



Feed Leeds Minutes: Feb 21st 2019 – Further North

Apologies and Minutes

Present: **Tom Bliss** (Chair and minutes), **Paul Magnull** (Rainbow Junction etc)

Apologies: **Rosie Atkins** (LESSN), **Sue Ottley-Hughes** (Stank Hall Barn), **Joe Foster** (Hollin Lane Allotments), **Sonja Woodcock** (Leeds Food Partnership), **Becky Mears** (Incredible Edible Airborough and Season Well), **Les Firbank**, (University of Leeds)

Turnout

Yep, that's not a typo - it was just Tom and Paul, something that's never happened before.

We considered three possible reasons,

- 1) It was half term. Do we need to switch from the 3rd week of the month, regardless, back to picking a date for each meeting? NB this means more work for whoever is booking rooms.
- 2) Tom had added to confusion over the room booking, by warning in the mail-out that there might be a late change in venue, without stressing that no late change email would mean that we'd be meeting at Further North as usual. (Apologies if anyone didn't come because of this).
- 3) People might prefer not to meet at Further North of an evening - if so, suggestions please*.

As we only purchase very few drinks when the turn-out is low, Tom feels increasingly uncomfortable (especially after the problem in Nov) about asking Further North to book out the upstairs room at no cost for a whole evening when the downstairs bar is now routinely full, so customers may be turning away because there are no seats. He's content for Potting Shed Drinks to continue as before, because we do not book out the room for this, but would prefer to find another venue for Feed Leeds evening General Meetings - including his house if all else fails (up to 10 at a push; bring your own drinks and nibbles. And Cake). **Thoughts please.*

Leeds Rotters Compost Champions Event: 10th of Feb at West Leeds Activity Centre.

This was a great success, many thanks to Mark Warner of Plate to Plate Compost and Sarah-Jane Mason from RHS and others for organising.

Attendance was good at 12 champion rotters, including a high proportion of new faces from a range of new organisations. The workshop was lively and highly productive, we had a tour of the community garden site (note new name rather than 'farm'), and an inspirational demo of Mark's Ridan composters.

Mark will be writing up notes from the workshop and planning the next steps shortly (farmers market work has rather got in the way, he reports). But already, Paul Magnall has set up the basics of a website for the group, and put out a call to attendees for content and good pictures: <http://leedscomposters.org.uk>. Many thanks also to Paul and the Rainbow Junction team for the excellent PAYF catering. (As Mary said at the AGM; there must always be cake)!



LESSN: Growing Food and Gardening through the Curriculum (11th Feb).

This, at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm, also went very well, with 6 schools attending, plus Sonja, Tom, Ama (Grow to School) and Siobhan (LCC Leeds for Learning / Health and Wellbeing Service) - who organised the event and led the training. The move to the farm proved to have been a good one. Head of Education, Robert Paige (who has been a member of LESSN since Day One) gave a great talk and tour of the farm facilities - which are improving all the time, especially around veg-growing since Ben Lawson (Bedford Fields) and Luke Justice / Tilley (FL Committee plus many other groups) joined the team.



One teacher contacted Mark at Leeds Rotters for advice on school composting as a direct result, and we also received this from a primary school in Wakefield:

I recently attended the Growing Food and Gardening course and really enjoyed it. Our school is hosting a 'Primary Futures' event where we ask volunteers to spend the morning with us to inspire our pupils about their future career opportunities. The theme for our event this year is healthy eating and lifestyles, caring for the environment and sustainability as well as opportunities for careers involving science.

We will also be launching our brand new school allotment!

Our event involves an assembly where we will discuss the main themes and introduce volunteers to our children. After this, volunteers are invited to speak to our year 5 & 6 pupils in small groups about their careers and inspire them. Our event is being held on the morning of **Friday 15th March**.

If you or anyone you know would be willing to volunteer your time to shape the future, please let me know.

Please contact Tom if you would be willing to visit the school on the 15th of March.

Siobhan's slides are available on the LESSN website:

<https://lessnnews.files.wordpress.com/2019/02/growing-food-...-through-the-curriculum.pdf>

The next LESSN event, following the same format, will be on the 18th of April. If you would like to attend, please email Tom.



Climate Risk and Disaster Planning

Our meeting with Leeds CEO Tom Riordan, reported at the AGM, has resulted in five more:

Cllr Rafique, Environment Lead. This was attended by Sonja, Sue Ottley Hughes (Friends of Stank Hall), Sarah Priestley (Chapel Allerton in Bloom) and Tom, plus one officer from Cllr Rafique's office and two from Waste Management. The bulk of the meeting involved discussion around food waste and composting, and the challenges associated with rolling out the Rothwell food waste scheme to the city. Cllr Rafique is of the opinion that central government is likely to introduce a nation-wide system within a few years, so felt that there was little point in Leeds doing much in the mean time, and our suggestions around neighbourhood composting were heard with sympathetic interest but little prospect of practical help, for a wide range of reasons. There was little time left to discuss the availability and protection of land, or the other issues we wanted to discuss - including how best Feed Leeds / Leeds Food Partnership might lobby the cabinet. Sonja is writing a response.

