see from our figures we are in a healthy financial position but we do not know how long the pandemic will last, the impact it will have on employment and if our community will be able to donate as generously as they did last year.

### **DECLARATIONS:**

#### **Trustees:**

**Stephen Martin Bidwell (Chair)**

**John Lord**

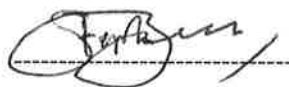
**John Edward Baldwin**

**David Patrick Stritch**

**Paul Tradewell**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above.  
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:



Name:

Stephen Martin Bidwell

Position:

Chair of Trustees

Date:

7/2/2021