



**Feeds Leeds 2021**  
**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 4:00pm (zoom meeting)**

**Attending:** **Sonja Woodcock** (FL Treasurer, Leeds Food Coordinator at FoodWise Leeds), **Joe Foster** (FL, Leeds Allotments Federation), **Becky Mears** (FL, IE Aireborough / Season Well CIC), **Sarah-Jane Mason** (FL, RHS), **Adam Ogilvie** (FL Chair, Meanwood Valley Urban Farm), **Tom Bliss** (FL, SowX), **Rachael Fox** (FL minutes), **Rosie Atkins** (FL, Leeds Rotters, LESSN), **Katie Allen** (PhD researcher)

**Apologies:** **Jeremy Iles**(Green Future), **Camille Thomas** (Space2), **Dan Robinson** (IE Garforth), **Dorota Hajdukiewicz** (Growing Better CIC), **Polly Cook** (LCC), **Alan and Gini** (Fruitworks)

**Feed Leeds March minutes: Correction re Growing Better's contribution to the Bloomberg Bid - sent out 04 04 21**

My apologies to Dorota, I completely misunderstood her kind offer. The GB shipping container is not in fact surplus to requirements, so cannot simply be donated to the project. If the bid's successful, the suggestion is that the container could, other factors permitting, be moved to the project site, where it would continue as the educational and production facility it is now, only henceforth in partnership with the hub and associated partner organisations. Dorota's vast experience and expertise has proved invaluable in the preparation of the bid, and having Growing Better on site would be a major asset to the project - so the team is hugely grateful to her for this very generous offer. (A second container, costed in the bid, would become the first of our 'vertical farm production line' prototypes should this idea make it through the second stage of the bid process). For further clarification Dorota has kindly offered a direct contact: [dorota@growingbetter.co.uk](mailto:dorota@growingbetter.co.uk)

Meanwhile, please check out the updated SowX page (complete with its rather charming typo in the url - me again), where you can now download the press release, and admire a growing list of Xchange and Drop-off sites. We need your seedlings!  
[http://www.turnstone.tv/NEW\\_FL/getgrwoingleeds.html](http://www.turnstone.tv/NEW_FL/getgrwoingleeds.html)

Oh - and while I'm doing apologies - I'm sorry the website is not very Phone-friendly. Theoretically I could make it so, but there is a bug in the software which means it crashes frequently when doing normal edits, never mind creating the fiddly layout changes that would be required on every one of our 30 pages. It would take weeks even if I made the distance, so please just access on a computer if you can. Thanks. Tom

**1. Committee business. Approval of minutes.** Minutes approved,

**2. Current projects updates:**

**SowX Launch** – the flyer has been signed off and the press release is ready to go out on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March (Done].

There are 6 drop-offs and 6 exchange sites listed on the [map](#) already, [now more]. These will hopefully make the project fairly low resource for SowX organisers. Tom and Rosie offered to

collect donations from drop-offs to exchange sites (if needed) as they have large vehicles. Gemma from Good Gym is a running ambassador for Leeds and may be keen to get involved too.

Tom clarified the difference between Drop-off sites (collections only by us - to take to the two Growing Friendship hubs, with any excess going to Xchange sites nearby) and Xchange sites (collections by us for the hubs if needed, but also directly to the public if approved by the local contact). Holland Lane allotments is listed as hedge veg site at the moment [they have since listed as a Drop-off]. Tom clarified that map has a colour key to distinguish between type of site (yellow for Xchange, Purple for Drop-offs).

The info has already been shared with Leeds Allotment Federation (50 sites). [Lynne Rogers, LCC allotment manager shared with all LCC sites the day after this meeting]. We have a number of allotments listed as drop-offs as well as seedling production. Becky (Season Well) is waiting to hear if Shine (via Back to Front) can be one of the two planned Growing Friendship hubs (where targeted delivery of seedlings etc will take place along with workshops and other support for asylum seekers, refugees and people in food poverty. Adam O confirmed that Meanwood Valley Urban Farm will be the second.

Becky is running the Growing Friendship element with Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network (LASSN), who are recruiting people who need seedlings and support to grow them, and these will be the prime target for SowX plants. This has been advertised in the LASSN newsletter, and Guiseley community foundation are also supportive, as part of their eco-schools work and Healthy Holidays clubs. Becky has now set up the [Growing Friendship](#) Facebook page, and Lucy Williams, the Veg Cities co-ordinator based at Zest and working through FoodWise Leeds via Sonja, is helping with admin.

