



Feed Leeds Meeting -Monday 17th April 2023, 4:00pm, Zoom

ATTENDEES

Adam Ogilvie (FL Chair, Meanwood Valley Urban Farm (MVUF)), **Sonja Woodcock** (FL Treasurer, Leeds Food Coordinator at FoodWise Leeds), **Sarah-Jane Mason** (FL secretary – minutes, RHS), **Penny Pinn** (Horsforth Community Café & Garden), **Becky Mears** (FL, IE Aireborough / Season Well CIC), , **Anna Marsden-Ragnarsson** (Kirkstall Valley Farm), , **Rosie Atkins** (FL secretary –minutes, FL Farm group); **Phil Barrett** (Incredible Edible Leeds).

APOLOGIES

Dan Robinson (Incredible Edible Leeds), **Jack Weston** (Member of Unite the Union; Leeds, Wakefield and York), **Rosie Hall** (FL, LAF Secretary)

MINUTES

Minutes from December 2022 were approved (for a copy of the minutes see website <https://feedleeds.org/>)

1. **Feed Leeds Current projects: Sub groups reports**

- **Sow a Row Xtra , LVL and Hedge Veg :**

Following the unsuccessful funding application made last year the group will be meeting to look at an activity plan or campaign that can be run for 2023. Phil confirmed that Garforth LVL has had good engagement already this year with lots of veg seedlings and recipients, Penny confirmed that lots of plants and seedlings were given away at the Horsforth Green Gardening Fair too.

The group agree it will be great to put a plan together and kick start of the Sow A Row campaign for 2023 and support more LVLs this year.

Action: LVL Subgroup members Group will be meeting Thur 20th April 4.30 on zoom to plan actions. (Becky M organising.)

- **Land Access:**

Sonja raised that FL could and maybe should be more political moving forward, although we as an organisation support many campaigns locally and nationally we don't assist groups to campaign on food growing causes that are close to their heart/locality. Could we offer guidance for ways groups can raise awareness and weight to campaigns such as contacting councillors and local political parties.

The Urban Agriculture Consortium will be hosting a Policy Influencers Network Group on May 24th on the **Incredible Edible Right to Grow campaign**, with speakers (from Islington, Hull) and discussions about land mapping.

PING #7 - RIGHT TO GROW AND NEW TOOLS FOR OPENING ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND FOR FOOD GROWING AND HABITAT

If communities had a right to grow food on public land it could transform the health of our bodies, communities and landscapes.
 How can public land be safely opened to communities?
 How do we know what land is best used for what purpose and make decisions about it quickly and fairly? What council targets could be met? We'll hear from the campaign organisers and those developing tools to make it all possible. With Incredible Edible, Islington and Lambeth Councils, Cranfield University, Leeds City Council and more. . .

**WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY 2023.
 10.00 AM - 12.00 PM ONLINE**

<https://www.urbanagriculture.org.uk/projects/influencing-policy/>

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Action:

Sonja, Adam, Sarah-Jane and Emma to draft a position statement and bullet points of actions to disseminate to other food growing activists as questions for National Election Candidates re land access, Right to Grow, etc.

All consider registering for the UAC event on 24th May to learn more about the Right to Grow campaign

- **Farm Group:**

When the local growers network were contacted by the farm group and about what support they needed to help their business thrive the main barrier was around marketing – both of the products and availability of fresh produce.

Adam commented that MVUF have a dedicated marketing person who has been really active on social media, promoting the veg box scheme and other farm opportunities/events. The veg box scheme now offer small, medium and large boxes for customers to select from and now have 70 subscriptions in place.

Anna confirmed that KVF have a waiting list for veg boxes at the site, the scheme has been well promoted on social media and the volunteer days.

Rosie confirmed that the group are also working towards updating the information on the FL website to reflect the new group members and activities.

Action: Farm group members

The group have agreed our mission. Now exploring what support we could offer Growing Projects. Share images of your farm/growing project with Rosie for inclusion on the website (Adam and Anna both confirmed they should be able to do this).

