



Beyond the food bank: Developing alternative retail projects for food provision

27th June 2018

Food Power Conference



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Agenda

- Introduction, Sue Cockerill, Church Action on Poverty
- Paul Stabeler, Stabeler, Doncaster Council
- Chris Sunderland, Real Economy/Feeding Bristol/Independent Food Aid Network
- Sue Cockerill, Your Local Pantry
- Q&A



Why are we doing this?

- Empowering ways of addressing Food Poverty
- Upstreaming (not crisis/emergency)
- Engaging/Participatory (not gifting)
- Redistributing (not dumping)
- Often geographically focussed not branded as 'food poverty' programmes to avoid discrimination and stigmatisation

Dignified approaches to people addressing their own issues

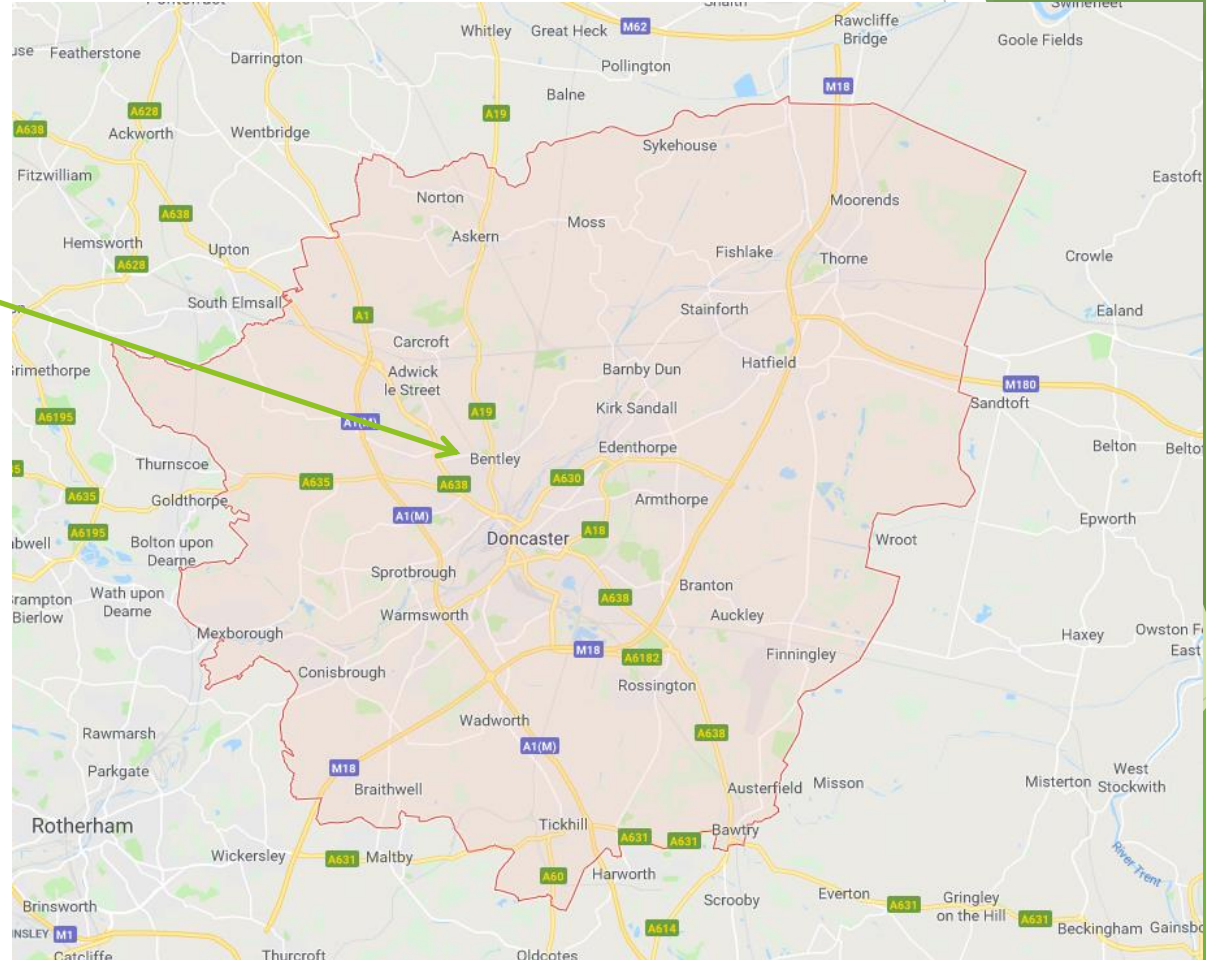


Bentley Urban Farm

A PERMACULTURE PROJECT IN THE HEART OF DONCASTER

Bentley

- ❑ A town to the north of Doncaster
- ❑ 14,000 residents
- ❑ One of the worst food deserts in Doncaster Borough
- ❑ No local grocery provision (defined as >10 fresh fruit/veg items for sale in any local store)
- ❑ 94% of residents in walking distance of fast food shop
- ❑ No discount retailer



BUF Short History

November 2015 - Company Founded

September 2016 - BUF Move on to former Horticulture Centre on Bentley Training Centre site & launches on social media profile

April 2017 - hosts Seed-Bomb Workshop

May 2017 - supports Delicious Doncaster event Slowdown Sunday

June 2017 - BUF Bags veg box scheme begins & Super Weed Sundays begin (fortnightly volunteering for the local community)



BUF Short History

August 2017 - free Mini Wormery Workshop held

September 2017 - Outreach Program begins with a series of talks on the permafuturity project

December 2017 Directors begin Award in Education training to expand capacity to provide locally based training opportunities.

January 2018 Awarded Big Lottery Grant to develop vegbox scheme

February 2018 - Consortium on Bentley Training Centre granted community lease to develop site.



Our Veg Offer

- Organic veg sourced within Yorkshire
- Fresher veg with lower food miles
- Locally grown produce from the Urban Farm
- Developing local food network with market gardens and allotment associations



Food Power Veg Box Scheme

- ❑ Geographic focus and not branded as 'food poverty' programme - non-discriminatory, no stigmatisation
- ❑ Discounted veg box scheme in the town of Bentley (two locations)
