



## Feed Leeds Meeting - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 4:00pm, Zoom

### ATTENDING:

**Becky Mears** (FL, IE Aireborough / Season Well CIC), **Sonja Woodcock** (FL Treasurer, Leeds Food Coordinator at FoodWise Leeds), **Sarah-Jane Mason** (FL secretary, RHS - minutes), **Rosie Atkins** (FL, Leeds Rotters, LESSN, Farm Group), **Rosie Hall** (LAF secretary), **Mark Warner** (Plate to Plate Compost)

### APOLOGIES:

**Adam Ogilvie** (FL Chair, Meanwood Valley Urban Farm (MVUF)), **Ellie Salvidge** (Sustainable Energy and Air Quality Team at LCC), **Penny Pinn** (Horsforth Community Café & composting etc), **Dan Robinson** (IE Leeds), **Paul Magnall** (FL, Rainbow Junction, Leeds Rotters), **Cllr Anne Forsaith** (Green Party), **Alan and Gini** (Fruitworks), **Emma Andrews** (Foodwise), **Sue Ottley-Hughes** (FL, Friends of Stank Hall Barn),

### AGENDA

Approval of minutes from previous meeting

#### 1. Feed Leeds Current projects:

##### Sub groups

- Sow a Row Xtra, Little Veg Libraries (LVL) and Hedge Veg – Becky Mears

Becky confirmed that she had met with Pete (HP Source) and he would be interested in completing a joint funding bid to facilitate more LVLs and training for LVL support groups across Leeds.

**ACTION Becky and Pete** – carry out a consultation with the 13 Climate Action Hubs to include in the funding application. Submit by end Dec 2022.

If funding is successful the initial focus would be inviting the existing LVL hosts plus the 13 Climate Action Hubs to training to host and maintain LVLs. We would provide resources (such as the year planner) and training to sow and grow at key times of the year. We would also continue to use the Sow a Row Xtra brand next Spring to promote growing and sharing.

In the future we would hope to offer training to more groups to ensure LVLs are used all year round to share seedlings, produce and equipment.

It was agreed that LVLs may not be used much at this time of year and it would be good for hosts to display a notice explaining this. Something along the lines of “This is a quiet time of year at our LVL but we hope to provide seedlings/plants again in the Spring so do keep checking.” We could also include additional winter activities on the LVL year planner.

SJ agreed to share the LVL year planner (see Appendix A) and asked all FL members to suggest additions from their growing experiences. Any suggestions will be incorporated in the planner or within a wider toolkit to support LVLs. Once this is completed we will arrange to publish the planner on the FL website.

**ACTION ALL** please read through the LVL Year Planner in Appendix A and feedback any suggestions or comments to Sarah-Jane to be incorporated in the LVL resources we can share via the website and events.

If you host a LVL consider including a notice to explain when there is no plants or produce through the winter (as above).

- **Land Access & Farm Group – Rosie Atkins & Sonja**

Very successful initial meeting with a range of growers across the city. The attendees discussed the aims of group (supporting local organic and regenerative agriculture) and prioritising what was needed to help facilitate 'Grow Local, Buy Local' across the city. The priority amongst the group was helping to boost supply/purchases by highlighting their crops to a wide audience through marketing and an online presence. The [Better Food Traders](#) website was highlighted as a successful example of individuals working together to share crops and could be used as a guide for what to consider including.

The group agreed that they will be inviting Cllr Abigail Marshall Katung, Leeds Food Champion and Gilda Leigh-Smith, Senior Economic Development officer at Leeds City Council to future meetings to gather wider support from the council.

Sonja confirmed that a funding application had already been submitted to support food growing at MVUF and if successful this could be used to explore the website offer for the Farm Group. The next meeting is arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to look at next steps for projects.

- **Compost Collective Leeds - Emma Andrews**

Both pilot sites (Garforth + Seacroft) are up and running. Approx x10-15 members each at the moment.

Working on CCL toolkit to release Jan 2023.

Working on plans for the future phase (proposal for x4 sites across inner and outer city areas).