- **Composting Collective**

This pilot project is going really well, total composted across the 2 pilot sites was 250kg. The Garforth site now has 8 + members and Seacroft has 25 members. Pilot project report [here](#).

Phil asked if the projects are advertised on sharewaste website <https://sharewaste.com/> Sonja confirmed that the groups can register themselves.

The team are currently recruiting a Development Worker for 2 days a week, to initiate 6 new community composting sites across the city.

- **Orchard Group:**

No report this meeting

2. FL Members updates

- **Foodwise**

Lots of great work being carried out most recently with the Healthy Holidays and Compost Collective projects.

- **Incredible Edible Leeds :**

Have been awarded a VAL Quality Mark for volunteering –fantastic recognition for the work they play in supporting edible growing across the city. At the IE Leeds group are a Community Interest organisation, they have insurance and policies, for groups to use. They are working to improve website to facilitate new volunteers to participate, including using W3Words to identify site locations and give contact info for co-ordinators.

Aiming to increase 16 raised beds to 20 this year, supporting local people to have ownership of them, to use the produce and /or adopt a bed.

- **Kirkstall Valley Farm:**

The farm now has a waiting list for veg boxes. Next event will be the open day Bank holiday Monday May 8th. FL will have a stall. Please check facebook for more details.

Action All: If you are available on the bank holiday Monday and would be able to support the FL stand please email info@feedleeds.org.uk with your availability

- **MVUF :**

The Market Garden now have 70 people signed up for veg boxes. Successful introduction of small boxes as well as medium and large. Social media campaign successful. Adam is supporting Caroline re development of Incredible Edible Meanwood.

- **Horsforth Community Garden:**

The group had a successful Green Gardening Fair on 1st April. It was well attended with lots of visitors and interest. The garden itself is making progress, TCV have put new paths in, making the space more usable and they are awaiting dates from COLAS Civil engineering company to create new raised beds. As part of their highways project the company have offered materials and to build raised beds, so the group may approach them for the materials to build some themselves. Hyde Park Source has rebuilt the Community Garden at Clarence House, Horsforth at the Leeds Mind HQ.

The group have been exploring use of verges but finding barriers like Council policies (£200 for an individual to apply to grow on verges but community groups should have the fee waived but there is not a way to indicate this on the application). Polly Cook is now Chief Officer of LCC 'Climate, Energy and Green Spaces' Dept, (merged with Parks and Countryside) so this may become easier.

- **Season Well :**

Healthy Holiday events delivered over Easter; Beeston - Hamara refugees, Burmantofts - Lincoln Green Gardening Group, Seacroft - Asylum Seekers, Chapel FM and Climate Action Seacroft, Gusieley Community Foundation and Garforth.

The Easter events were focused on planting seeds for the growing season and Season Well will return in the summer to run cooking events at these sites.

Currently waiting for responses to funding bids eg for Seacroft Asylum seekers linking to community gardens. Also involved in big 3-year project at St James' Hospital, with Adam Frost and RHS, to design and create a new Wellbeing Garden, on the site of Season Well's previous one. They will work to involve local people.

3. Climate Change Updates

a. Climate Action Leeds: Local Community Wealth Building event Tue 25th April

For more details and to register please visit www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-irresistible-rise-of-community-wealth-building-tickets-557687427107

b. Climate Action Leeds: Activating Community Climate Action event: 28 Apr, 10:00 – 14:00

The first Community Climate Coaches event is being held by the Permaculture Association at Imagine, Leeds (The Climate Action Hub, 7th Floor, City Exchange, 11 Albion St, Leeds, LS1 5ES. For more details and to register please visit : www.climateactionleeds.org.uk/event-details/activating-community-climate-action

c. Clean Air Day Far Headingley Village Sunday 18th June.

Far Headingley Village Society are holding a clean air day in June as part of UKs largest air pollution campaign www.actionforcleanair.org.uk/campaigns/clean-air-day .