- ❑ Aims to provide subsidised food, but also change the way people look at food, think about food, add value to fresh fruit/veg in particular (we know this is the biggest source of food waste)
- ❑ Tied into a 'Seed and Save' programme; we will teach local people how to grow food, and if they grow a surplus we'll buy it back from them
- ❑ Cooking events held at the farm's partner café, Manna, will incorporate interesting veg and help people make use of the boxes, encouraging neighbours to get to know each other
- ❑ Guerrilla gardening on public land
- ❑ Food, music and social events included as part of the programme - our research says people might not just come for the veg!

Food Power Veg Box Scheme

- ❑ Experimental
- ❑ Resilience
- ❑ Fun
- ❑ Low-risk
- ❑ Behaviour-changing
- ❑ Family-friendly
- ❑ Non-stigmatising
- ❑ Gateway to our wider community offer

FUTURE PROJECTS

- ❑ Membership Scheme to help users guide Directors in project development
- ❑ Seed & Save - helping disadvantaged people grow veg at home
- ❑ Expanding Veg Box with more local produce
- ❑ Pizza/Bread Oven - to provide events and training opportunities
- ❑ Development of Social Enterprise - e.g. Bread Bonds, Preserves etc.
- ❑ Bio-Diesel Generator to provide local power grid
- ❑ Training Environment for young people to develop skills
- ❑ Wellbeing Hub - Shamanic Sweat Lodge and Personal Budgets to enhance health and wellbeing
- ❑ Up-cycled class room to provide learning and eventing space
- ❑ And beyond ...

How To Contact Us

Find us behind Bentley High Street

(The lane between Bentley High St School and the Anglican Church)

Find Us On Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/bentleyurbanfarm/>

Find us on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/BentleyFarmDN>

Call us: 07846 439982

Email us at: bentleyurbanfarm@gmail.com





Chris Sunderland
Real Economy / Feeding Bristol /
Independent Food Aid Network



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Sue Cockerill

Programme Manager Church Action on Poverty





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SH PANTRY 29TH NOV.mp4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEgr2MnJrZc#action=share>



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Key figures

Members

£2.50
WEEKLY FEE FOR
MEMBERSHIP



A TYPICAL FOOD BASKET IS VALUED AT **£15**
– SAVING MEMBERS **£12.50** EACH WEEK



HOUSEHOLDS CAN SAVE UP TO

£650
PER YEAR



MEMBERS WHO PAY BY STANDING ORDER
SAVE AN ADDITIONAL

£30 PER YEAR



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Who is eligible?

