



Feed Leeds Minutes: July 23rd 2018

Inkwell

Apologies and Minutes

Present: **Ama Cheyney** (Grow to School), **Sonja Woodcock** (Treasurer and Leeds Food Partnership), **Trish Cliff** (Trish Travel Food), **Rosie Atkins** (LESSN and Kirkstall Forum), **Tom Bliss** (Chair and minutes).

Apologies: **Mark Warner** (PLate 2 Plate Compost), **Rob Moores** (Growing Better), **Sue Ottley-Hughes** (Stank Hall Barn), **Sarah-Jane Mason** (RHS), **Joe Foster** (Hollin Lane Allotments).

Committee

Pete Tatham has not been able to attend meetings for a while, so has stood aside from the committee. He remains in the Advisory Group, and Hyde Park Source will continue to support and work with Feed Leeds as appropriate. Many thanks to Pete who has made a major contribution on a number of occasions, the most memorable being when we co-hosted Gardeners Question Time, and Pete went way beyond the call of duty and proved an absolute star!

Noting the very strong contribution made by Ama since she started coming to meetings, especially re LESSN and KIF (where her arrival has led to a major breakthrough), Tom invited her to join the committee. Ama was duly proposed, and elected unanimously. We're delighted to have her aboard, as her skill set is a perfect fit with both LESSN and KIF.

Potting Shed Drinks (PSD)

Five members of the committee attending (Sonja, Tom, Rosie, Marie-Pierre and Sarah), the meeting was quorate, and discussion took place around land access, KIF/Funding for outreach/growing mentors, Leeds Rotters, LFP and more, which is duly reflected below.

Land Access

Marie-Pierre outlined (at PSD) again the challenges faced by LCC when community groups ask if they can take over stewardship of land for growing. The chief one of these is permanence - making sure that the group is sufficiently well-founded to survive for a reasonable time and able to deliver a robust project. We reiterated that we have already done what we can to smooth this process; the Partnership Agreement was simplified a few years ago with our input, and we created a 'starter's guide' to make the process as easy as it can be. Both docs can be viewed under **Agreements, Licences and Rules** here: <https://feedleedsnews.wordpress.com/resources/>

The meeting resolved to redouble our encouragement to the Parks dpt to facilitate access to land in parks. **Tom to contact Emma T on this. (Done - suggesting we take forward with the Parks Forum before the next growing season)**

We also discussed other sites where we might encourage growing, including especially GP surgeries and places of worship. **Trish to write a short report on Lambeth (where there is a good medical sites project). Sonja to research church sites with VAL and the Refugee Network, and seek a contact with Business in the Community for potential sponsors and volunteers. Tom to research Space 2 church site from Emma Goodway, and All Hallows from Paul Magnull. Ama to research the now defunct Plant it Grow it Eat it project in Kirklees. Sonja will pull together a short article for Doing Good in Leeds, which Tom will also add to the 'Growing on Private land (not your own)' in our Tool Kit for Growers.**