Tom clarified that there (for cost reasons) two ways to reach a page on the FL website. 1) Go to [feedleeds.org](http://feedleeds.org) and select the page you want (in this case by clicking the SowX button at the top), or 2) go directly to the page, using the 'hidden' url, if you know it (in this case it is [http://www.turnstone.tv/NEW\\_FL/getgrwoingleeds.html](http://www.turnstone.tv/NEW_FL/getgrwoingleeds.html)).

#### **ACTIONS :**

**ALL** Share the SowX flyer on social media.

**ALL** Share any media contacts for press release with Tom so no one is missed.

**ALL** Please like the facebook page for [Growing Friendships](#). There will be events in late May/early June for seedling donors.

**Tom** to add GF logo and list of preferred veg to SowX page, plus reminder to label seedlings and harden them off before dropping off to press release and website [done].

**Becky** send Sonja blurb on Growing Friendships for newsletter

**Little Veg Libraries** – there are now 2 logo stencils available, Neil is due to start the prototype this week (approx. cost £500). Neil to build prototype, then other orgs, e.g. Leeds Wood Recycling, may repeat at lower cost unless funds can be found.

The Chemic Tavern has approached FL about having one, and The Mustard Pot is to be approached - **anyone have any suggestions for other likely pubs?**

SJ suggested sharing the details for the LVLs so people could build their own. Tom suggested once the prototype LVLs are up & running, they can be dressed up for photos to inspire people,

(and Neil's design made available if agreed). Another press release about LVLs and Leeds Hedge Veg will go out when the time is right.

### 3. Updates from FL members

**Adam, Meanwood Valley** – Adam confirmed that plans at Meanwood Farm continued during lockdown although engagement with volunteers was impacted due to government guidelines but still so important for the vollies to meet up / take part for their mental health/isolation issues.

Ben and Luke have launched the veg box scheme and also developed a winter salads offer. <https://www.mvuf.org.uk/visit/garden/csa/> They also have a lot of interest for their 6 month Food Growing traineeship in partnership with Shipley College.

**Rosie, Kirkstall farm** – a temporary bridge has been built, loads of trees taken out and a track made across the farm by LCC Flood Alleviation Team. Kirkstall Farm have now employed their first grower and regular volunteers and are looking to recruit a second grower. Developing the site for veg beds and to install polytunnel. Planning for the first veg boxes this summer!

**Joe F– Leeds Allotment Federation (LAF)** have shared SowX details and some interest from plot holders at Holland Lane site, but need to know what to grow [list now on SowX page]. Last year's seeds have been acquired from LAF and may be available to SowX.

Becky M reported that a short survey had been sent out to gather this info.

Joe F suggested some crops for pots and some for growing in the ground; examples included patty pan squash, tomatoes, peppers and herbs inc parsley and coriander.

#### **ACTIONS:**

**Adam** to catch up with REAP re seedlings from their growing group, and is also due to visit CATCH.

**Becky M** trying to get in touch with CATCH – has 2 names there and persevering, will collate list of potential veg to share with interested growers and send to Tom to add to list on website.

**SJ – RHS** doing a COVID memorial day tomorrow (Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>), share a yellow flower.

**Wild About Gardens 2021 theme Go Wild for Beetles** <https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/>

**LCC Bloomberg Bid (led by Polly Cook)** – Sonja reported that Polly, who is council lead on climate change and renewables, has now taken a visionary lead on the future of food in the city, and developed very strong partnerships across LCC and Leeds. The Bloomberg Bid (now submitted) aims to create a vertical garden inside a disused council building in a deprived area, as a productive food hub - to include:

- Commercial hydroponic and conventional food growing, plus cooking, in and around a former school in Hunslet
- Community lab for radical innovative food production trials
- Outreach using a converted shipping container production line ("The Leeds Farm Farm'?) plus an adapted horse box, towed by LCC-donated electric vans, for mobile demos. Cargo bikes will hopefully be sponsored by businesses and used to deliver veg boxes. Also, mapping and engagement work across whole of city delivering multiple benefits.

