Shoppers' charity vote at Swaffham

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SWAFFHAM and Litcham Home Hospice Support has reaped dividends from a new Community Matters initiative launched at the town's Waitrose store in August.

The charity, which offers practical support and help to long-term and seriously-ill patients and their families, was last week presented with a cheque for 780 from Waitrose as the first major winner under the scheme.

The supermarket is nominating three local causes or community projects to benefit from a share of 1,000 which it is making available monthly under the year-long initiative.

Waitrose shoppers are handed a green token at the checkout to place into one of three labelled boxes at the exit, allowing them to vote for a local cause. Swaffham Rugby Union Club also received 100 and Home-Start Swaffham and District got 120.

From the second month, the Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House at Snettisham would be getting 460, Swaffham and District Swimming Pool Association 300 and the Magpie Centre, West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association, at Wallington Hall, 240.

Currently under way is voting in the third month for the PACT animal sanctuary, at Hingham, the Olive Tree Project and a local prostate cancer charity.