

Feed Leeds Minutes 22.8.22
Held at Hollin Lane Allotments (thanks to Rosie H for hosting).



Present:

Adam Ogilvie (Chair FL, MVUF), Sarah-Jane Mason (Secretary FL, RHS), Rosie Hall (Leeds Allotment federation), Sonja Woodcock (Foodwise Leeds, FL Treasurer), Emma Andrews (Foodwise Leeds) Alison Varley (RHS Outreach), Rosie Atkins (FL).

Apologies:

Becky (FL, Growing Friendships, Season Well CIC), Ellie Salvidge (LCC Sustainable Energy and Air Quality), Paul M (FL, Rainbow Junction), Dan Robinson (FL, IE Leeds), Camille (Space2), Caroline Scott (Abundant Edible Gardens), Rob Moores (Passion4Plants)

AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes from previous meeting** the Committee approved and accepted the minutes from 27th June 2022 as correct.

2. **Project Updates:**

- **LVLs + Sow-a-Row+ Hedge Veg** The sub group held a virtual meeting on 12.8.22 and Rosie A / SJ provided an update.

LVL Brand and Maps They discussed how successful the LVL brand had been and agreed that the 3 separate groups should now be merged under the 'LVL' title to make it simpler for people to find schemes via our FL maps and connect locally.

Update on current LVLs. We have 9 locations on the FL map and new ones to add as follows; 3 LVLs in Headingley (HEART, Left Bank and the Sustainable Garden at Leeds Uni.); 1 outside Caroline Scott's house in Meanwood; 1 at MVUF

ACTION:

SJ to contact all Xchange sites, Hedge Veg and LVLs to check they are still active and wish to remain on the map.

Paul M and SJ will work together on updating/merging FL maps.

LVL Toolkit In order to encourage more groups to take part in hosting a LVL the group agreed that the toolkit on the FL website was really useful and could be added to. One item suggested was a year plan giving ideas for groups on what items can be exchanged or donated as advice for beginners and to encourage the libraries to be used even during the winter months, SJ put a draft version together and the group added their ideas.

ACTION: Sarah-Jane to circulate DRAFT Year Planner for LVLs to FL Committee to request further additions. *Please do suggest additions and useful links, etc.*

Creating New LVL Horsforth Sheds group are still keen to build more LVLs as they need year round projects to work on. Could they also create branded signage if we provide the stencil? SJ has 1 of the LVL stencils.

ACTION Sonja to contact Horsforth Sheds to see if it might be possible for them to create branded signs and also a lighter / smaller/ LVL for demonstration at events.

LVL's not just for plants and seeds Rosie A has contacted 33 member allotment sites to

encourage donation of surplus crops to LVLs in their locality. (Some already donate surplus to local organisations addressing food poverty/access to fresh fruit and veg like Refugee groups, Rainbow Junction, etc). Rosie H confirmed that Kirkstall Valley Development Trust plans to provide cooked meals and warm space over Autumn/Winter for community use.

ACTION: Rosie A to contact Adele Rae KVDT to ask for more details to send to Rosie H, who will contact allotments in the Burley/Headingley area to ask if they would donate surplus produce to KVDT.

- **Farm /Land Mapping Group**

Adam confirmed that although the sub-group have yet to meet he now has more admin support and hence some more time to get in touch with the members and arrange a meeting. In the meantime he hopes to get them involved in the Land Mapping event.

ACTION: Adam to circulate event details to members of FL Farm/Land Map sub group.

- **LESSN** This group was created in the early days of FL to support Leeds schools engaging in growing activities. The group have facilitated a number of events and provided support to many schools in the past however current FL members don't have the capacity to *organise* events and workshops, but do wish to *support* work in/for schools by contributing to events and workshops when we can i.e with Leeds Healthy Schools initiative and other support schemes in the city.

ACTION: Rosie A to contact Siobhan (LCC Children's Services Health and Wellbeing), Ama Chaney (Grow to School), Climate Action Leeds Schools and Fruit Works, to explain how LESSN will still support events/training but will not be leading on these. Also to suggest LVLs for schools as part of any organised schools event.

ACTION: Rosie A / LESSN members to consider any changes which need to be made to the website. Let SJ know so we can arrange an update to the website.

