

Climate Action Fund – Todmorden Town Council Funding Proposal – April 2021

Community Involvement – Yes/No

Yes

1. Name of project

Todmorden Ready, Steady Cook

2. Postcode of project location

OL14 5AJ (Todmorden Market)

3. How much funding required (between £100,000 and £150,000)?

£149,000

4. How long do you need the money for? (minimum of 12 months)

3 years

5. Start/finish date

April 2022-March 2025

6. Project idea (600 words or less):

Describe project and what you're hoping to change

This project aims to engage and educate residents in Todmorden in producing healthy home cooked food 'from scratch' using fresh, locally sourced produce, especially vegetables. Currently, a high proportion of food is brought into Todmorden from elsewhere (at a high carbon cost) although there are many local growers/producers/retailers of vegetables and meat. This project aims to reach all residents, including those communities that are traditionally hard to reach. Partners will include schools, faith groups, local charity organisations such as the scouts, Healthy Minds and those aimed at people living with disabilities and specific learning needs.

This project is aligned with the Calderdale Climate Action Response and aims to fulfil the stretching objectives in Todmorden by 2038:

In particular:

- To reduce food waste by 20% by 2038 to meet our science-based target of getting Calderdale to net zero and playing our part in avoiding catastrophic climate change

- To reduce red meat and dairy consumption by 32% so that land can be used for tree planting and restored to nature instead of for grazing and cattle
- To supporting cooking skills and local growing which are keyways to support active healthy, low carbon diets

It also aligns with the Calderdale Food Charter aims and actions which underpin the regional good food movement and is linked directly to the Calderdale Climate Action Response. This includes the following aims and actions:

- Aims
 - Encouraging a sustainable food economy
 - Increasing Local Food Production
 - Reducing Ecological impact
- Actions
 - Procure more sustainable local produce
 - Provide recycling and composting facilities
 - Waste less

Anecdotal evidence, from local food banks and Incredible Edible with the 'freegan' box initiative shows that many people are not confident with making meals from scratch. Currently these groups provide hard copy recipes to encourage people try new vegetables. There are also plans for the Cornholme Food Bank to host a cookery session.

Also, other anecdotal evidence, from Tod Almighty, a locally sourced food retailer, is that many people, especially older people, are unsure how to cook the lesser well-known vegetables. Other evidence indicates that many school leavers do not feel confident with cooking for themselves, preferring take-way food which is often highly processed and can cause problems with single use throwaway cartons.

Anecdotal evidence also shows that the mental health of many people has declined during the Covid19 pandemic. A major part of this project is to engage with and educate people whilst at the same time alleviating the stress and anxiety built up during the pandemic by bringing people together in a safe, non-threatening environment.

It is proposed that a portable kitchen unit and gazebo be erected at Todmorden outside market to host cook-in sessions four days a week (Thursday-Sunday). John Walker, the Markets Manager has already agreed to support this project by offering a free space for the unit / gazebo as he wishes to support local initiatives for the community concerning food in particular.

Also, it is planned that cookery interventions will be offered in schools and for local groups and charities such as Healthy Minds and Mind.

The project will be led by a project manager/cook supported by a part-time assistant.

512 words

How will we know we are progressing?

We will know we are progressing by recording how many people attend the cook-ins and evaluation with attendees on what they have learned/skills they are using on an ongoing basis. This evaluation will be followed up with further cook-ins/additional evaluation to

measure the ongoing progress of the project. It is also envisaged, that some of the people attending the cookery workshops will in turn offer cook-ins themselves, therefore embedding and extending awareness and learning, increasing sharing and engagement and increasing the confidence of those involved.

85 words

Applying for a development grant or full award?

This application is for a development grant.

597 words in total (excluding headings)

7. Your Partnership: (1000 words about who partners are and who is project targeted at):

Describe organisation. What experience/learning led you to put forward this project application?

This project is targeted at all Todmorden residents and visitors. Discussion with the proposed partners has led us to believe that the ability to eat healthily and on a budget, (for example, by reducing the amount of meat and dairy eaten) using locally sourced produce (and therefore reducing the carbon impact of the food) is limited by peoples' existing knowledge, experience, skills and attitudes.

64 words

Describe organisations/groups you are/wish to work with?

