

## **Manna Pop Up Shop Christ Church Felixstowe**

Manna started in October 2021, taking over from BASIC Life Community Pop Up Shop.

Manna is the only Pop Up Shop to open in the evening in Ipswich and Felixstowe. Manna opens every other Monday throughout the year (including bank holidays) from 6pm until 7.15pm. Customers pay £2 for a bag of food and toiletries. There are 16 large tables laden with ambient food, fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh bread and toiletries. There is free tea, coffee, homemade sausage rolls and cake and since January 2022 4 tables and 6 rails of good quality second hand clothing are also free.

The numbers attending increased from 43 in October 2021 to 127 in December 2022.

In the first 3 months of 2023 we have had between 83 and 98 customers each time we opened.

In December 2021 we decided we needed a shipping container to store the Manna produce in. At that point the green storage trays were taking up a large part of the church worship area. It took many months to get planning permission for the 40' container in the church car park. In October and November 2022 we applied for grants to help us purchase, transport and fit out the container. The church car park is on a slope so the base needed to be prepared and a ramp built to access the container doors.

Felixstowe Town Council kindly gave us a £1000 grant towards the costs we incurred in doing this work. We were generously donated the container from HMM Ltd. Thanks to The Mayor Sharon, CP Transport kindly agreed transport and unloaded the container onto the base. They also donated some racking. The Prince's Trust through The Felix Project donated a large upright fridge and Brewers donated the paint we've used on the interior.

The grants (Centenary Fund £3k, Port Community Fund £2k and Felixstowe Town Council £1k, totalling £6k) awarded were used for :-

- Container base £496.39
- Ramp construction £710.51
- Concrete for ramp and footpath £834
- Insulation and ply board £2183.22
- Dollies (10) £560
- Electrical £643.08
- Freezer £649

Total £6076.20

Receipts are available for all the items listed above

Felixstowe Town Council also generously awarded Manna 8x £200 for the 8 Manna's between December 2022 and March 2023. This was to pay the difference between the food and toiletries we are given by supermarkets and bakeries and what we buy from FareShare and supermarkets (eg fruit and vegetables, cereals, UHT milk, squash). We buy 200kg of food from FareShare each Manna at a cost of £38 per 100kg. Receipts are available for all our Manna supermarket purchases as proof of expenditure.



The base



The container being unloaded on site



In position



The ramp structure



Concrete and ramp finished



Complete! Lighting & sockets in, fridge and freezer in, racking built, red dollies stacked with green crates. It's full!

On 27 February 2023 the container and Manna were inspected by the Environment Health Officers from Suffolk County Council and we were awarded 5 ★

On 10th March 2023 we were inspected by FareShare so that we could receive frozen and chilled produce in addition to ambient food.

The report said 'your storage container looks amazing and is a great example of best practice!' The container has a carbon monoxide and heat alarm and a fire extinguisher.

Thank you for your generous support. This has made a huge difference

Helen and Mark Adams  
Manna co-ordinators