



Feed Leeds Minutes: March 21st 2019 – Nunroyd Rd

Apologies and Minutes

Present: **Tom Bliss** (Chair and minutes), **Paul Magnull** (Rainbow Junction, Leeds Rotters), **Sonja Woodcock** (Leeds Food Partnership), **Paul Ackroyd** (former Manager LCC The Arium), **Luke Tilley** (Meanwood Valley Urban Farm and Primrose Valley Project), **Sarah Priestley** (Chapel Allerton In Bloom and LCC 2023) **Sharafath Ghafiri** (BLeaf in Belle Isle).

Apologies: **Rosie Atkins** (LESSN and Kirkstall Valley Farm), **Sue Ottley-Hughes** (Stank Hall Barn), **Joe Foster** (Hollin Lane Allotments), **Becky Mears** (Incredible Edible Airborough and Season Well), **Les Firbank**, (University of Leeds), **Sarah-Jane Mason** (RHS), **Marie-Pierre Dupont** (REAP and LCC Housing). **James M Foster**.

Leeds Summat

Tom and Rosie ran the stall where we picked up a number of new people for the mailing list, and had many productive chats with attendees.

Nice tablecloth, no?



Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Forum: Growing in Parks

Sending this report round has done the trick.

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

We've been given a 15 minute slot at the next Forum on 25th April (Meanwood Institute, 2.15pm), so Tom will be there to present, supported by Paul Ackroyd who was the prime mover behind growing in parks by Parks and knows all the ins and outs of what works and does not. Hopefully this will be the start of some interesting projects led by, or partnered with, Friends groups (as already happens in some places).

<http://leedsparksforum.org/>

We will offer a talk about composting at the next event on the 24th of July - **any takers to deliver this?**

Leeds Rotters:

The Facebook survey has finished. It asked: Which community composting project do you think is best?

Option 1 - 47%

Use church grounds (inc graveyards!) and land looked after by various Friends of Groups to compost garden waste. Working with Scouts, Guides and other Youth Groups to get the younger and older generations working together. Compost to be given to In Bloom projects or other good causes.

Option 2 - 53%

Turn broken green wheelie bins into composting bins. Giving bins a second life and reducing a waste stream. Bins to be given to anyone who wants one. We could also ask schools to come up with designs that could be added to the bins.

The one with the most votes will become a Leeds Rotters project and support our application to get the Sustainable Food Cities Bronze Award.

Option two having won, the team are convening a second gathering soon to discuss how best to advance this. **Watch the FL and Rotters Facebook pages for a date, or write to be kept informed.**

Watch also <http://leedscomposters.org.uk/>. **Paul needs content for this. Please send any ideas, pictures, stories etc (but no actual compost, please) to Paul paul@magnall.co.uk**

LESSN: Growing Food and Gardening through the Curriculum (18th of April).

This again takes place at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm. Sonja, Tom, Sarah-Jane and Luke will be representing Feed Leeds/LESSN. If you work with schools, or would like to, and can come along too, please contact Tom.

Climate / Brexit Risks and Disaster Planning

Following further from our meeting with Tom Riordan, Sonja and Tom met with two officers from **LCC Planning** for a fruitful meeting covering land for food growing. The evolution of planning policy is not fast but things are moving in the right direction, and we have agreed to maintain contact and

to develop the relationship so that we can contribute as appropriate. One of the officers is currently studying at Leeds Beckett, so Tom will maintain contact there, and she has also agreed to attend the LCC biennial internal LCC meeting run by Emma Strachan which feeds into the Leeds Food Partnership and any other suitable meetings, so Sonja can maintain contact there.

Tom had a very good meeting with the Land and Innovation managers at **Yorkshire Water**, where there was considerable interest in our suggestions around food growing on YW land as well as composting, soil remediation, and the collection of food waste for AD processing. Tom now has a full understanding of the problems encountered with the sewage/green waste compost project, and the reasons why this is unlikely to be restarted soon (though it is not ruled out). The meeting ran over time by more than 100% as there was so much of interest to discuss on both sides, so we agreed to meet again soon, and regularly. Watch this space for some very exciting announcements re innovative agriculture, including a major vertical farm, and a major closed loop development, of international importance, now going for planning consents - all brokered by YW.

Great to see the Lemon Balm garden at YW HQ - I'm sure this has helped a lot in terms of opening the door for FL. Well done Izz!



Tom's constant carping about risks to the local food supply from global climate impacts to the **Resilience Working Group** are being taken forward. We've been asked to help to find indicators that link global climate risks (to both production and transport, including chokepoint risks from wars etc. see below) to local city risks. Hoping that work by Tim Lang with the Mayor's office in London will help here (waiting for a reply). (Sonja to follow up with TL when he comes to Leeds next week). As Leeds will be declaring a **Climate Emergency** on Wednesday, and Food (especially waste and local growing) is now strongly embedded into the **Leeds Climate Commission** Road Map towards zero carbon by 2030, we are hopeful of good and rapid progress.

The Commission is keen to find ways to connect with all areas and levels of the city, so Feed Leeds and the LFP (and some of our larger members such as 2023) will play important roles in this exercise over the next few years.

2015: Volume of global grain trade passing through key chokepoints



A disruption at one or more of these chokepoints could have major impacts. Global food prices, supply in local markets, the livelihoods of traders and farmers, and the provision of food aid to vulnerable communities all depend on the continued movement of goods across borders and oceans.

