



Feed Leeds 2022

Monday 10th January, 4:00pm (zoom meeting)

ATTENDING:

Adam Ogilvie (FL Chair, Meanwood Valley Urban Farm (MVUF)), **Sonja Woodcock** (FL Treasurer, Leeds Food Coordinator at FoodWise Leeds), **Tom Bliss** (FL Vice Chair, Leeds Beckett etc), **Sarah-Jane Mason** (FL, RHS), **Penny Pinn** (Horsforth Community Café & composting etc), **Martin Hemingway** (Leeds Green Party etc), **Rachael Fox** (FL minutes), **Rosie Atkins** (FL, Leeds Rotters, LESSN **Maya Hill-Newall** (Sustainability at UoL), **Joe Foster** (Holland Lane Allotments & Leeds Allotment Federation), **Emma Andrews** (Growing Friendship/ Season Well and Foodwise), **Dan Robinson** (IE Garforth), **Lizzi Pell** (Incredible Edible Moortown and XR Leeds), **Lorraine Jones** (Leeds University Sustainability Service).

APOLOGIES: **Paul Magnall** (FL, Rainbow Junction, Leeds Rotters), **Ellie Salvidge** (Sustainability at LCC), **Becky Mears** (FL, IE Aireborough / Season Well CIC), **Sue Ottley-Hughes** (FL, Friends of Stank Hall Barn), **Tracey Fletcher** (United Response)

AGENDA

1) Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes were approved with 1 amendment, apologies to Season Well as we incorrectly referred to Lemon Balm not themselves working at Left Bank. The notes will be amended to read as follows: "UoL are reaching out to student areas (see below), including with possible funding for further LVLs. Heart in Headingley, and possibly Left Bank (where Season Well have planted edibles this year) are interested..

A couple of actions remain outstanding as follows:

Action Sonja: Locations of Climate Action Leeds LVL/s to add to FL map.

Action: Sonja: confirm funding available to pay for FL website fees and arrange payment with Tom

2) Updates

Potters Planters

A zoom meeting took place in December with Tracey, Dan, Caroline Scott and SJ. United response have 2 residential properties in Leeds and a Area Office at Kentmere. They wish to develop these to include gardening to encourage supported adults to spend time outside and meet new people. Their aim is to grow edible produce to donate to the local community.

SJ suggested that working with existing edible growing groups locally would be the best way to get this project started – provided details of Space 2 in Gipton, HP Source for LS14 growing and Dan for Incredible Edible. Caroline suggested starting a garden at the area office or in the properties would allow residents to take skills learned back home and offered her consultancy services. Tracey will be back in touch if more information needed.

Sow a Row Xtra / Growing Friendship



Becky was unable to make the meeting but confirmed that an evaluation questionnaire had been sent out to growers and sites and responses are being collated.

Action Tom: to contact Becky to discuss mailing list for Exchange and Drop off sites to ensure post project survey has been sent to all who took part.

[This is now in progress]

Little Veg Libraries



LVL Funding – Sonja highlighted that Wades Charity have funding available for groups in LS1-LS17 to apply to. This could be used for LVL creation or community garden developments. See www.wadescharity.org for more details.

Horsforth LVL is still waiting for funding from Parks.

LVL Workshops – FL is keen to arrange a workshop to help groups build a LVL for their locality. Potential to hold 2 workshops; a standalone event (weekend), and one combined with the next Climate Action Event (weekday). Need locations with suitable tools or skilled volunteers to assist such as Mens

Sheds, Library of things, Leeds Wood Recycling, HP Source or MVUF. Also should provide child friendly activities so children can be entertained. Once dates and venues are confirmed a sub-group will be formed to plan the events.

Action Penny: Contact Horsforth Mens Shed to see if they could facilitate a workshop

[Following a positive response by Peter Gillions to Penny, and a subsequent conversation with Tom, Horsforth Shed have offered to become a manufactory for LVLs, as these are an ideal project for their existing partner workshops. Hopefully this will deliver a production line of LVLs, including experimental variations on the basic design, to offer to potential site partners (with UoL having first dibs on the next prototype)! Space and risk limitations mean that the Shed is not ideal for the FL workshops planned above, but the team may be able to assist with workshops staged elsewhere].

