



Feed Leeds Minutes: November 15th 2018 – Further North

Apologies and Minutes

Present: **Tom Bliss** (Chair and minutes), **Marie Pierre Dupont** (LCC Housing and REAP), **Rob Moores** (Growing Better), **Sonja Woodcock** (Leeds Food Partnership), **Becky Mears** (Incredible Edible Airborough and Season Well).

Apologies: **Sarah-Jane Mason** (RHS), **Mark Warner** (Plate 2 Plate Compost), **Rosie Atkins** (LESSN), **Sue Ottley-Hughes** (Stank Hall Barn), **Jo Foster** (Hollin Lane Allotments), **Pete Foulston** (Vice Chair),

Committee

Tom invited Becky to join the committee. She agreed, so was duly elected. Becky brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the group, and we are delighted to welcome her!

School Food Audit

Tom attended the planning meeting along with Siobhan O'Mahony, Emma Strachan and others (Sonja was unable to be there). The group are planning an on-line survey with perhaps 10 compulsory questions plus additional voluntary questions below each of these. Topics under discussion are Leadership, Cooking & the curriculum, Growing (to relate to the historic LESSN survey), Community outreach, Breakfast, Catering, Lunchtimes, Food other than lunch, School as a community asset, Physical activity, Challenges and opportunities for support, Resources & CPD.

The audit will aim to find out what's currently happening in schools, who's providing what, whether schools are meeting statutory requirements, and how can we better support schools. The data will be used help to inform our work with schools, gain contact information, inform the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan, shape the delivery of services, support the Healthy Weight Declaration, and the Food and Oral Health Strategies, inform a report to share with managers, councillors, heads etc. as a way of sharing good practice. The survey will be open from April to July, and will be repeated every 3-5 years.

Becky, who like a number of FL members, works in schools doing both growing and cooking requested for FL to have sight of the final questionnaire so that those working in schools can remind and advise schools to complete.

Tom to contact Siobhan to see how she and others might best be able to contribute.

Leeds Rotters Meeting

The first meeting of Leeds Rotters is penciled in for 10th February 2019, and will be held at West Leeds Activity Centre (Lenhurst Avenue, LS12 2RE).

A briefing will be provided at the Feed Leeds AGM in January (see below), however expert and novice composters are invited to address the following:

- What type of composting attendees are involved in and who with (allotments, community, themselves)
- Problems with composting
- Why they think people don't do it
- If money and time wasn't an issue what would the solutions be

Please also refer to <https://www.facebook.com/leedsrotters/>

The Orchard Project

Tom did invite Ben Fenton to the meeting, but he was on annual leave. **Tom to invite him again next time.**

Friends of Stank Hall Barn

Sue requested that the October minutes could be amended to "In spite of the Friends being offered £1m by Historic England, LCC has decided to pursue other plans for the building. To Historic England's frustration, the council intend to spend £500k public money to offer *increased road access to the potential buyers, and also possibly to re-site the public access through the site. It is not sure how successful they will be in the latter since they tried to re-site the public footpath over a decade ago and were legally defeated by local opposition.* The Friends hope to have access for up to five years, during which time they will continue to provide vital free food to impoverished local communities in spite of on-going arson and other vandalism (which some suspect may be organised to encourage them to leave the site sooner). They have been working with Springwell Primary to construct a growing scheme and three playgrounds, they have been doing some guerrilla planting at other sites, and are engaging with South Leeds hubs re the predicted drop in living standards and increase in food poverty caused by Brexit (Sue is preparing a 5 page report)."

Climate Risk and Disaster Planning

Tom has written to Tom Riordan (LCC Chief Exec) seeking a meeting to discuss:

- 1) Emergency food provision for the city in the event of a breakdown in supply
- 2) Preparation for a 'Dig for Victory'-style food growing campaign
- 3) The mapping and protection of suitable food growing areas
- 4) The creation of a Food Security and Resilience Officer position at LCC.

Sue, Rosie and Sarah have agreed to attend when we receive a response. (See also Arup Consumption Workshop)

Arup Consumption Workshop

The Climate Commission Resilience Group have been contacted by Arup (London) seeking to run a workshop on Consumption Emissions, and Prof Andy Gouldson (Stern Report) suggested to Tom that this should focus on food.

The event took place on 19th Nov, with Sonja, Les and Tom joining 9 others from UoL, (including Prof John Barrett), LCC waste management and sustainability (Dr Tom Knowland), and Arup; aiming to identify key actors impacting on Leeds at national/governmental, private, civic and third sector levels. Three workshops focused on packaging reduction, dietary change, and food waste reduction / collection. There was a discussion around the merits and challenges of community composting, as a more effective solution to unavoidable food waste than municipal collection, in which we shared an explanation of the Leeds Rotters initiative. The meeting was very productive while recognising the long-established challenges associated with trying to effect major change at city level. The FL/LFP group thanked Arup for initiating the event, and requested that this effort should continue - which, as it feeds into a number of research projects, we hope it will.

Agricultural Bill and Farms under Threat

Luke Tilley shared this

The post-Brexit Agricultural Bill is currently going through parliament. It has had its first reading and is now being reviewed, and amendments are being put forward. After this is it will be finalised, and there are no further chances to get it changed or altered for a generation. Whilst the bill could be far better for many reasons, The Landworkers' Alliance, a union that supports small-scale sustainable farming in the UK that I am a member of (find out more about them here) has assessed which amendments are the most important to be made, and the ones with the highest likelihood of being made.