NB Most fresh fruit and veg, also meat, travel these routes too. 50% Of UK food is imported.

We meet with Cllr Charlwood (Health) on the 23rd of April, and will connect with Cllr Lewis (Resources and Sustainability) via the Commission, arranging a dedicated meeting as and when appropriate. Other meetings are in preparation.

FoodWise Leeds and Leeds Food Partnership

The sight confusion over branding has been resolved. The management group behind FoodWise will continue to be called the Leeds Food Partnership, but FoodWise will be the name of the campaign and the LFP exercise/journey, with the current LFP website being replaced by a new FW one that contains all the current LFP content and also explains the evolution and relationship.

Tom's hasty and rather naff puzzle logo will be put out of its misery, and from now on we will only see Paul Simon's much more friendly and expert owl! :-)



The Big Dig Saturday 27th April

Chapel Allerton In Bloom are taking part in this. **Anyone else?**

Here again is the 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)

Rooted

Rooted has a **large Ridan composter** for sale, with 3 maturation bins and plastic food collection tubs with lids. Only £3000!

<https://www.ridan.co.uk/our-composters/composting-machines/large-ridan-food-waste-composter/>

Caroline reports that this has only been used for a few months, and so is almost brand new. They paid £5324 plus a few hundred extra for the plastic buckets.

"A really amazing compost system to process all food waste, up to 400l per week. The resulting compost is top quality, really nutritious, and the Ridan is really easy to use, and doesn't require any power. (apart from humans to turn the handle a few times). Unfortunately after our trial we found it wasn't the right system for our organisation, which is a bit too large with multiple catering outlets, and we don't have a suitable location for it. This would suit a school, community organisation, group of residents, restaurant or similar. Please forward to your networks. We would consider payment in instalments or an arrangement of payment in kind.

Please contact C.Scott@leeds.ac.uk 07960964650 if you want any more information, or to view.

Kirkstall (Island) Farm

The Council have finally issued the invitation for Expressions of Interest. Feed Leeds has explained that we are no longer formally involved with the project now led by KVDT, though at least two of our committee remain in that group and we continue to be supportive. Also that as far as we know no other FL members are intending to bid. The KVDT group are finalising their business plan and will be submitting.

We understand that they have also submitted comments relating to paths, fences, bridges etc. triggered (but not funded) by FAS2 to Planning, which call for due consideration for wildlife protection and corridors, and fair access for walkers alongside necessary security for the farm.

On the negative side, the back or lower field (furthest down river) is to be used as a lay-down area for FAS2 construction work (the soil will be removed and replaced), and this area is earmarked for a wildflower meadow, and thus may not be available for food growing thereafter - though negotiations with FAS2 Team may change this. If and when Feed Leeds has any opportunity to comment on this, we will object strongly on the grounds that publicly-accessible grade one farmland in a city centre is of staggering rarity, and as wildflowers grow well on poor soils and are inappropriate for top quality alluvial soil (they will immediately be overtopped by much larger 'weeds'), this would be an error, to put it mildly.

The extent of planned tree planting on the site required by FAS2 remains unknown (Tom is no longer pursuing this, though he remains closely involved in other areas of FAS2 through UBoC).

BLeaf (Belle Isle Leaf): Community Food Growing Project

Shaf shared the site he hopes to develop, which is close to the Belle Isle roundabout and completely surrounded by houses and gardens, with access only through a locked gate near some shops, so potentially ideal for a large food growing project (assuming water can be made available). It may even have been allotments in the past.

Shaf has extensive experience in growing and volunteering with Rooted and other FL members, and regularly shares surplus from his own garden in the area with local people, while encouraging foraging from his front plot. He has already done a great deal of research, making contact with Hyde Park Source and others, and is now very keen to build a strong community project which will encompass many areas supported by Feed Leeds. As this is a part of Leeds without any allotments, but with food poverty and many other social problems which could be helped by a good growing project, we are very keen to provide all the help and support we can. Paul A knows this area well. It is Council Leader Judith Blake's ward and he has good contacts at Belle Isle Tenant Management Organisation (BITMO) where he created a garden in the past, so he was able to provide a great deal

of invaluable advice, as well as offering to take forward various tasks on Shaf's behalf (starting with the ownership of the land). His wife Sarah used to teach nearby (she stars in LESSN: The Movie) so there are good contacts with Champion food schools in Middleton too.

Others at the meeting were also able to provide advice and support - in fact the bulk of the meeting was spent in a wide-ranging discussion around this (as usual Tom got too excited and forgot to take notes - he blames Paul M's delicious homemade wine)!

Shaf is currently looking for people interested in helping to run the project. Anyone interested please contact tom@urbal.t to be put in touch.

(We talked about some other things that Tom also forgot to write down as well. Sorry)!

Next Meeting:

We decided to hold the next meeting on a Monday morning, but as the next to fall after **Potting Shed Drinks on the 18th of April** would be on Easter Sunday, we are breaking our usual rule and holding the GM before PSD - on the **15th of April at 9.30 am.**

As the space available at Inkwell is slightly smaller than Tom's dining room and this seemed to work all right for the meeting, it was resolved to hold it again at **32 Nunroyd Rd LS17 6 PF.**

NB Feed Leeds meetings are open to the public. If we feel that holding meetings in a private house, even if publicly advertised, might dissuade people from attending, we will desist. In any even we will aim always to hold some meetings at public locations.