Action Sonja: Contact HP Source to see if they could assist with either or both.

[Following a positive response by Pete Tatham to Sonja, a meeting with HPS and the LVL subgroup has been arranged for next week].

Leeds Food Strategy

The National Food Strategy released earlier this year includes a recommendation for local authorities to develop local food strategies. In Leeds, Food Wise Leeds the independent food partnership has been working on the cities food issues including health, waste, insecurity and the economy to name a few for the last few years and has successfully achieved the Sustainable Food Cities Bronze award to recognise the cities efforts to create a healthy, sustainable food system.

The council is hosting a virtual event on **Friday 21st January 10am-1pm** to begin the process of developing a food strategy, which will also help the city collect evidence to support the Silver Sustainable Food Cities award application in 2023. The action plan will cover 6 key themes:

1. Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action
2. Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement
3. Tackling food poverty and diet related ill-health and increasing access to affordable healthy food
4. Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy
5. Transforming catering and procurement and revitalizing local and sustainable food supply chains
6. Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food & farming and an end to food waste.

The development of a new Food Strategy for Leeds was a primary driver for the creation of Feed Leeds back in 2011, so this development is fantastic outcome for huge efforts by many people over ten years. Well done everyone!

Action All if you wish to attend the event please email Lovelyna.Cardozo@leeds.gov.uk

UoL Sustainable Garden

Lorraine confirmed that designs for the Sustainability Garden are being developed to increase accessibility, biodiversity and engagement with the space.

The sustainability service are running a planting workshop with students during the University [Fresh Start Festival](#) at the end of Jan, and volunteer sessions in the garden will run monthly after that until the new garden infrastructure is in place (aiming for June).

A Student Sustainability Architect has recently been recruited (part time student role) to develop an edible campus project including the garden as well as linking in with other edibles and growing organisations around campus / LS6 area.

The University are also looking for opportunities to link student volunteers to growing projects (especially in LS6) and wish to connect with any FL members looking for volunteers.

Action Tom, Lorraine and the Student Sustainability Architect to meet to discuss potential input from Leeds Beckett, and consider if/how this initiative fits with the currently dormant Leeds Edible Campus project.

<https://feedleeds.org/leeds-edible-campus/>

Action All: Contact Lorraine or Maya if you would be interested in recruiting student volunteers. Also if you have any simple workshop ideas to engage new growers please share with Lorraine for the Fresh Start event and subsequent volunteer sessions.

Leeds Allotment Federation

Joe confirmed that LAF have been invited to take part in Harrogate Spring Flower Show again this year. Their stand will showcase Grow Your Own and provide advice and information for the visitors.

In previous years the impressive stands replicated a raised bed allotment with a wide variety of crops growing in situ. The group have been awarded medals for their displays and they always generate massive interest from the visitors.

If any FL groups would like to consider taking part, the Flower Show is

looking for inspirational people to create inspirational spaces! Could you wow up to 50,000 visitors with your garden design and landscaping skills?

We are offering the opportunity to showcase your creative ideas with a Show Garden at the 2022 Harrogate Spring Flower Show, at the Great Yorkshire Showground.

Details of our 2022 themes and the sponsorship available can be downloaded below, together with an application form outlining for ideas for an inspirational outdoor space.

<https://www.flowershow.org.uk/take-part>

Leeds Living Wall - A New Hydroponic farm INSIDE Mill Hill Chapel!



We can now minute an item held over from the December meeting pending clarification:

This revolutionary scheme will produce salad and other veg using both hydroponics and conventional growing, inside and surrounding [Mill Hill Chapel](#) - a working church in Leeds' City Square with a strong, longstanding commitment to social causes. Up to 3,000 plants per month will

be grown, with some being sold to local outlets to provide longevity, a proportion being distributed to local food banks, and the rest donated to [PAFRAS](#), (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) and other charities that help people in food poverty.

The scheme is the brainchild of current minister, Jo James. In the 1770s the minister was Joseph Priestley, the chemist and social philosopher who discovered oxygen, (which is why the launch of the University of Leeds' [Priestley International Centre for Climate](#) was held there in 2016).



