**SUBMISSION FROM BEST BEFORE CAFE**

We’d like to make those attending the Environmental Panel in Letchworth on 9th Jan aware of the extent of the food that is wasted by supermarkets over the Christmas period.

On Christmas Eve, volunteers from Best Before Cafe, Wilbury Community Forum and Feed Up Warm Up collected surplus food from 6 stores of the cafes usual 15.

Best Before Cafe volunteers alone picked up approx 1 kg tonne of food that was in date and perfectly edible. The supermarkets had to write off two days (Christmas Day and Boxing Day) worth of food, this is why the amount was so large.

My point is, that we only picked up a fraction of what was on offer. Our operation is too small to be able to cope with this amount. We needed lorries to be able to collect each store’s quota!

We also had a limited amount of people to which the food could go to. We provided food for 30 families (two large crates of fruit/veg for each) on Christmas Eve but still have crates of vegetables left!

If this happens again next Christmas, we’d like some help and some ideas on how to distribute this food effectively and efficiently to prevent it from going into landfill and therefore protect the environment.

Please could I have a couple of minutes at the Environmental Panel to speak about this issue.

Look forward to hearing from you

All the best

Suzy Holding and the Best Before Cafe team