

Supporting Information

A proposal to position a container on the car park of St Nicholas Church Kingsway. In October 2014, the Christians Together in Burnage started the Burnage Foodbank to support residents in crisis. This operates as part of the Trussell network and relies on volunteers to provide emergency food aid from two centres: St Nicholas Church and St Bernards Church.

This new proposal is supported by our Mission Community leader, Richard Young, who endorses this proposal.

Burnage Foodbank has two sessions per week. On Tuesdays at St Nicholas Church, Kingsway and Fridays at St Bernard's Church, Burnage Lane. On Tuesdays, we are open to the public from 12:30-2:30pm, but volunteers are on-site from 10am-3pm. On Fridays, we are open to the public from 3-5pm, but volunteers are onsite from 1:30-5:30pm. We would use the container as our core storage facility, which we would access during the week, typically on Thursday afternoons.

Burnage Foodbank operates at two centres, both centres have limited storage. A small proportion of stock is stored at both sites, but the Foodbank is very grateful for the food donations which it receives. These donations are received from the public within the community deposited at Asda Reddish, Tesco Burnage and Tesco Levenshulme.

It is important that these donations are collected timely, dated and either stored or distributed. It is important that the Foodbank manages the rotation of food to avoid any waste. In addition, through successful grants, the Foodbank uses the grant monies to purchase any identified gaps in essential provisions.

Therefore, there is the need for additional storage. Currently and for the last few years, the Foodbank has purchased storage space in a private storage facility within the boundary of the community, but 4.2 miles travel by car. This storage facility is a 600 sqft storage unit. Unfortunately, the storage facility is costing more each year, and this is alongside decreasing income for the Foodbank. The reduction of income is a result of the cost-of-living crisis and reduced grant support from Trussell and other organisations. The Foodbank has been informed that the financial support from Trussell is likely to reduce further next year and beyond.

Following the recommendation by the Church Standing Committee (Church Officers) and approved unanimously the Parochial Church Council, to support this proposal on the 2/2/26. This criterion was used by Burnage Foodbank to assess the most appropriate location.

Cost: All Foodbanks have had to undertake an assessment of their sustainability. Burnage Foodbank cannot continue to meet the current costs of the storage facility.

Accessibility: the preferred option is to have the storage facility near the centre(s) If the storage facility was closer to one or both sites it would provide the opportunity for the volunteers who support the Foodbank centres (Tuesday at St Nicholas, Friday at St Bernards) to assist with storage on the day of the Foodbank. If there are sufficient volunteers on the day to run the session, other volunteers could work on storage.

Safety: If storage was closer preferably on site of a centre, volunteers would feel safer and would not always need a member of staff to accompany them. Also, the

current storage can be reached by public transport but is a difficult route, by car is easier. There is limited parking, and volunteers feel very isolated in the storage facility.

Recommendations - The Trustees of the Burnage Foodbank accepted the recommendation of the Project Manager to pursue the applications to support a Shipping Container on site at St Nicholas. This would reduce the overheads of the Foodbank Charity and support the Foodbank sustainability for the next 5 years.

Other factors: Having the storage facility on site at St Nicholas would reduce the carbon footprint.

Historical Context

The container located in the car park will have no visual impact on the Church building, as it is not visible from public view. We acknowledge that the St Nicholas Church is Grade 2* listed building, but this will not be impacted.

Designed by Nugent Cachemaille-Day and opened in 1932, St Nicholas is one of very few 20th Century churches to be listed at this grade and was described by Nicholas Pevsner as a “milestone in the history of church architecture in England.”

The food storage container would be sited at the rear of the building in the car park, hidden from view of the front of the building. The container will result in losing 1 car park space. There are currently 24 car spaces with 6 allocated as disabled. The chosen container will be coloured to fit in with the grounds of the car park. It will not have any outside signage.