Hydroponics allow crops to be grown without soil in recirculated water, which reduces inputs, waste and climate impacts, and brings underused buildings, brownfield and polluted sites into productivity.

The project's being run by Dorota Hajdukiewicz from Growing Better. *"As a community food grower with a keen interest in food supply chains, I see a huge need for edible produce to be grown close to consumers. It reduces food miles, preserves the nutritional value and taste, and helps strengthen local economies. And if people engage in the process, and are empowered to work together to grow food, there are massive community and personal well-being benefits too.*

This is an exciting opportunity to prove we can successfully grow crops right at the heart of Leeds. There's a growing number of people wanting to volunteer and learn the processes, and I really hope we can attract support to ensure the longevity of the project. I strongly believe that this can be a flagship project for the city, which can be replicated in other areas. We can benefit communities by sharing and donating food to those most in need, and, by selling delicious fresh food to those who can afford to pay, we can provide jobs and vocational training to encourage interest in STEM subjects and careers in sustainable food production."

Hydroponics units are currently being installed on walls and external alcoves, and there will be stand-alone towers too. There will also be raised beds in the churchyard, and even beehives on the roof!

Alongside the living wall, the chapel's starting monthly craft fairs, also run by Dorota, on the **12th of March**, to promote craft skills and raise money for the Living Wall and other projects.

The team are looking for partners in the local area who might help by providing sponsorship or donations for sections of the vertical farm and raised beds, and their upkeep, as well as volunteers to help with growing, distribution and marketing of the produce.

They're open to fresh insight in every area of the business, from growing to digital design. They're also looking for craft donations for the fair, seeds and seedlings - especially apothecary and medicinal herbs. Work to engage with local businesses and groups is ongoing.



Racking for hydroponic tanks being installed on the balcony at the back of the chapel.



Raised beds in Todmorden, similar to those proposed, and Feed Leeds' former beds outside the chapel

Action: Anyone able to supply seeds or, later, seedlings, or materials for sale at the craft fairs please contact Dorota.

Farm Subgroup

The planned meeting has not yet taken place, but will do soon. Meanwhile we have been approached by Ecological Land Cooperative who are looking for land - this being the kind of enquiry we hope the group could help with.

The Ecological Land Co-operative's vision of a living, working countryside is to provide affordable opportunities for ecological land-based livelihoods in England and Wales. We need agricultural land to create residential smallholdings for new entrants to ecological agriculture; land for anyone who wants to grow healthy food and produce for local communities. We have a proven track record of developing land into agroecological smallholdings. We currently own five sites which are home to 8 thriving agroecological businesses, which more farms in the pipeline.

Land for sale is in short supply at the moment and so we are asking for your help. We are looking for parcels of land which we will protect for ecological agriculture in perpetuity. We would love a donation but can also buy land.

We are looking for land with the following characteristics:

- between 5-40 acres
- with a price under £375,000 in total
- reasonable grade, cultivable land, below 250m
- ideally flat ground, or southern aspect (or SE/SW) ideally limited or no steep slopes!
- has a water connection
- with direct vehicle access off the road
- situated where our development would not seriously affect the visual amenity of others
- and with no overage, claw back or uplift provision attached

If a piece of land does not meet all the criteria we're still interested in hearing about it. Search area: England and Wales If you have land to donate or know of land for sale or rent then please get in touch with Stella, our Site Development Manager stella@ecologicalland.coop.

This contact followed the **Oxford Real Farming Conference**, which took place virtually on 5-7th January. Rosie attended and found it very useful and informative, and will share digital recordings of speakers when available. Check out the [website](#) for more information.

Rosie also shared the **Six Inches of Soil** pre-promo film information - another exciting initiative with a strong group of people involved: <https://www.sixinchesofsoil.org/>. Crowdfunding page currently blank- coming soon.

Meanwood Valley Urban Farm are hosting the following training workshops with the Community Supported Agriculture Network in March

CSA training in the North of England We are super excited that Ed Hamer from Chagfood is going to be offering his two-day "Start a CSA" training on 19th and 20th March - more information and tickets [here](#).



