COMMUNITY SUPERMARKET PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

Your bi-monthly round-up of activities, discussions and developments about Feeding Gloucestershire's Community Supermarket project.

DECEMBER 2025

www.feedinggloucestershire.org.uk

If you'd like to receive this update in your inbox directly, please contact project lead Becky at: rebecca.hollely@feedinggloucestershire.org.uk.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first update for our Community Supermarket Project. This project is all about using the Food Ladder approach to help people in the county move from food crisis towards long-term food security. Working in partnership with local organisations and stakeholders, we will research and develop a Community Supermarket Model, which can be tailored to the needs of Gloucestershire's districts and communities.

LATEST UPDATE

Our first Working Group (WG) meeting took place in November and brought together district food leads, community partners and specialist agencies from across the county. The session focused on the vision for the project, what a community supermarket model could look like for Gloucestershire, and how it aligns with the wider Food Ladders approach.

Key points covered included:

- Mapping existing community food assets and building an online map.
- Exploring an approach to conducting research with food assets across the county.
- Discussing how the WG will operate and how members want to contribute.

Andrew Forsey, National Director at Feeding Britain gave a keynote presentation and provided national insights about the growth in community supermarkets across Britain and some questions for the WG to consider.

We also heard a case study from Ben Mann, Public Health and Wellbeing Manager from Essex County Council, who gave a presentation about the Essex Community Food Network – a network of 14 community supermarkets supported by the County Council to offer more affordable food choices for the community.

NEXT STEPS

- WG members have been invited to share their key questions about the project. These will help shape future agendas and support the co-creation of an essential actions list.
- Begin building an online map of community food assets to give us a clearer picture of what already exists across the county.
- Develop an approach for research with food assets.
- The WG will meet again in early February 2026.

RESOURCES

- Feeding Britain report on survey of national food assets.
- Affordable Food Clubs toolkit.
- Social supermarket research paper.