



Feed Leeds Teams Meeting Monday 18th November at 4pm (by teams)

ATTENDEES

Rob Moores (FL Chair, Passion4Plants), **Rosie Atkins** (FL secretary –minutes, FL Farm group), **Sonja Woodcock** (FL Treasurer, Leeds Food Coordinator at FoodWise Leeds), **Adam Ogilvie** (FL, MVUF), **Penny Pinn** (FL, Horsforth Community Café & Garden), **Sarah-Jane Mason** (FL secretary – minutes, RHS) , **Gemma Hoban** (Incredible Edible Leeds), **Alison Varley** (RHS Community Outreach), **Jo Cartwright** (Swillington Organic Farm), **Ed Elcock** (FL, Yorkshire Mushroom Emporium); **Ama Chaney** (FL, Grow to School), **Lynn Brown** (IE Meanwood, Beckett Community Gardens), **Harry Fenton** (Age UK 'Ways to Wellbeing', former organic farmer), **Jenny Lawrence** (Kirkstall Valley Farm), **Siobhan Maguire** (Leeds University Sustainability Project Officer)

APOLOGIES

Dan Robinson (FL, Incredible Edible Leeds), **Becky Mears** (FL, IE Aireborough / Season Well CIC), **Alan Thornton** and **Virginia Morandi** (Ginny) (Fruitworks coop), **Paul Magnall** (FL, Rainbow Junktion), **Camille Thomas** (FL, Space2), **Rosie Hall** (FL, LAF Secretary), **Clarrie Ramsden** (FL, Climate Action Seacroft)

AGENDA

Approval of minutes from last meeting (for a copy of the minutes see website <https://feedleeds.org/>)

Two amends as follows:

1. FROM:

The group are also part of the Compost Collective Pilot project and have 3 compost bins on site as well as others at West End School and Inspiration Nursery, and at Drury fields (a green space near a local housing estate). They already have over 31 people signed up for their latest composting site. Horsforth Climate Action supported this project further by funding compost caddies to be given to parents to collect compost at home to bring to the community compost bins.

TO:

Horsforth Community Garden has 3 compost bins. In addition, the Compost Collective Horsforth has community composting bins at West End School/ Inspiration Nursery, funded through Compost Collective Leeds/Zest and a trial site funded through Horsforth Climate Action, supported by Compost Collective Leeds, on Drury Field (a green space near a local housing estate) with 23 members.

This is the first time that Leeds Parks and Countryside have agreed to site a community composting project on their land. The 3 months trial lasts until mid November. So far it has been successful, with none of the problems LCC were concerned about, eg vandalism, litter, rats.

Horsforth Climate Action supported the West End project by funding 20 more compost caddies to be given to school parents to help collect compost at home to bring to the community compost bins.

2. FROM:

Alongside this project the RHS have been developing a Food for Thought network - working with growing groups around the hospital offering workshops and training to help them create new spaces or develop skills <https://eastsidestory.uk/2024/06/15/new-herb-garden-brings-people-together-in-harehills/> There have been a range of seasonal workshops offered covering a variety of topics; RHS led workshops on growing herbs, making terrariums, seasonal wreaths, provided a Tour of the Kitchen Garden at Harlow Carr with Joe Lofthouse, Edibles Team Leader. Camille from Space 2 and Gipton Growers delivered workshops on composting, Becky from Season Well delivered cookery workshops.

TO:

Alongside this project the RHS have been developing a Food for Thought network - working with growing groups around the hospital offering workshops and training to help them create new spaces or develop skills <https://eastsidestory.uk/2024/06/15/new-herb-garden-brings-people-together-in-harehills/>. RHS partnered with Season Well to co design and deliver a series of seasonal skill share workshops. These covered a variety of topics including winter fruit tree pruning from Fruit Works, how to make a Little Veg Library, composting with Camille from Gipton growers, spring bulb planting and preserving the harvest with Season Well. RHS provided a Tour of the Kitchen Garden at Harlow Carr with Joe Lofthouse, Edibles Team Leader which the groups found very useful.