- Anyone struggling within that Pantry's designated area
- Non invasive questions on general affordability
- Not based on referrals
- Community resource – not crisis intervention

STOCKPORT HOMES SURVEYED PANTRY MEMBERS IN 2017-18...



100% SAID THE PANTRY
HAD HELPED THEM FEEL
THEY BELONGED TO
THEIR COMMUNITY



89% WERE MANAGING
BETTER FINANCIALLY



45% FELT THEIR HEALTH
HAD IMPROVED



How is it different to a Foodbank?

- Community resource not crisis food provision
- Sense of ownership
- Choice over products
- Steps in before Foodbank requirement
- To assist after Foodbank assistance

“We found people weren’t using food banks even though they got a referral, because of stigma. ...we wanted something that provided dignity and choice.”

Simon Welch, Director of Neighbourhoods and Support, Stockport Homes



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10,231 VISITS TO STOCKPORT'S
FOUR PANTRIES IN 2016-17

↓
SAVING
MEMBERS
A TOTAL OF
UP TO

£128,000



STOCKPORT HOMES **SURVEYED**
PANTRY MEMBERS IN 2017-18...



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“It’s more than just a full tummy, it’s a massive link in the community.”

“It’s given me another chance to be part of the community, working in the café, people coming and going, trying to help them. You’ve been there and you’ve thought to yourself ‘I was at this point once, I’ve moved up, why not offer it to someone else?’ I just got a job interview tomorrow!”

“Psychologically it helped me. I knew I was getting something to eat, not having to ask my daughters ‘oh I need this, I need that’.”

“If you imagine being at home and thinking right I have £3.50 to my name, I don’t know how I am going to manage for the next week or 10 days ... If you’ve got Pantry you know it’s just £2.50, it’s not a problem, you are going to eat properly.”





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Volunteers

4,549

HOURS
CONTRIBUTED BY
45 VOLUNTEERS
IN ONE YEAR



25-30

VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT
THE WORK OF THE
FOUR LOCAL PANTRIES
EACH WEEK



TEN

VOLUNTEERS HAVE MOVED
INTO EMPLOYMENT SINCE 2013




EVERY £1 INVESTED IN YOUR
LOCAL PANTRY EQUATES TO OVER

£6 IN SOCIAL VALUE

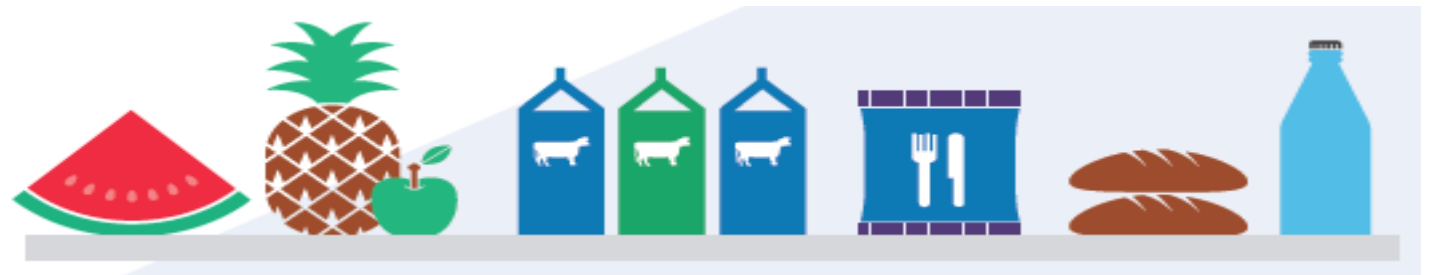


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Pantry Development and the Future

- Proven sustainable model
- Developing further Pantries
- Creating a movement through a network of Pantries nationwide using the Your Local Pantry model
- 'Beyond the Foodbank' – a lot of interest from Foodbanks and converting them in to Pantries as next step





Summary

- Worked with a range of partners to develop Your Local Pantry model now being rolled out.
- Feedback and continuous improvement essential
- Questions
- For more information please contact:
laura@church-poverty.org.uk or 07479 686201



Questions or comments?



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Thanks