Richard Flint CEO Yorkshire Water. This was much more successful, helped mainly by the fact that Izzy Swift (Lemon Balm) has created a very successful and popular edible bed at YW headquarters, but also - it soon emerged - that Richard Flint has risen to CEO through the ranks, so remembered Tom from interviews standing in raw sewage tanks back when they were both paid to do that kind of thing. A very fruitful chat led to Richard setting up meetings with their head of R+D (who has already shown strong enthusiasm for our agenda) and 3 others. Tom will take forward the issues of

community use of YW land for food growing and tree planting, the creation of compost from waste materials - mainly food and green waste, and phytoremediation. Tom has also set up a team at UoL in hope that we might look again at the greenwaste/sewage soil product, which benefitted many Feed Leeds partners greatly back when still available, but has already been advised that this is likely to be ruled out.

Tim Hill, Chief Planning Officer. Tim has delegated the meeting to a Planning Assistant, with whom we will meet on the 11th of March.

Gillian Banks, Civic Enterprise Leeds (Resilience). Gillian has not shown much enthusiasm for a meeting to date, so as Lucy Antal (with whom Sonja works re N8 food resilience research), is meeting her soon on this topic, we have decided to await developments before trying again.

Cllr Charlwood, Heath Lead. Given that our efforts centre around the risks associated with Brexit, it's unfortunate that Cllr Charlwood is unable to meet until after it happens; on the 23rd of April.

We may also seek a meeting with Cllr Lewis (Resources and Sustainability).

The idea that we might develop a pamphlet with LCC to advise people how to go about growing on council land (see South Leeds item below) has been set back by news that funding will not be available, and no-one in the current group working on this has time available to pursue it. **If anyone would like to take this on, please contact Tom.**

The Big Dig Saturday 27th April

Feed Leeds has always passed on this before because it used to be expensive to take part, but there is no mention of money in the PR this year, so Tom has written for clarification.

Is anyone planning to do anything on the day?

Here is their pitch -

The Big Dig

is an online platform to support food growing in the UK, run by Sustain. The Big Dig Day is taking place on Saturday 27 April 2019 across the UK; we are inviting edible gardens to open their doors to volunteers and the community to mark the start of the growing season, promote their gardens and encourage people to volunteer. The Big Dig Day started in London 8 years ago and over the years more cities and local areas have got involved in the day and the network. This year we would love to get Veg Cities and SFC members involved and a lot more cities and local areas participating.

Why join the Big Dig?

For individual gardens, the **Big Dig network** can help promote your garden, recruit volunteers and measure how much you are growing (and money you're saving). For a local area, the Big Dig can help you facilitate and manage a network of growing spaces, map edible gardens in your area and promote the importance of food growing to policy-makers and the public. All gardens can join The **Big Dig Day** alongside hundreds of gardens and thousands of visitors and volunteers.

What support will be available?

By the 1st of March, a pack of digital materials for local areas and individual gardens to download and print locally, including:

- promotional materials including Big Dig logo, posters and A6 card (that you can personalise with the location of each garden) and social media cards.

- materials to support you on the day such as activities ideas, and template forms (photo permission, template risk assessment, etc.)
- media pack with press release template, general tweets, text template for newsletter, etc.

We are keen to hear from you about what else you think would be useful for your local area.

Web mapping tool and Harvest-ometer

By the 1st of March, a new web tool (which will synchronise with the Veg Cities website by the end of March) with exciting functionalities including:

- An online registration platform so gardens can sign up with a mechanism to show volunteering needs and featured event functionality e.g. The Big Dig Day.
- Participant dashboard including Harvest-ometer to track how much gardens are growing, growing space data and reporting on data such as harvest, monetary value, portions and hopefully carbon savings in the future.

By end of March we will have:

- Local maps that will promote the gardens to volunteers and link to existing area-based websites. i.e. we will link these to local partner organisation's website to show a map of local community gardens that will have all your branding.
- City-wide dashboard to manage a network of gardens.
- A garden volunteer list (potential and current)

Webinar, 12 March, 11h00 – 12h05

The webinar will cover the history of the Big Dig and how you can get involved. It will go over the support available for local areas and gardens including digital materials and the web mapping tool. You will hear from a food growing network in Manchester about their experience of mapping growing spaces in the city and joining the Big Dig.

