

Feeds Leeds 2021 AGM
Monday 22nd February, 4:00pm (zoom meeting)

Attending: **Sonja Woodcock** (FL Treasurer, Leeds Food Coordinator at FoodWise Leeds), **James Harrison** (Feeding Coventry, Patchwork Farm), **Joe Foster** (FL, Leeds Allotments Federation), **Dan Robinson** (FL, IE Garforth), **Becky Mears** (FL, IE Aireborough / Season Well CIC), **Sarah-Jane Mason** (FL, RHS), **Lizzi Pel** (Moortown Community Allotment. XR and Our Future Leeds), **Adam Ogilvie** (Meanwood Valley Urban Farm), **Tom Bliss** (FL Chair and minutes), **Rachael Fox** (Leeds Repair Cafe), **Alan Thornton** (Fruit Works Co-op), **Sue Ottley-Hughes** (FL, Friends of Stank Hall Barn), **Nick Godfrey** (Family Action Food Clubs), **Ama Chaney** (Grow to School), **Dorian Speakman** (LCC), **Gini Morandi** (Fruit Works Co-op), **Gemma Bridge** (Foodwise), **Dorota Hajdukiewicz** (Growing Better CIC), **Emma Strachan** (LCC Food and Foodwise Steering group)

Apologies: **Rosie Atkins** (FL, Leeds Rotters, LESSN)

- 1. Committee business. Approval of minutes. Vote on new members;** Minutes approved, Welcomed and voted in new members, Rachael and James.
James Harrison (Proposed by Becky, seconded by Sue)
Rachael Fox (Proposed by Tom, seconded by SJ)
- 2. Acting Chair's report** Tom requested that everyone share 1 thing they have been doing and 1 thing you've seen/been impressed with over the last 12 months.
Sonja – lots of activity with Foodwise, impressed by Catch Youth Allotments in Harehills, foodwise supporting creation and ongoing activity.
Joe – Allotments really in demand now, waiting list rose from 20 to 200 during lockdown! Working with Neils Corfield to deliver a permaculture/soil structure workshop via zoom for allotment members (in line with research showing carbon capture in allotments much greater than traditional agriculture)
Adam – Plans at Meanwood Farm continued during lockdown although engagement with volunteers was impacted due to government guidelines but still so important for the vollies to meet up / take part for their mental health/isolation issues. Ben and Luke have launched the veg box scheme and also developed a winter salads offer.
Dorota – Growing Better CIC now looking at a new venture, reframing the work they do and looking at new locations to work in.
Becky – Congratulations to Season Well on becoming a CIC and on the online resources being created for cooking/recipes. Happy to have successfully completed Permaculture course. Looking forward to the increase in awareness and activities around Green Prescribing due to new funding streams.
Nick Godfrey – Family Action Food Clubs is a national organisation and the latest Pantry project will be opening in Leeds at Henry Barran community centre. Nick had found the growing community in Leeds very welcoming and is looking forward to meeting more of the FeedLeeds network.
Liz - Took part in seed collection from ancient woodland due to be destroyed by HS2 and has joined a new facebook growing group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/541517886747550>. Also looking forward to seeing Kiss the Ground film.
Ama – Grow to School very busy during lockdowns but were able to develop their online shop and partnered with Trees for Cities. Lots of positive change occurred and interest in growing, city wide seed swaps proved very popular.
Dorian – Researching into how growing will be impacted by climate change, looking at resilient species. Completed Permaculture design course and looking to complete Forest Gardening next.

Alan and Gini – Congratulations on the launch of your new Tree Nursery and the Fruit Works coop. Alan has been impressed with Incredible Edible Wake, [Stay home and Grow](#) campaign. Gini has started her first school orchard.

Sue – Been working hard to sustain growing despite site-access issues. Many seeds and seedlings given out and demand outstripped supply. Looking to extend Back to Fronts great work with growing in back to backs across south Leeds. Impressed with kitchen waste collections in Europe where compost waste is collected by bike regularly in return for composted growing media. *Liz reminded us that www.platetoplatecompost.com/ offer a paid for compost waste collection from home*

Rachael - Been engaging with FeedLeeds for about 2 years now, following a food growing in school project. Looking forward to starting on the FL committee and being more involved this year.

Gemma – Lots of great thing happening with FoodWise and also supporting Catch Youth Allotments.

Emma – Foodwise partnership progressing well, impressed with emergency food provisions across Leeds during lockdowns.