Also speaking with a student union group about potential collaboration in 2023.

Links: <https://foodwiseleeds.org/project/ccl/>

- **Orchard Group**

**Fruitworks – Alan and Gini** shared the below invitation to a fruit growers event or 'moot' this Spring .

**Fruit Works Co-operative, Land Workers Alliance and Bradford Council are bringing together fruit workers to learn from each other.**

**Where:** Wyke Sports Village, Wilson Road, Bradford BD12 9HA. *It's 1 mile from Low Moor station - let us know if you'd like a lift from the trains arriving at 10:10. The X63 bus passes nearby regularly from Huddersfield and Bradford. And its 2 miles from Junction 26 of M62.*

**Who:** This event is for people whose work is growing fruit or fruit plants. There are a handful of places available for volunteers caring for community orchards in the Bradford District.

**What:** Some short expert presentations, scion exchange, panel question time, and networking

**When:** 10am - 2:30, Saturday 4 February

Places can be booked here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/winter-fruit-moot-tickets-468240930227>

## **2. FL Members updates**

### **FoodWise Leeds – Emma Andrews**

#### **#GoodFoodStories Campaign Launch**

- Please watch the stories, use the map & promote across your networks - <https://bit.ly/3FI5vmL>
- Launched to celebrate the vibrant food scene across Leeds & inspire others to join our local #goodfoodmovement!
- Includes 8 digital stories and a map showing other brilliant opportunities to get involved in the Leeds #goodfoodmovement.

**Latest newsletter** Please share with your networks: [bit.ly/3BvXp9H](https://bit.ly/3BvXp9H)

- Includes updates on #GoodFoodStories, #LeedsRecipeHub, Leeds Food Strategy Consultation, #CompostCollectiveLeeds & new pledgers.

**Sign up for future Leeds #goodfoodmovement news** and share with your networks: [bit.ly/3YoOtMW](https://bit.ly/3YoOtMW)

### **Leeds Allotment Federation (LAF) – Rosie Hall**

**Leeds Food Strategy Consultation** LAF are preparing a response to be shared with LCC before the end of the consultation. One of the Federation will also try to be at the open event in Kirkgate market.

**LAF Learning Day on 11th March 2023 at Holbeck Working Mens club;** The learning day is an event for all members of LAF to meet up, learn new skills and network with other 'green' organisations in Leeds. Becky and Season Well will be attending to give a presentation and cookery demonstration.

LAF would be very interested in having an information stand from Feed Leeds if that would be possible. The Compost Collective and Little Veg Libraries would be good to showcase and could encourage more allotment sites to do Hedge Veg boxes or donate to LVLs. Rosie A confirmed she is available to attend.

The FL committee agreed we would like to attend if volunteers can be arranged.

We have a FL pop up, Mobile LVL and will be able to signpost LAF members to other project websites/social media accounts using the Foodwise tablet and/or give out marketing materials provided by groups. We may also be able to print out a small quantity of materials if your group wish to share any information.

**ACTION ALL** Would anyone be able to attend the Learning Day and help answer queries? There will be a free lunch and the event is from 9.30-4pm. Please let Sarah-Jane know if you would like to take part.

**ACTION Sonja & Emma A** Check out the Sow A Row Xtra marketing materials produced by Emma for last years campaign and update if required. Sonja to cost up getting a selection printed for the Learning Day event to promote the campaigns.

### **Horsforth Community Garden – Penny Pinn**

Penny confirmed the community garden will be included in the Compost collective pilot next year if the funding is approved to roll out the project to a wider audience. The group have also been planting this summer and the first crops were harvested this autumn.

The Community Garden group continue to arrange events to fundraise and develop the garden space check out [Horsforth Community Garden facebook](#) for details of all events.

### **3. Climate Change Updates**

#### **Leeds City Council Sustainable Energy and Air Quality Team – Ellie Salvidge**

Ellie confirmed she will be moving on from her role at the council to go travelling in January 2023. The FL Committee want to offer our thanks for her support and her work towards the Leeds Food Strategy. Her replacement will be Claire Nobbs (added to our mailing list) and she will be invited to attend future meetings.