ACTION SJ Update the minutes and upload to the website

1. Feed Leeds Current projects

Get Growing Leeds Campaign (inc LVL and Sow a Row Xtra) – SJ on behalf of Becky

Two new LVLs have been created and installed by community gardening groups in Leeds, these have been added to the Get Growing Leeds map and are located at Horsforth Community Garden and Beckhill Community Garden.

“Get Growing” campaign - following the successful distribution of vegetable, herb and fruit seedlings to Community Gardens in spring we are celebrating the new growers with 'Get Growing' Autumn Virtual Celebrations on facebook and through seasonal recipes sharing via Foodwise Recipe Hub <https://foodwiseleeds.org/recipe-hub/> The group are keen to start planning for next year and hope to support many more new growers in 2025.

Farm Group – Rosie

A successful workshop was held in October to discuss developing a food supply system for beans from Northern eco-agricultural farms; it was attended by 40 people including the Feed Leeds Farm Group, farmers, University researchers, food campaigners, Leeds City Council Procurement staff and Josiah from Hobmedods*.

The core group are going to visit key staff at Hobmedods in January so they can carry out further research and discussions on the crops, facilities and supply chains.

*Hobmedod were founded in 2012 to supply beans and other products from British farms. They work with British farms to source a range of top-quality ingredients and delicious foods.

Feed Leeds Consultation –Ed, Rob and Rosie.

Rob gave an update on the 26 responses received and thanked those people who took part. The responses gave some good insights into what our members and wider network of community growers would like in the future. He will call a meeting to analyse and discuss these further, to help prioritise the future development of Feed Leeds.

2. FL Members updates

I) **Horsforth Community Garden** Penny Pinn:

The Community Garden is being officially opened on 22nd March 2025 by the Lord Mayor, Abigail Marshall Katung. The new Community Composting site on Drury Fields was approved by LCC, after the trial period. They have a new LVL too.

II) **Swillington Farm CSA** Jo Cartwright:

Jo recently held a 'Farming for the Future' meeting with Sebastian from Northumbria University, to explore appropriate, innovative low-tech support for small scale Northern farms. Approx 25 farms are involved in the research, carrying out pilots across the region. Swillington may trial hotbed and irrigation technologies over a one year period to help the University to gather evidence for a longer 3 year research project.

They have a share farmer joining them in January 2025 to take on the growing side of the farm, gradually taking over from Jo. The grower is Michael Leddy, he has previously grown at The Organic Pantry and is currently Head Grower at an organic veg farm in Cornwall. Jo also hopes to add other share farmers next year to take on poultry (meat) and sheep. Cattle are proving more difficult!

They are looking to expand the CSA membership and are aiming for 100 members and considering further expansion to supply local cafes.

III) **Incredible Edible Leeds (IELeeds)** Gemma Hoban:

Three new IELeeds groups are establishing now with a potential fourth making enquiries. The Leeds University Sustainability Garden (led by Caroline Scott) will also become part of IELeeds. The Feed Leeds committee were sorry to hear that Gemma's funded co-ordinator role will end at end of December. She confirmed that she will remain in touch with FL and will still be completing work for IELeeds just not as their coordinator.

IV) **York Mushroom Emporium** Ed Elcock:

Ed confirmed that he has achieved longer term funding so that he and his business partner Niall can work full time on Yorkshire Mushroom Emporium. (Thanks to a start up grant and 50% Leeds Ad:venture Grant from LCC for capital expenses). They aim to expand on their Mushroom Kits by offering cultivation workshops – see the website for more details and dates in 2025 <https://yorkshinemushroomemporium.co.uk/pages/educational-experiences-in-leeds>. They will also continue to expand supply Leeds restaurants and outlets; they already have a number of positive relationships in place and would be willing to share contacts with other market garden or small growers.

V) **Grow to School** Ama Chaney:

Grow to School have been working with more and more schools. They are working with 2 local programmes:

School Food Matters Young Marketeers Programme in Bradford

<https://www.schoolfoodmatters.org/what-we-do/projects/food-education/young-marketeers>.

Children are learning entrepreneurial skills and confidence.

Good Food For All Kirklees <https://goodfoodforallkirklees.org.uk/> and will meet with Pete from HP Source to discuss if Right to Grow might be suitable for Kirklees.

Ama also recommends "3 Acres and a Cow" if you get a chance to see a showing.