James – Been working on the Patchwork Farm and looking at a virtual marketplace to share food across city

3. Treasurer's report

Sonja confirmed that the accounts have £96.24 remaining, this money is part of the funding obtained by Leeds Rotters to deliver events in 2019/2020.

4. Resignation of Acting Chair and Secretary, and election of replacements.

Tom stepped down as Acting Chair and secretary

Congratulations to the following members voted onto the committee;

Adam Oligivie voted in as Chair of FeedLeeds (Proposed by Tom, seconded by Sonja W)

Rachael Fox voted in as Secretary of FeedLeeds (Proposed by Tom, seconded by Dan)

Rachael will be job sharing with SJ

Tom B voted in as Vice Chair (Proposed by Rachael, seconded by Sonja)

5. LVL / SowX / LHV - now all under the hashtag: **#getgrowingleeds**

Tom has added a revised page with [map](#) to the website, where you can check for updates.

Sonja, Becky and Dan are leading, with Tom contributing on design and admin. We are encouraging anyone who grows to **Sow a row Xtra** to produce seedlings to give away (with an acknowledged risk that we may collect more than we can home - though Sue's experience at Stank Hall Barn suggests all will be taken). Growers will bring seedlings to **Xchange Sites** for distribution. To focus the opportunities enabled by this idea, the group is developing, under the project name **Growing Friendship**, 2 pilot **Hubs** in Meanwood and Harehills, which will be partnered with 2 organisations to test the idea; Families in Poverty and Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network. Both organisations are targeting areas of food poverty or with high numbers of asylum seekers. Currently awaiting funding outcome Awards for All. A database is being developed listing seed-sowers (large number), Xchange Sites (safe storage), volunteers to make up Growing Friendship boxes (quantity to depend on availability of donated tools, compost etc - people can also make more and give these away as they see fit), and potential new growing sites where seedlings may be grown on to harvest (this feeds into our longstanding drive to promote new food gardens).

Seedlings will be distributed to the two Growing Friendship hubs and, depending on uptake, also to groups already engaging with Feed Leeds (eg Stank Hall Barn) and others we know who would be interested such as Hamara, CATCH etc. If the project takes off sufficiently well, Xchange Sites may also share with their own causes of choice. Sue volunteered to help looking at the varieties we are asking people to grow (a long concern for Joe) to ensure it engages as many people as possible, what makes them feel at home? What is easy to grow in a pot? What is expensive to buy? It is recognised that if this scheme takes off there will need to be co-ordinator linking growers to groups needing seedlings. Test this year and see how we get on.

The campaign's already been advertised through the Leeds allotments (thanks Joe) and a new flier is [now signed off] by the group. Lynne Rogers (LCC Allotments) has kindly agreed to circulate to all allotments, and we plan to put out a 'call to action' for growers isolated at home to do the same....maybe linked to Foodwise Veg Day in April.

LVL detailed design is now in progress, with decisions soon on stall construction. [The logo is now approved, below, and a version suitable for stencilling is agreed].



6. LCC Research updates.

Tom and Paola (lead researcher) are making progress with our bid to reframe the Leeds Climate Commission's Climate Action Readiness Assessment (CARA) framework to focus on food. The CARA team are on board with the idea, it's now a matter for clearing space for a large new body of work. If successful, Leeds, with our combined expertise on both food and climate will be conducting ground-breaking research that can be emulated by cities around the world.

Paola has also secured funding to explore potential to harvest heat from old mine works in Leeds to provide power and heating for vertical farms.

Polly Cook from LCC is working with Feed Leeds (Adam, Sonja and Tom) and Foodwise Leeds (Sat, Kevin, Sonja and Caroline) plus other academics, councillors and a wide range of local groups to apply for funding to develop a major post covid food growing strategy for Leeds (possibly \$1m): A food hub in an area of pronounced deprivation delivering deep intervention

and access to social, educational space, food growing etc. The hub will also be a focus for enhancing the Leeds-wide food system, building on and connecting the food growing that already exists. (James and Dan are keen to contribute to this).

7. **W Yorks Metro Mayoral elections** – a ‘nudge’ email template is available which encourages candidates to consider including a green agenda.

See [addendum](#)

8. **LCC Woodland Creation Scheme** - Orchards and Forest Gardens.

LCC currently undertaking an analysis of land that could be used for more tree planting (which has already started - with a number of problems occurring). FL are working to promote fruit and nut crops and Tom, Alan and Gini met with Danny Smith to suggest the need to assess what's there now, especially existing orchards, what the soil is suitable for (i.e high grade agricultural land should not be considered for trees) and also take into account areas with little or no green space/tree cover, indices of deprivation and where volunteers are based - with harvest, wassails etc taken into account as these provide great opportunity for community engagement.