Register now

at <https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=ED58DD81824B3B>

Leeds Summat - Saturday 9th of March

This takes place at Notre Dame College all day, and though we are not listed in the programme (the organisers had made the classic mistake of starting a new mailing list for GDPR, so we had no idea it was even happening until too late) Feed Leeds and Leeds Food Partnership will be hosting a stand.

Plenary speakers include journalist Maya Goodfellow, and activists Nim Ralph, Josh Virasami & Julie Longden. There will be lots of panels, workshops, stalls, art exhibition, zine fair, kids crèche, bistro, performances and more! Please share the event on [facebook](#) and reserve your tickets at [brown paper tickets](#).

Event Details: 10am – 8.30pm Saturday 9th March, Notre Dame 6th Form College, LS2 9BL

Full programme here: https://issuu.com/leedstidal/docs/summat_2019_programme_pages_05-01-1

Volunteers needed for the stand please.



Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Forum: Growing in Parks

This is one of the documents we are sharing with LCC members and officials:

https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/food_growing_in_parks/

Tom has again tabled it for the committee, and this time it is on the agenda with support from the chair, so we hope to have a good debate on it next week, and to then to take it forward to the full Forum as soon as possible. Tom had in fact requested a short slot at the next Forum on the afternoon of the April 25th, but is no longer able attend due to family commitments, so we are seeking a volunteer who willing to cover the main issues and get Friends groups thinking creatively about food growing in parks.

<http://leedsparksforum.org/>

We are also offering a talk about composting, either at the same event on the next one on the 24th of July.

University Of Leeds: Positive Impact Partners Programme (PIP)

Some FL members are already engaged with this and we felt it might be useful to others.

Dear Third Sector Colleague,

The University of Leeds is seeking new third sector and school partners to join our Positive Impact Partners Programme (PIP) and benefit from collaborative working with our staff. Through PIP we connect local organisations together with staff to exchange knowledge and skills, share resources and form new collaborative partnerships, designed to create mutual benefit.

PIP has matched local charitable and social benefit organisations with staff at the University who can provide advice on a range of professional and business skills, as well as knowledge on a wide variety of academic disciplines. The diverse skill set available at the University has enabled third sector

organisations to succeed where they have been previously struggling and helped build capacity in the city to deal with societal issues.

In return, PIP has created University research and curriculum projects and offered volunteering, internship and research opportunities for our staff and students. Staff gain insights from their Third Sector partner's background and history that can be used in their own personal and professional development.

[Download our update report to read more about the collaborative partnerships that have been formed through PIP and the key benefits to PIP partners, the University and Third Sector \(PDF\)](#)

To register your interest in the PIP programme or to find out more information visit <http://sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/positive-impact-partners/> Applications are being accepted for inclusion in this round of the programme until **Friday 15th March**.

We are also keen to spread the word and support individuals and organisations that might benefit from the PIP Programme. We would be grateful if you could help us do this by forwarding this email on to colleagues or include information in any newsletters to staff.

Any questions, comments or thoughts please do not hesitate to get in touch through the details below.

Contact Tom to be put in touch.

Project News + Updates

Friends of Stank Hall Barn

Sue's good news is that although the Stank Hall site has now been sold by the council, various delays in the process mean that they have been given a year's extension to their use of the land, securing this exemplary project into 2020, at which point they will need to find a new site (possibly YW?).

South Leeds Community Project

Tom has been contacted by someone who has volunteered with Rooted, and now wants to take this to the next phase by setting up a community garden in South Leeds, because Belle Isle & Middleton is in great need of one. There is a plot of land surrounded by houses which has remained vacant and derelict for many years, and which probably belongs to LCC. She would like to use this to get the community engaged, educate young people and network with surrounding businesses and stakeholders. Tom put her in touch with Marie-Pierre who brought in Tony Charles (who covers land enquiries in South Leeds), and provided advice on how to proceed. Tom also provided links to the relevant advice on the FL website (some of which needed to be updated as LCC had moved some of their documents - this has been done), offered to assist with what can be a challenging process and invited her to the next meeting.

Tom has suggested we might take this back to Tom Riordan as a good example of why we want to streamline the system if we can.

Websites

Some may have noticed that we lost all our websites briefly last month. This was because Tom's supplier, Easily (who should now change their name to Very Very Difficultly, in his opinion), moved their server to a new place without explaining properly that this was going to happen or how to move our websites to the new site. After much hoo-harr and gerfufflement, Tom hopes everything is now working correctly again, so please let him know if you spot any problems.

Tom is still on the look-out for someone to help with social media and blogs, because he has less and less time to do this as his climate-related work ramps up.

Next Meeting:

Tom suggests that we might trial a meeting at his house, just to see if it works. If an evening meeting, this would take place on the 21st of March. (One down-side is that we have advertised for some time in North Leeds Life that we meet at Further North on the third Wednesday, but in truth I don't think we have ever had a walk-up from this source)

Thoughts please.