#### **Leeds Local Plan – Sonja**

Sonja confirmed that Foodwise are preparing a response in support of the Leeds Plan and asked if anyone from FL would also be able to submit a response before the close on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**ACTION SJ** Complete the online consultation on behalf of FL, supporting the plan and highlighting that for local food growing to be successful space dedicated to growing such as allotments must be considered and provided for communities.

### **4. AOB**

#### **New project looking for information/support - Mark Warner from Plate 2 Plate Compost**

Mark is currently exploring the possibility of using waste heat from composting (or potentially other sources such as District Heating systems) to help heat a covered space such as glass house or polytunnel. He hopes this could be a low cost way to increase the food grown in Leeds. He is particularly interested in exploring the possibility of growing Avocados and confirmed that his composting process can generate temperatures around 80C.

Sonja shared [District Eating](#) who carried out a feasibility survey on growing tomatoes using waste heat for LCC council. SJ confirmed James Wong might be an advocate for UK grown avocados (his twitter feed shows avocados fruiting in London).

Sonja also suggested contacting Gilda Leigh-Smith, Senior Economic Development officer at Leeds City Council as she is keen to support innovative products and business models across W Yorkshire.

**ACTION ALL** If you know of any land / initiative which might be of interest please contact Mark [plate2platecompost@gmail.com](mailto:plate2platecompost@gmail.com)

#### **Roots Allotments to Rent in Leeds - Penny Pinn**

Penny shared the Roots Allotments facebook post regarding new allotments being created in Leeds

<https://www.facebook.com/100075641066663/posts/pfbid09jNBYgPijuQQGb8UtY9GmXRjcUdyMewHSTK4yFmTBWauBnRhUGed2LTjwWa7cyevl/>.

The allotments range in size and will be rented by Roots Allotments (the costs can be found on their website [www.rootsallotments.com](http://www.rootsallotments.com) and

**ACTION ALL** Please use this link to find out more [https://www.rootsallotments.com/roots-allotments-leeds?fbclid=IwAR378h8muA0dEPT5TWgRJqPSKI6Whayh4UyCilskYaTUG9Key\\_6O3ryacyw](https://www.rootsallotments.com/roots-allotments-leeds?fbclid=IwAR378h8muA0dEPT5TWgRJqPSKI6Whayh4UyCilskYaTUG9Key_6O3ryacyw)

#### **FL Meeting Zoom Link**

There were issues connecting to the zoom meeting today. Sonja agreed to look into on her return to work in the New Year and Becky confirmed she could provide a link if the Foodwise account is no longer available.

**ACTION Sonja** Provide a fresh zoom link for the 2023 FL meetings or contact Becky to ask for one.

**Date of Next Meeting**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February – AGM**

Our next meeting will be the AGM. Committee agreed we would like to hold in person and have a social event to follow. SJ will explore options for a venue we can use to host both the meeting and provide a meal/social afterwards. MVUF and Rainbow Junction are first choices if they can accommodate us.

**ACTION SJ** To look into options and share in a zoom meeting with the FL committee at 4pm on **9/1/23**. Once confirmed share an invite to our members via the FL mailing list.

**We hope to see you for the AGM**

## APPENDIX A








# Month by Month Guide helping your Little Veg Library to provide seasonal plants and produce all year round

### What can I grow my crops in?












Basically anything which holds soil and has drainage holes. This could be purpose bought modular containers, seed trays or pots but a variety of household items can also be recycled such as toilet roll tubes, old yoghurt pots, coffee cups etc.