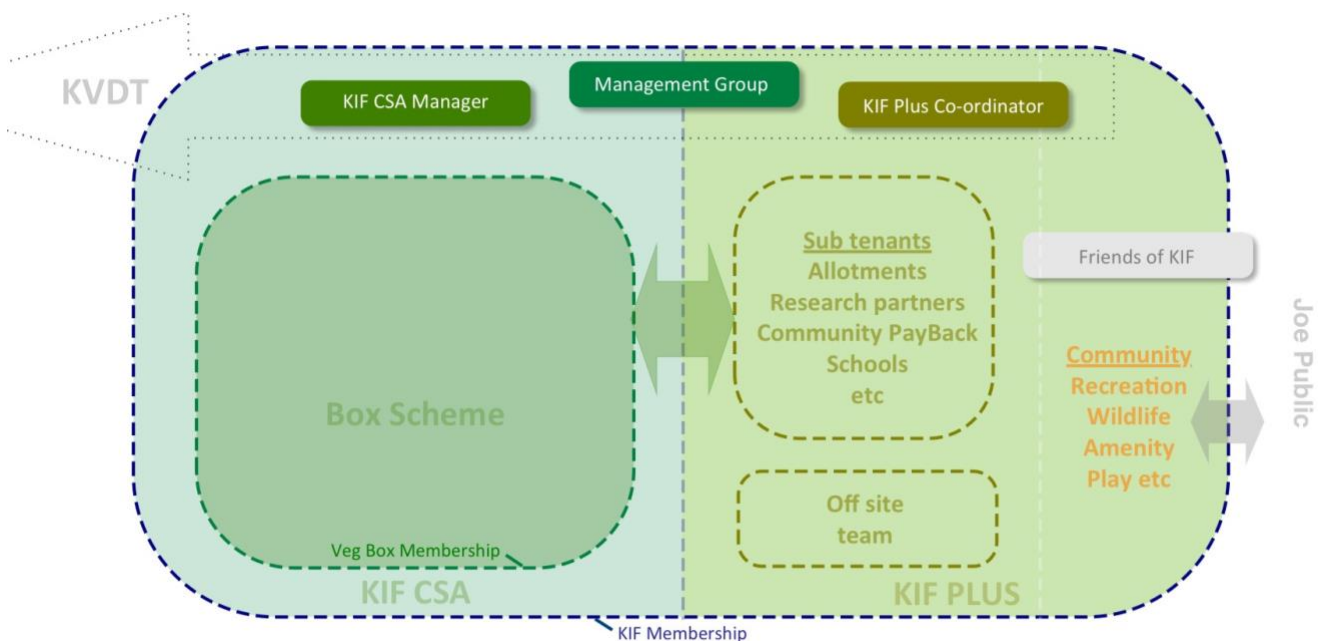
DEFRA and LESSN

Ama attended a DEFRA event about the 25 year environmental plan, which has relevance for Leeds schools within the three core strands of community forests, care farms and nature friendly schools. UK Gov used free school meal distribution to identify hotspots of need, with Leeds emerging as a major target. They have opened a database for expressions of interest from organisations willing to deliver the scheme, but as this is national, LESSN is too small to bid. Ama will monitor progress, and advise at what point we can make a contribution and begin to work with the emerging process.

The next LESSN network meeting for teachers was cancelled due to lack of bookings (we'd picked a bad time in ignorance). We aim to reinstate these when Siobhan returns from Mat leave, and move the location to Meanwood Valley Urban Farm as a much more attractive venue than Adam Court. There is now a plan to recruit a small team of outreach growers / mentors and base them within the KIF operation.

KIF

Progress continues strongly, with an application for seed corn funding being sent today by KVDT on behalf of KIF. The development group is currently Tom, Chris Hill from KVDT, Adele Rae from Burley Top Community Network, Sue Brown of Groundwork (formerly with Stirley Farm, Five Acres Farm at Ryton, Earthshare and more), with support from Ama, Rob and others attending earlier meetings on call. A business plan has now been written, subject to refinement. Meetings with Payback in the Community, FAS2, local councillors and local wildlife experts are either planned, scheduled or have taken place, with the scheme being refined according to feedback. The community engagement process proper will begin with an event in September, with further contact as part of Tom's related student project in October ('Design and Community' - looking at prospects for the woodland to the north of the farm, and Burley Village Green) - with the objective of building the membership and feeding-in knowledge, aspirations, objections and ideas from the local community (which we can finally do, now that we have mapped the project boundaries). Askham Bryan staff toured the site with Tom last week, and are keen to use the project as an academic exercise to bring together agriculture, horticulture, arboriculture and environmental management degree students, and we hope these will meet and work with Tom's students too. Askham may be able to help with urgent soil testing and ground works to mow and plough-in the weeds which have grown since the land ceased being farmed, and the planting of a green manure cover crop before winter. The chief hurdle remains the acquisition of the tenancy, but there is now a clear route towards this. This diagram outlines the planned structure of the organisation - subject to further refinement. (The off-site team will include people growing crops for KIF at other sites, such as Meanwood farm, WLAC, Hollybush Fields if suitable deals can be done, as well as outreach mentors who support schools, GPs, places of worship, prisons etc with growing, and learning around growing).