They are:

- Communities to have access to local, affordable, healthy food
- Support for ecological farming
- High animal welfare standards
- Protection of the biodiversity of our countryside
- Ending the use of agro-toxins

Attached* is an email I have sent it to my local MP (First time I have done this). Please feel free to copy the body of the text, but it is important to make it slightly personalised (apparently personal emails count for 10 standardised texts) so please change the first section and final sentence so it is about your story, why its important to you and the constituency you're in.

And please send on to anyone you can think of!

*Please contact Tom if you would like a copy of the pro forma email template

Pete Foulston shared this:

A new amendment to the Agriculture Bill has been tabled that raises hopes for saving the nation's County Farms. County Farms are a vital 'first rung on the farming ladder' for young and cash-poor farmers – comprising smallholdings owned by councils and leased out to tenant farmers, often at below-market rates. They're the legacy of an earlier era of land reform when Victorian politicians like Joseph Chamberlain campaigned for landless farmers to be given 'three acres and a cow'. Yet, as Who Owns England has previously revealed, the extent of England's County Farms estate has halved since the 1970s as they've been flogged off by cash-strapped councils. But hope springs eternal. Who Owns England has been working with various groups, including Sustain and the Landworkers' Alliance, to get a County Farms amendment tabled to the Agriculture Bill currently passing through

Parliament. The amendment, NC27, is reproduced in full below. In a nutshell, it would help save County Farms from being sold off and rejuvenate their purpose, in two ways. Firstly, it would require councils to submit a report to the Environment Secretary saying how they will make best use of their County Farms ('smallholdings estates') to support new entrants into farming and promote sustainable agriculture. Secondly, it would prevent councils from selling off County Farms unless they could show that disposal was in line with these objectives. Crucially, this is about rejuvenating the purpose of County Farms as well as stopping them from being flogged off. County Farms have a real potential to become beacons of sustainable agriculture post-Brexit: pioneering new Environmental Land Management Schemes, providing fresh food for local schools and hospitals, and reconnecting people to farming and nature. But central and local government needs to recognise the importance of County Farms, now, not just let them be frittered away through further sales. **Please help save County Farms: contact your MP urging them to add their name to amendment NC27.** You can find your MP's contact details easily here. If you can speak to them in person, over the phone or at a constituency surgery meeting, so much the better. **We don't have long - MPs are set to vote on the Bill before the end of November.**

Kirkstall Farm

We understand that LCC may finally be seeking Expressions of Interest in the new year. When asked by the farm group if Feed Leeds would be submitting a bid we advised that FL as an organisation would not. (This said, members are, of course, free to pitch if they choose).

North Leeds Garden

We've been approached about a large private garden in North Leeds which has an existing vegetable garden and orchard, as well as tools etc available. Anyone interested in taking this on to contact Tom.

Allotment Harvests

Jo Foster I formed the Committee that he has been keeping a log of all my allotment harvests for the last few years which might help inform the agenda item on Allotment Harvests. It is a work in progress and he is still collating the results so far for 2018.

Growing Better

- **West Leeds Community Garden:** see <https://www.facebook.com/WestLeedsCG/>
 - Recent volunteer day had 10 attendees including three new volunteers.
- **Gardeners Question Time:**
 - Discussion paper presented – see appendix:
 - Rob to call a sub-committee to advance this (see appendix if you are interested). Key initial items to decide are the location and panel (ideally to include at least one person who can draw in an audience).
- **Beebombs:** wildflower seed bombs that we are selling to raise funds. Please help promote – they make a lovely gift! See our Facebook page for details

AOB

Becky requested that we build a simple list or database of local food producers so we can use and recommend them. It could be held on our FL FaceBook page or a spreadsheet on DropBox – Sonja to initiate.

Next Meeting:

There will not be a meeting in December

The Feed Leeds AGM is due in January, and is always held at the Civic Hall. **Tom to contact our friendly councillor/s to book a room. Tom/Becky to contact Mary Clear (Done and agreed). The date is still TBC but currently pencilled to be 4.30 on the 23rd of Jan).** (Tom also to consider if he wants to remain as Chair. Anyone else fancy it?).

To be parked ...

Item for future discussion; how can we improve our visibility and offer more support to local groups protesting developments by sending letters on their behalf?

APPENDIX

FEED LEEDS GARDENERS QUESTION TIME 2019

This document is intended to stimulate discussion on running a Gardeners Question Time event in 2019.

Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspired and motivated gardeners, both experienced and novice, with a focus (but not solely) on edible produce
Why ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because we believe it's important that more people grow edible produce, and they grow it better – for physical and mental health, for healthier eating and for food security To support Leeds Sustainable Cities Bronze Award bid To celebrate gardening and growing edible produce <p>Also ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise profile of Feed Leeds and whoever is providing the venue Create opportunities for growing organisations to promote their activities to new faces
What ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel of Yorkshire gardening / horticultural / allotmenteer experts – known at local/regional level (eg Radio Leeds GQT) Public audience Pre-submitted questions
When ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring (between March and May) 2019
Who ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would be run under the Feed Leeds name Needs an organising team – including the usual suspects even if in name only Possibly wise to involve https://ldagf.org/ Leeds & District Allotment Gardeners Federation
How ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding options : Council / Councillors / Grant / sponsorship / crowdfund If we were to seek funding then Feed Leeds may struggle as it is not constituted. It could either become so or partner with an organisation that is As a standalone event (less coordination, simple message) or part of a broader event (more publicity, more people, opportunities for growing groups – but more coordination needed).
Where ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Arium (transport issue if no car*) West Leeds Activity Centre (transport issue if not very mobile*) Council offices in city centre (expensive if drive and park) One of the Universities <p>*could be mitigated by minibus hire / car pooling</p>