- **Composting groups; Compost Collective Leeds** Emma Andrews provided an update on this Foodwise Leeds project.

The Community Compost scheme now has its own brand, the [Compost Collective](#). Funding has already been obtained for 2 pilot sites at Garforth (Oak Rd area Incredible Edible G) and Seacroft (Behind Trust Cafe, LS14). Plus additional funding obtained from Outer and Inner East Leeds(LCC) to hold events, develop a toolkit and new resources to support community composting.

The aim is to recruit 10+ members for each community site. Each member will receive a free home food caddy and training. 2 members of each group will be trained up as lead composters and they will cascade the training to members and supervise the bins regularly.

Members take the caddies of specified food waste to the bins and turn the compost. They get free compost, once made. Surplus compost will be donated to local food growing projects.

ACTION: Sarah-Jane to confirm with Paul M to 'donate' Leeds Rotters information sheets, etc to Compost Collective, since FL members do not currently have the capacity to organise Leeds Rotters workshops or events, but do wish to support the Compost Collective Project.

- **Orchard Group**

Fruit works are currently interviewing for another worker to join the team.

3. FL Member Updates

- **Leeds Allotment Forum Learning Day (March 2023)** LAF hold a learning day each year and encourages as many groups as possible to attend and promote their initiatives.

ACTION: Rosie H to explore FL involvement in the 2023 learning day, eg show a LVL (demo version?); composting workshop information; session on LCC Food Strategy, etc.

- **MVUF** brief discussion on the CSA Veg Box Scheme and ways to encourage more sign ups. Last year was a bumper year and although sign-ups are slow this year due to the cost of living crisis the CSA are exploring additional revenue generation such as supplying to restaurant wholesalers.

Rosie H confirmed that KVFarm are also operating a veg box scheme and signing up members. They have held Healthy Holiday sessions on the farm + other events to showcase the space and Veg Box scheme.

ACTION: If you live in Meanwood and would be interested in signing up for the Veg Box scheme please contact veg@mvuf.org.uk

4. Climate Change Updates

- **Climate Action Leeds Land Mapping Project Participatory Event** Involved in food growing in Leeds or want to be? Then come to Leeds' first land mappers gathering to discuss how we can facilitate access to land and do some land mapping together. To be held Wed, 28 September 2022

ACTION:

SJ to promote the event to the Feed Leeds members

SJ/FL to share any social media promotion about the event

Rosie H to invite new LCC Allotments Officer Helen Clayton to Land Mapping event + next FL meeting.

Zero Carbon Yorkshire The UK Climate Resilience Showcase event will be held on 21st September at MVUF. Foodwise Leeds will be attending with a 'Top Trumps' Food game and Composting information.

ACTION : ALL: See <https://zerocarbyorkshire.org/food-and-climate-talks-event-21st-sept/> and Zero Carbon Yorkshire Face Book page to find out more and book a place.

5. AOB

- We are very sorry to report that Tom Bliss has decided to stand down from the FL committee due to family and work commitments. We wish him well for the future and thank him for all his hard work over many years. The Committee held a leaving drinks event for Tom in August to say goodbye and we hope to see him at future meetings when he can make it.
- We would like to hold a harvest meal at Rainbow Junktion for FL members + others one Friday evening in October as a celebration of 10 years of Feed Leeds and to kick start some more social events for FL members.

ACTION: Sonja to check with Rainbow Junktion re dates and potential numbers.

- Members may be interested in the TV documentary about 'Chaco Co-housing' in Leeds- "33

families, one big build." First shown 19th Aug, BBC 1. Available on BBC catch-up.

- RHS Harlow Carr [Festival of Flavours](#) event this October. "The RHS Festival of Flavours will bring together growers and chefs, communities and schools, families, foodies and gardeners of all ages and backgrounds. Few things connect people quite like growing plants and cooking, so this autumn we'll be celebrating both, with our world food bonanza at all five of our gardens."

Becky (Growing Friendships) + Rosie H (Leeds Allotment Federation) have stands and we are hoping to have a Feed Leeds stand if enough members are available to take part.

ACTION: SJ to contact the FL committee to check availability and confirm with the RHS if FL can take part.

6. Date of Next Meeting will be Monday October 31st 4pm (zoom).