Northern Regional CSA gathering on Saturday 19th March from 11-4pm. Please book tickets [here](#). This is a separate event to the training listed above but the two groups will spend some time together - so please don't book onto both!



FoodWise Leeds

Composting pilot

Exciting news! Emma confirmed that the Leeds Community Composting pilot has received funding for 1 year (from LCC and Sustainable Food Places funding). The funding will be used from this autumn to 1) develop a pilot community composting hub using local food waste, 2) develop a KS1, KS2 educational programme around food waste and circular economies with local schools/s (including involvement with the next LESSN event, on 22nd Feb), and 3) initiate a corporate sponsorship programme to empower roll-out across the city.

Discussion arose around the pros and cons of making this be an effective reboot of Leeds Rotters, against the benefits of starting again with a new brand - in which case we will need to decide how the two projects fit, or whether Leeds Rotters should be retired to avoid confusion. As FoodWise initiated and secured the funding for this excellent initiative, the decision lies with that committee.

Action: Sonja and Emma to keep LF updated on plans, and liaise with the LR subgroup, especially re the website, as necessary.

Funding for Digital Stories

Sonja is looking for diverse food projects to take part in a digital storytelling project that FoodWise have received funding to deliver in 2022. More details to follow in future meetings.

Incredible Edible Moortown



Lizzi confirmed that the project is progressing well with the funding and she has now sourced a shed for the project! Please follow the [Incredible Edible Moortown Facebook page](#) for more details. She is now looking for more volunteers to help with the project on a regular basis or with events.

Action Lizzi to contact Lorraine Jones for her volunteering opportunity to be shared via the university volunteering platform to recruit student volunteers.

Incredible Edible Garforth



Dan confirmed that they have continued working with Northern Rail to install edible beds at railway stations in the region. The latest bed is at Bramley Station.

They have also employed an artist to decorate the LVL @ Garforth with a striking Elephant Hawk Moth.

Dan also mentioned that he spoke with [OpenData Manchester](https://open-innovations.org/) and has suggested that Eco-Friendly Garforth engage with the Leeds branch of the Open Data Institute (ODI), which has recently moved website to <https://open-innovations.org/>

3) Climate Change

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

FoodWise recently arranged a meeting between LCC's CEAC and the local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) projects to discuss issues such as access to available growing areas across the city (even short term lets on land identified for future development would be considered). Polly Cook is keen to support CSAs and will ensure access to land is covered within the Food Strategy so FL can direct any CSAs to council as well as our network. FL members attending the Food Strategy Workshop will lobby strongly for this.

District Eating

LCC sustainability team are carrying out a micro feasibility study to assess potential for a financially viable growing project with Veolia. This would harvest waste energy from the district heating network to power a commercial greenhouse for growing strawberries and peppers for school meals and a cut flower business. This is a close fit with the Food4 project, based in Brighton but being rolled out to other cities in 2023, with whom Tom, Sonja, Adam, Ellie and others met recently.

4) AGM – Monday 28th February 2022 at Leeds Civic Hall or Zoom as decided.

The room has been booked, and we hope to be able to offer our first in-person meeting since the pandemic began. A final decision will be made on the format by the FL committee on 31st January.

The agenda will include :

Key note speakers:

Cllr Marshall-Ketung – LCC Food Champion

Baroness Natalie Bennett Green Party tbc

Pecha Kucha-style presentations to celebrate the work of FL member organisations

The final number of slides and duration of each presentation will be decided once we have a final list of participating organisations, and a decision on whether Natalie is able to attend or not.

ACTION: Tom to collate a list of FL member groups wanting to make a presentation.

ALL: PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE BY THE 31ST OF JAN

Martin to contact Baroness Natalie Bennett to see if she might be available to deliver a virtual presentation. [Done, thanks Martin, and it is looking hopeful :-)]

5) Proposed date(s) of 2022 meetings

Monday 28th February AGM

Monday 28th March

Monday 25th April

Monday 30th May

Monday 27th June

Monday 25th July

Monday 2th August (tbc)

Monday 26th September

Monday 31st October

Monday 28th November