Growing Better's shipping container, currently at West Leeds Activity Centre, to be donated to start the production line (thanks to Dorota and Rob), Bloomberg money to be used for the second container IF the bid is successful, with corporate sponsorship thereafter.

Sonja mentioned that healthy start voucher eligibility had increased by 40% in LS8 and by 18% overall since Feb 2020 showing the need for innovative local food projects like these.

**Food For Our Good (run by Dr Paola Sakai, SEE at UoL).** Tom explained that this project has now been funded to develop a major research/public/private partnership; a vertical farming project using waste heat from old mine workings and possibly other sources such as sewage. This will be a different, larger and more commercial operation to the Hunslet project above, but there will be beneficial synergies. Tom, Polly and Paola are currently talking to Yorkshire Water, Ebtech, Stockbridge Research and a large group of interested parties, including those involved in the Bloomberg bid and Katie Allen - who reported on her PhD into the use of sewage for soil improvement. This is focused on the Global South, but she is keen to be involved with Feed Leeds, and there may be beneficial outcomes for the above from her research.

#### 4. AOB

Sonja W asked Adam O about the apprenticeship at MVUF, Adam fed back that the Market Garden team got grant funding for it and that it's in partnership with Shipley College. The trainee will achieve a L2 C&G Diploma in Practical Hort Skills. Will look to develop this further with the council in the future to kick start Leeds as a Growing Careers Champion.

Adam also attending a meeting with [FarmStarts](#) to look at how this initiative might work in Leeds.

**Leeds Patchwork Farm** - is developing a network of food growers and producers that supports and enables more local and ecologically grown food, with the aim of creating a more secure and resilient food supply for Leeds. Find out more via their [facebook page](#).

**ACTION ALL** Please complete Patchwork farm survey if you are a scale grower / producer in and around Leeds (see Appendix)

Rob Moores from Passion for Plants has been given a contact for Temple Newsam re his request for growing space (see Feb minutes)

Grow to School have a brilliant activity & wellbeing pack for families – download it [here](#)

**ACTION:** Tom to contact Ama to see if this can be added to FL resources page.

Allan and Tom have another meeting booked with LCC Woodland Creation. Tom is due to make 4-5 videos for Woodland.tv about woodlands, some of which will focus on orchards and forest gardens.

#### 5. Next meeting.

Date for next meeting – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Proposed dates for 2021 meetings :

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

## Appendix

FROM LEEDS PATCHWORK FARM TEAM

Dear local food grower/producer,

We have been researching and developing an idea to create **Leeds Patchwork Farm**. It will bring together current food growers and producers into a network with the aim of increasing the availability of local sustainable food in Leeds, enabling more growers, and creating a fairer and more resilient food system in the face of corporate dominance and climate change. We hope that Leeds Patchwork Farm will grow and evolve over time, but to start with we are proposing a virtual food hub where growers and producers can upload their available produce, and customers can order from different businesses, all in one place. Leeds Patchwork Farm would sort the administration, collection and delivery of the produce, taking a small cut to cover the running costs. You can see an example of a food hub of this sort at [StroudCo](#), a not-for-profit community interest company based in Gloucestershire.

**To help us develop this further we would like to hear from growers and producers in and around Leeds (or anyone considering becoming a grower/producer in future). Please help by completing our short online survey by [clicking here](#).**

Leeds Patchwork Farm was partly inspired by the Growing Communities model ([www.growingcommunities.org/about-us](http://www.growingcommunities.org/about-us)), which is a successful project in London that grows food (through a small farm and a Patchwork Farm) and operates as a collaborative wholesaler for other growers and producers (the Better Food Shed). They also connect customers with volunteer opportunities, have learning gardens and offer tours. As a wholesaler they provide a more efficient route to market (with shared marketing, delivery, pick/grow to order models etc.), pay growers a fair price, and enable more growers to start or scale up food production.

We would like to run Leeds Patchwork Farm along similar principles to Growing Communities - you can read more at [www.growingcommunities.org/key-principles](http://www.growingcommunities.org/key-principles).

**You can access our survey by [clicking here](#).** We want to build this idea in a collaborative way, and create something that is genuinely beneficial to growers, producers and consumers in Leeds. If you have any thoughts, comments or questions you can also email us back at this address. Feel free to forward this email and the survey link to anyone you know who might be interested.

Thanks, The Leeds Patchwork Farm team