Todmorden is blessed with many active local organisations set up to help local people around food. The groups involved in the project include:

- Incredible Edible (as part of a ground-breaking initiative to grow/supply free food)
- Tod Almighty (provides locally sourced produce/delivery of vegetable boxes)
- Local schools including Todmorden High School and primary/nursery schools
- Local Food Banks
- The Junk Food Project (has provided free food for the Food Banks)
- Todmorden Learning and Community Centre (an innovative climate action hub)
- Todmorden Market
- Local organisations such as the scouts/girl guides
- Local supermarkets/small independent shops
- Todmorden Town Council
- Todmorden Library
- Calderdale MBC
- Calderdale Food Network
- Healthy Minds
- Local faith communities
- Local takeaways
- Local restaurants
- Help the Aged

The project will be coordinated by a project manager/cook who will also do outreach in schools and with other local organisations.

134 words

Why these groups?

Todmorden Town Council proposes to be the accountable body and may also be able to offer additional grants/matched funding for the supply of ingredients. Todmorden Town Council has already provided grants and donations to organisations such as Incredible Edible and the food banks.

Todmorden Town Council is well placed to lead this project as it already has a close working relationship with many of the organisations listed. It would be able to bring a value add to the project by coordinating and harnessing the creative activities of the organisations involved.

Incredible Edible are very keen to be part of this project and have offered access to all their equipment and resources including social media. Incredible Edible do not seek grants themselves but benefit from donations/kindness from individuals/organisations. They already prepare meals for 50 people twice monthly for volunteers who help with their work. They have given the project access to their 2 'smoothie bikes' which when peddled make smoothies. They provide 80-100 'freegan' boxes of vegetables on a weekly basis for local people at a very low cost. The boxes are made up of short date vegetables from local retailers which otherwise would go to landfill.

Feedback from Incredible Edible is that they often have a 'swap box' full of vegetables such as celeriac, that many do not know how to cook. Incredible Edible are looking for premises for this venture (for 4 hours a week) which could be included in this project.

It is important to work with the food banks as they are instrumental in supporting residents struggling with food poverty. They currently provide recipe sheets and are planning cook-in activities to enable residents to make full use of fresh ingredients.

We wish to work with Calderdale Council (including the Calderdale Food Network) to support the fulfilment of the Calderdale Climate Emergency Plan and Food Charter for Todmorden as part of the Calderdale Valley.

It is also important for the project to work with retailers of food in Todmorden, the supermarkets but also the independent food retailers and the indoor and outdoor market (the latter which won the award in 2018 for the 'Best Small Market' in England. Engaging with food providers is key to working on the local supply of food in Todmorden.

We wish to engage with a wide range of local voluntary organisations to gain their input and support to extending the learning from the project. In particular, we would like to engage with organisations working with all sectors of the public, the young, the old, those struggling with mental health issues and those living with disabilities. Producing and eating food is a great way to engage people and it is a great leveller. It is even better when the food is locally sourced (reducing carbon) healthy (with a greater emphasis on vegetables) and is as fresh and economical as possible. This will also contribute to a reduction in the use of single use plastics, also contributing to the reduction of waste.

497 words

How will you work together to deliver project?

As well as informal working with partners, it is proposed that a steering group be set up with the representation for all partners. This will meet on a monthly basis to plan, implement and monitor progress.

36 words

How will your partnership help reach different parts of the community, and support wider behaviour change, at community and individual level?

It is proposed that the partnership of the project will help access different parts of the community, including those harder to reach. As well as the cook-in sessions each week at the market, outreach work is planned for all sections of the public, including the food banks, participating in Incredible Edible and Todmorden Learning and Community Centre activities. Work will also be planned with various organisations such as Healthy Minds, Mind as well as with schools (nursery through to the upper school) retirement homes and faith communities.

It is planned that working with this diverse range of partners and engaging in regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities will support wider behaviour change at a community and individual level. Todmorden is already known for its well exhibited 'kindness' to people. Incredible Edible is already seen to be a world leader and receives visits from people from around the world to learn about growing and sharing food and 'kindness'. It would be great if Todmorden could also be a good example of the sharing of cookery skills and approaches to provide excellent and healthy food for residents, reducing waste and lowering carbon production. Initially, this could be extended to the rest of Calderdale and neighbouring areas, but ultimately it could be rolled out more widely to others wishing to achieve the same outcomes.