Action All: If any community gardening groups would like a stall at this event please contact Joe Foster (joe.foster@me.com) to discuss further.

4. AOB

Feed Leeds Mission Statement – have your say before next FL meeting 19th June.

The committee voted to refresh the current mission statement and calls to the members for ideas on what Feed Leeds means to them. Our current statement is “Feed Leeds is a network of individuals and organisations working in partnership to support local food growing for its social, economic, environmental and health benefits, and to promote healthy, sustainable and affordable food in Leeds.”

Action All: Please add your ideas to our virtual brainstorm <https://flinga.fi/s/FPZNFM6>

Don't forget Kirkstall Valley Farm – open day now May 8th

This will be open to members of the public and all our volunteers and members of Kirkstall valley Development Trust. FL will have a stall there.

Food Aid - Network meeting update.

Sonja confirmed that at the last food aid network meeting the idea of linking food aid providers and allotments was raised, allowing allotments and community gardens to donate surplus produce to food aid projects. We are already aware of some local informal arrangements happening already in the city (Horsforth Community Garden donating produce to Community Café, Allotments donating to local providers, MVUF offers surplus to Rainbow Junction) and a project in [Hull](#) already running. We would hope to replicate in Leeds if suitable Food Hubs can be created. Zest Mens Pie Club would be a good group to start with.

At the meeting food aid providers that serve meals, such as the Seventh Day Adventists, were

more interested as they would then cook/prepare the produce. Formal foodbanks are less interested as they don't have storage. Also the produce would be available in the summer and autumn / harvest gluts, so it wouldn't be a regular supply.

Actions

Sonja to explore existing relationships, potential growers and the food aid projects locally to see if a pilot can be started.

Sonja and Becky will apply for funding for a pilot project in the Guiseley area.

ALL If your project would like to be involved or you would like more information, please contact Sonja.woodcock@zestleeds.org.uk

Kirkstall Development Trust Matthew Hill Sustainability Fund

Small grants of £500 to £2,500 for projects and activities that contribute to improving the sustainability of Headingley and the local community. For more information, including the application form, see: <http://zch.hdtleeds.org.uk/2023/04/18/matt-hill-sustainability-fund/>

Leeds Friends of the Earth – Warm homes campaign #United For Warm Homes

Mary Clayton (Leeds Friends of the Earth) contacted us to highlight the warm homes campaign which FL members might be interested in supporting:-

- Urgent support for people dealing with sky-high energy bills.
- A new emergency programme to insulate our homes
- An energy system powered by cheap, green renewables.

FoE have a petition for individuals to sign which will go to local MPs in the autumn.:

See <https://groups.friendsoftheearth.uk/take-action/our-campaigns>

5. Date of Next meeting:

Our next meeting will be held on **Monday 19th June** – we plan to hold an in person meeting. Venue TBC.

We are also looking for a group to host our August 21st meeting – below are some things to consider if you would like to host our meeting at your site.

1. What is the address of your site? *Is it easy to find, do we need to give any additional directions?*
2. Is there parking on street / nearby? *If we need to give instructions for parking please advise*
3. Is there somewhere we could sit for a meeting, and a covered area on site in case of bad weather (for up to 10 people)
4. Are you able to provide a tour of the site to share more about the project development and your plans for the space
5. Can you make refreshments on site i.e tea/coffees for attendees *Not a problem if not, we can ask people to bring their own drinks*

Other dates for your diary

8th May Kirkstall Valley Farm Open day (rearranged from 22nd April)

<https://kirkstallvalleyfarm.org.uk/>

10-18th June Great Big Green Week – The Climate Coalition

Join the UK's biggest ever celebration of Community Action to tackle Climate Change and Protect Nature. See website for more details and to register events

<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

Clean Air Day Far Headingley Village Sunday 18th June

www.actionforcleanair.org.uk/campaigns/clean-air-day