Leeds Rotters

The SFC Bronze award application requires us to up our game on composting - so we proposed at PSD that ideally we would try to rekindle the enthusiasm generated by the Back To Front workshop on composting which took place a few years ago at the Thackray Museum, and then rebuild from that base. It was agreed to set up a task committee to include Mark, Sarah-Jane, Marie-Pierre, Rosie, Tom and, if willing, Emma Goodway from Space 2 who did a lot of the work that made the Back to Front event so successful. **Tom to email Emma and then set up a doodle poll.**

Connection Updates

The Orchard Project

Alan leaves The Orchard Project this week and will be moving to Italy for a year with his family, where he'll be helping out with a community garden and doing a lot of food-related work. He plans to come back with lots of new skills and ideas next year so we have asked him to stay on the committee *in absentia*. He can still be contacted as [Alan Apple on Facebook](#), but won't be looking at it often. Alan has made a massive success of the Orchard Project and been a major contributor to Feed Leeds, for which official thanks are due along with the personal thanks already offered. We will miss his skills and enthusiasm, but wish him all the best of luck with his Italian adventure.

A new West Yorkshire project manager, Ben Fenton, will be starting on 13 August. He will have a base at Hollybush, and will continue to support orchard caring groups in Leeds and planting 2 new orchards in the Wakefield area over the winter. Ben will take Alan's place in the Advisory Group / mailing list. He's coming to Beckett to talk to Tom's students in October, and we look forward to welcoming him to Feed Leeds in due course.

Growing Better

Growing Better is recruiting (writes Rob) ... *for the future leader of our organisation! We are a tiny early stage social enterprise looking for a very special person to recruit now and develop into the leader of our business by the end of this year. We're hiring for ATTITUDE! We don't need you to have experience or qualifications in hydroponics or management, or even any GCSEs ... BUT you do need to be passionate about building a successful social enterprise, better mental health and creating a sustainable food system. Find our web site to download a full job description and details on how to apply. rob@growingbetter.co*

Tom has today forwarded an enquiry to Feed Leeds of someone who might very well be suitable.

LFP: Food Action Plan

The LFP began developing a food action plan in autumn of 2017 by first reviewing the work of the Leeds Food Audit that was undertaken by Feed Leeds in 2016. This was followed by a Call to Action meeting in September, which was attended by 30 people who contributed what they saw as the key issues, plus key food assets in the city and what more work was required to bring about change.

The LFP then collated all of the data structured along the 6 aims of the Leeds Food Charter, cross referencing the SFC award scheme criteria. This data was divided into key actions, identifying lead partners, outcomes and timescales. The SFC criteria was then colour coded to determine areas of strength as well as gaps, with green being good progress underway, orange in progress and red considerable work to do. The Food Action Plan was then open to consultation via the LFP website, initially for six weeks but then extended till June 15 to accommodate group consultations.

During this consultation process we received feedback from approximately 10 different sources, which included 3 group consultations: the LCC internal food strategy group, Feed Leeds and a session at the Rainbow Junction, part of the TRJFP. All the feedback has been valuable and has helped to fill in some of the knowledge gaps. Katie Greaves, Chair of Back to Front, provided extensive feedback specific to the Harehills area, which is, in itself, a mini action plan for the area.

While all the feedback has been helpful it has been the group consultations, including the Feed Leeds workshop, have been the most productive, as we have had the time to talk people through the process. This will be taken on board for any future consultation work, bearing in mind available resources. It was noted that the current layout is complex and more

work is required to explain the format to ensure it is coherent to readers. The next step is to produce a simplified version detailing agreed actions and outcomes that should be available in the autumn. It's hoped that a graphics and web specialist will be joining the LFP team soon. **Tom to send Food Charter artwork to Sonja for tweaking.**

TRJFP

have launched a Fregan Box scheme in Beeston. The project will enable local people to get a weekly box of good quality 'junk' food that would otherwise have been binned, delivered into the community – and there's still time to sign up, just!

<https://southleedslife.com/new-junk-food-scheme-pilots-in-beeston-this-summer-sign-up-now/>

IEAirborough

Were contacted by Simon, a German Student who was researching Incredible Edible projects. Becky arranged for him to visit IEA, Bedford Fields, Rooted and Back to Front, and also to meet Tom re the Feed Leeds network in general and KIF in particular. He went off suitably enthusiastic about our work to the Skip Garden Kings Cross.

Misc:

We had an inquiry about linking surplus food growing and cooking capacity at Wetherby HMYOI with feeding the homeless with we passed on the Food Aid Network. Also the usual half dozen people looking for employment and/or volunteering opportunities, who we passed on to suitable projects following vetting / clarification where necessary.

August Meeting

Tom is unable to make the next scheduled Monday meeting, and other key people are away, so it was resolved to **meet at Potting Shed Drinks on 16th Aug at - Further North. Tom to book the room**