

60 SECOND INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS WEBB OF DUDDEN HILL

For Mutual Aid Food Willesden (MAFW)

A food hub offering emergency essential boxes locally during Covid-19



Photo: Chris Webb

Q Can you tell us about yourself?

I live with my wife and two kids in Dudden Hill. I am the Finance Director for a national restaurant chain but due to the corona virus I am on furlough.

Q How did you hear about Mutual Aid Food Willesden?

I heard about it from one of the local Mutual Aid WhatsApp groups asking for a bookkeeper / finance person.

My wife flagged it up and told me, "You could do that."

So I volunteered.

Q Have you noticed any changes as a result of Covid-19 lockdown?

We are certainly more cautious and aware of their surroundings and the social distancing.

On the plus side people are pulling together more. Talking to people on my street, people are stopping to check their neighbours are alright and there is much more of a sense of community. There's a greater willingness to help out. A lot of people I know, friends and people at work, have tried to help out in local schemes or by volunteering for the NHS. There's a sense people want to be productive and help others.

Q Can you tell us how you're involved helping provide essential aid?

Understanding the financial position to see how much is going in and out in terms of donations and food aid and see whether it is stable and sustainable.

The question is how long can we afford to sustain the need? To the end of June? And then whether there is enough to support a second or third wave? How long can we provide this service?

Q Are there any stories that you could share?

From the calls and the discussions that I have heard within MAFW it sounds like there is the demand and the need is increasing which is heart breaking in a lot of ways.

Unfortunately, I think this is a really difficult time and this project may have to continue.

Q How would you sum up the value of Mutual Aid Food Willesden?

“ **The value of Mutual Aid Food Willesden is almost unquantifiable. It's doing a lot of good for a lot of people. Without if what would people do? It was only set up 6-7 weeks ago and it shows how much demand is out there.** ”

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MAFoodWillesden



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<https://localgiving.org/charity/mapesburymutualaid/project/WillesdenFoodBank/>