9. **Green Recovery Challenge Fund** - bid with Fruit Works Co-op

Fruit Works suggested we apply for funding to create a Leeds version of the Kindling Trust. For reference Kindling trust, Manchester, have funding to plant 12,000 trees over 3 years engaging over 1000 volunteers. A working group of Alan, Gini, Adam, Tom, Sonja, Dorain, Dan and Joe. was agreed to develop ideas for a bid, and then apply. Future partners might include LCC Woodland Creation (see above) and Yorkshire Water.

Tom suggested a presentation to Leeds Park Forum might deliver willing Friends Of groups to pursue existing and new orchards and forest gardens with the LCC woodland strategy.

Links: [Green Recovery Challenge Fund](#) and [Kindling Trust award](#)

8. Any updates submitted.

Rob Moore's looking for growing space

Hoping that someone may be able to help or signpost ...

"We're looking for some land to establish a market garden - anything from 1.5 to 3 acres - although very flexible and open to ideas for example we could take more land and share in return for mentoring ... The land needs to have vehicular access, access (or potential access) to power and water, be at least grade 3b agricultural land (preferably higher), and be in easy reach of LS8 where we live. (Not asking a lot ...lol!) Alternatively, access to a decent greenhouse/polytunnel - say 25 feet+ long, would be fantastic to help get us started."

9. **AOB**

<https://www.sustainweb.org/news/feb21-national-model-design-code/> from Alan T

10. **Next meeting: Monday March 22nd 4pm - tbc.**

Addendum:

Hi Tom

Long time no see – I hope you're well. I wonder whether this will be something that people from Feed Leeds (and other groups) would be interested in.

On Thursday 6 May, people in West Yorkshire will elect our first Metro Mayor.

The Metro Mayor will have significant powers and influence including large-scale infrastructure investment, developing economic strategies and spatial development strategies. As such, they will have a huge influence on the future of West Yorkshire.

We've launched the West Yorkshire Climate and Nature Network. This network is a broad and diverse movement of groups and individuals across West Yorkshire supported by Friends of the Earth and focused on putting the climate and ecological emergencies at the heart of the election debate.

We will seek commitments from all candidates to an ambitious Climate Action Plan and work with the successful candidate to ensure they deliver on that commitment.

As well as tackling the climate and nature emergencies, delivering on the Climate Action Plan will also:

- Ensure that there's a transformational programme of insulating homes across West Yorkshire enabling thousands of families to escape fuel poverty.
- Provide a world-class, affordable public transport system alongside high quality walking and cycling infrastructure to cut carbon emissions from cars and reduce the impact of air pollution.
- Create over 40000 new, highly-skilled jobs in West Yorkshire offering a bright future for young people and existing workers.
- Make West Yorkshire a greener place to live by increasing tree cover, restoring nature and improving access to green space for people to improve their physical and mental health.

What can you do?

- We want to build as broad and diverse movement as possible of West Yorkshire residents to ensure the positive changes the region needs.
- To help us do this, it would be great if you could:
- Help promote our public online events where you'll get to hear the candidates plans for tackling climate change and nature and ask those challenging questions you want answering.
- Be part of our regular campaign planning meetings and would really welcome you and others from your group.
- Visit our Action Network website where you can sign up for updates on these sessions and events.
- Share this with people in your group and networks to enable them to take part in this vital campaign.

If you have any questions on this please me on 0113 2428150 or simon.bowens@foe.co.uk

Best wishes and many thanks!

Simon Bowens

Yorkshire & Humber/North East Campaigner

Friends of the Earth

Avenue HQ

10-12 East Parade

Leeds

LS1 2AJ

Tel: 0113 2428150



FEED
LEEDS

#getgrowingleeds



food
wise
LEEDS



Do you grow veg from seed?

Could you **sow some extra seedlings** for people who need a bit of help to get them started? If so **please email**

To help more people Sow A Row Xtra **we need seeds, pots trays, tools etc.** If you have anything useful **please email**

We need **Xchange sites** where people can bring seedlings pots trays, tools etc. If you can provide a hub **please email**

We're making up **Growing Friendship** boxes with seedlings pots, trays, tools and compost, plus a friendly note from one family to another. If you can help with these **please email**

We're also finding places where the seedlings can be planted and harvested

Xchange sites are being added to a map on the **Feed Leeds** website, along with **Hedge Veg** and **Little Veg Library** sites

If you know of any good sites **please email**

Thanks!

tom@urbal.tv

<http://feedleeds.org>