### What can I grow or donate to my LVL?

<p><b>January</b></p>	 	<p>Grow micro greens, herbs or pea shoots on a windowsill – donate spare seeds to the veg library in a homemade seed packet or old envelope so others can have a go at growing too. Watch this video for some tips <a href="https://bit.ly/saladplanting">https://bit.ly/saladplanting</a></p> <p>Encourage people to donate unwanted tools or equipment</p> <p>Do you have any gardening magazines, seed catalogues or books to donate?</p> <p>You can begin to sow Broad Beans, Leeks and Spring Onions in modules</p>
<p><b>February</b></p>	 	<p>Start sowing tender crops indoors if you have a good sunny windowsill– Peppers and Chillies</p> <p>Sow micro greens, herbs or pea shoots into small pots indoors</p> <p>Begin chitting (sprouting) potatoes in egg boxes and share the extras through your LVL</p>
<p><b>March</b></p>		<p>Sow tender crops indoors – Tomatoes, Tomatillos etc</p> <p>Sow salads /leafy veg like Spinach or Rocket outdoors</p>



		Take cuttings of herbs – mint roots quickly in water
<b>April</b>		<p>Sow tender crops indoors – Pumpkins and Squash, Runner and French beans</p> <p>Give away your unused chitted potato tubers – they can be planted in the ground or containers</p> <p>Sow salads /leafy veg like Spinach or Rocket outdoors in modules</p>
<b>May</b>		Keep sowing quick crops like salad leaves in modules so you have a constant supply to donate and plant out
<b>June</b>		Give out tender seedlings like tomatoes, peppers, squashes, courgettes, runner beans for people to plant out at home
<b>July</b>		<p>Pot on strawberry runners in small pots to share</p> <p>Take cuttings of herbs like rosemary or thyme – these may take a few months to take root so ensure you have outdoor space available for pots</p>
<b>August</b>		<p>Sow winter brassicas (Kale, Broccoli and Cabbages)</p> <p>Sow winter salads in modules (Mizuna, Mibuna, Mustards, Chicory, Endive etc)</p> <p>Consider donating excess produce to the LVL, or contact your local allotment society to see if they have any surplus they might donate.</p>
<b>September</b>		<p>Consider donating excess produce to the LVL, or contact your local allotment society to see if they have any surplus they might donate. At this time of year people often have fruit gluts so if you know someone with a tree ask if they could donate</p> <p>Share any recipes you have for using seasonal produce – chutneys and jams are a great way for people to store produce for later in the year</p> <p>Donate harvested squashes and pumpkins</p>
<b>October</b>		<p>Consider donating excess produce to the LVL, or contact your local allotment society to see if they have any surplus they might donate. At this time of year people often have fruit gluts so if you know someone with a tree ask if they could donate</p> <p>Sow Broad Bean outdoors or into small pots</p>

<p><b>November</b></p>		<p>Encourage people to donate clean unwanted seed trays, pots and tools to the LVL or your local allotments (these need to be cleaned before donating to prevent the spread of pests and diseases)</p>
<p><b>December</b></p>		<p>Last chance to plant garlic /onion sets in the ground, remember to donate your spare plants</p>

**Other useful tips:**

Remember seedlings and plants donated will need regular attention to ensure they do not die so ensure you have easy access to the LVL location!

Watering - You could consider leaving a homemade watering device in the library so any volunteers or passers-by can water the plants. Watch this video <https://bit.ly/SWmilkbottlewatering>

If you can, place seedlings into trays to catch run off and prevent wasting water.

Root crops can be sown in modules or small pots to give away, but some (like Carrots and Parsnips) don't like being transplanted, consider Beetroot or Radish instead

RHS Veg Planner to help with timings for sowing and harvesting

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/pdfs/crop-planner.pdf>

Want to learn more about growing in small spaces? Check out the ideas in this manual

<https://www.backtofront.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/backtofrontmanual.pdf>

Remember any produce which doesn't get taken from your LVL can be added to your compost

- Zero Waste Leeds composting <https://www.zerowasteleeds.org.uk/tag/garden-waste/>
- Community Composting <https://foodwiseleeds.org/project/compost-collective-leeds/>
- Leeds Rotters <http://leedsroppers.org.uk/>
- Other info <https://www.recyclenow.com/how-to-recycle/how-to-set-up-home-composting>