Todmorden already has a great community spirit but it would be brilliant if it is also known as a sustainable, locally self-sufficient food growing and eating area.

248 words

979 words (excluding headings)

8. Thriving communities playing a key role in shaping and driving climate action – (600 words or less)

Why does taking this climate action matter to your community?

This climate action really matters to the people of Todmorden. Todmorden Town Council has already resolved to declare a climate emergency and has put in place a robust action plan to support local action through involvement of the local and wider community.

Although Todmorden is a spirited and community minded place to live, many of its residents can be classed as deprived. Over 50% of households in Todmorden pay band A Council Tax. There are relatively few households at bands E-H. Around half of the population of

Todmorden has no access to a motor vehicle, and therefore many people are dependent on the local shops for food.

The food banks are very active in Todmorden, and in fact, several additional ones have sprung up to meet increased demand during the Covid19 pandemic. It is therefore crucial that people using food banks and other food supply agencies, are able to source supplies of economically priced local food and are able to prepare it from scratch. Valuable skills also include the demonstration of ways to make food go further and the reduce waste. Incredible Edible and the food banks have both said that many people are unsure how to cook from scratch, especially when the vegetable are not the usual ones. This is probably the tip of an iceberg in terms of how people in general are using food. Many people will see supermarket chilled prepared food and takeaway food as the quick way to have a meal at the end of a long working day. This issue then extends to family life, where the values of home cooking may need reinforcing.

Mental health is a key aspect of life for individuals and the community. The existing levels of deprivation in Todmorden have been exacerbated during the Covid19 pandemic as many people have not had enough food, have been separated from their families, friends and work colleagues and so have been isolated. Many people are missing the Known benefits of human interaction and friendship. Many people will be out of practice with meeting and sharing with others. It is therefore vital, for the physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of the people of Todmorden (and the planet) that a project such as this can bring people together.

374 words

How has the community been involved with the development of this idea to date?

The community has been involved in sharing knowledge and discussing many aspects of this project. However, the special thing about this project is that these community groups have not worked together in this integrated way before. The gap in knowledge, skills and attitude has been identified in different ways by organisations such as the food banks, Tod Almighty and Incredible Edible. There is much work still to be done in developing this project further to really engage with all the groups identified.

82 words

How will the community continue to be involved in the design, development and delivery of the project?

The community will be central to the design and delivery of the project. Todmorden is a very community minded community and this project seeks to harness the creativity of existing organisations and in coordinating and enhancing it exponentially through this project.

The Steering Group will be active in the design, delivery, evaluation and the integration of the learning of the project. It is anticipated, at the end of the 3 years, that the learning will be integrated within the partners organisations and it will become 'business as usual' for Todmorden. It is expected that the steering group will continue.

99 words

555 words in total (excluding headings)

9. List the costs you would like to be funded (600 words or less)

*Use clear headings and give estimates
Can fund some capital costs (equipment?) – list these*

Capital Costs - £25,000 Outdoor catering equipment

- ❖ Catering unit - £12,000
 - ❖ Gazebo/demonstration area - £3,000
 - ❖ Catering equipment - £8,000
 - ❖ Washing equipment - £2,000
-
- Staffing costs - £99,000 (£33,000 p.a.)
 - ❖ 1 x 4 days (32 hours) project manager/cook - £20,000 p.a.
 - ❖ 1 x 1 day (8 hours) vegetable preparation - £6,000 p.a.
 - ❖ 1 x 1.5 days (12 hours) administration assistant

 - Running costs – £20,000 (£6,600 p.a.)
 - ❖ Food
 - ❖ Energy

 - Outreach activities – additional costs - £5,000 (£1,666 p.a.)
 - ❖ Such as work in schools and charities such as Healthy Minds

95 words

10. Who will project benefit? Everyone or a specific community?

The aim of the project is to benefit everyone in the community, including visitors. We will work through our partners to benefit all areas of the community.

11/12. Will your project support people in Northern Ireland or Wales?

No

13. Organisation Details

1. Full Legal name

Todmorden Town Council

2. Main/registered address

Todmorden Learning and Community Centre, Burnley Road, Todmorden OL14 7BX

3. Are you an independent organisation or branch?

Independent

4. What date was your organisation set up

1972

5. Organisation type

Local government authority

6. Reg. No

Not applicable

7. Contact details

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