VI) **Meanwood Valley Urban Farm (MVUF)** Adam Ogilvie:

There have been some staffing changes at the Market Garden; Ben recently moved on so Angharad, Jen and Lou are the 3 main growers, supplying crops for the Veg Box Scheme <https://www.mvuf.org.uk/garden/csa/veg-box-scheme-before-you-sign-up/>. Consideration is being given to an educational aspect for the Market Garden and discussions around how the visitors' experience can include the space.

MVUF Christmas Fair to be held on 14th December 10am-3pm

MVUF are recruiting for a Livestock and Small Animal Assistant (weekends only)

<https://www.mvuf.org.uk/news/>

VII) **Foodwise Leeds** Sonja Woodcock:

Sonja attended a meeting in Westminster, lobbying MPs, including Alex Sobel, about sustainable food growing, land access and food security. Sonja is also meeting Leeds University Farm staff to input to their Sustainability Plan, aiming for the farm to be an asset for the city. She is continuing her work on Procurement of local produce to increase local produce being used across the city.

VIII) **Age UK 'Ways to Wellbeing'** Harry Fenton:

Harry is interested in setting up a 12-week growing programme for (mostly vulnerable) people aged 50+ referred from Age UK to help those with isolation and/or longer-term health issues improve their wellbeing, after which the participants would be referred to other support as appropriate. He discussed the use of a small area of land with Kirkstall Valley Farm and was considering growing cut flowers as an additional crop for the farm. He is looking for volunteers to support the sessions; anyone interested can contact him on harry.fenton@ageukleeds.org.uk

IX) **Kirkstall Valley Farm** Jenny Lawrence:

Rhian, the head grower is aiming to produce 130 veg boxes each week (currently 127) and to continue the boxes over the winter (when there has tended to be a reduction of members) and into the 'hungry gap', by buying in when necessary. The farm has increasing numbers of volunteers working on site and supporting the veg box scheme.

The team are aiming to increase the diversity of people who visit and access the space and recently held one day events, such as a 'Pick, Cook, Eat' day with local refugee groups. Rhian is also keen to develop a Community Kitchen on site.

Following the work of the Flood Prevention Team, an issue has been identified with degraded soil on the field.

X) **Beckhill Community Gardens** Lynn Brown:

This new community garden has been developed over 7 months by residents, who obtained funding to clear an area of land used as a "dumping ground" in the Beckhill Estate. They have built 8 raised beds, planted fruit trees and started growing food. It's been a huge success and transformed a difficult area. Recently spring bulbs have been planted and more residents have got involved in researching the history of the site. Leeds CC have not been able to contribute funds but have supported the garden creation in principle.

3. AOB

Univ of Leeds MSc research projects - call for projects of reciprocal benefit to the MSc students and your organisation. At this stage all they need is a couple of project ideas/ topics you're interested in, that can address a challenge/ knowledge gap you have in your organisation, and of a scope suitable to an MSc research project. The University academic staff will act as the supervisors so you don't need to worry about that aspect, and students will work full time on

their projects from June to August 2025. Please email Sonja if you are interested in learning more or have a project idea to discuss sonja.woodcock@zestleeds.org.uk.

Regional Food Hub Programme - cultivating local food systems webinar. Rob Moores reported on this webinar he attended. The group were offering 12 months mentoring support for managers wishing to set up a Food Hub, although applications have now been submitted if you are interested in learning more please contact Lois Gallimore "BetterFoodTraders" Food Hubs Support Programme Manager & SW Regional Coordinator for more info lois@betterfoodtraders.org.

Planning for AGM on Monday 24th Feb. Sonja will co-ordinate this.

Date now confirmed and meeting room and caterers booked at Eco Centre, MVUF. We need to set up Eventbrite and arrange for promotion.

The Award categories for 2025 will be reviewed and revised and promoted in the New Year. Award titles from Feb 24 AGM:

- Outstanding Community Champion
- Best Food Growing Initiative
- Community Composting
- Most Enthusiastic Young Gardener
- Best Local Business Supporting Local Sustainable Food Growing

It was suggested a new award might be for School Food Growing.

FL Website Update: Paul Magnall is the website manager. He has sent a proposal to Sonja, who will arrange a meeting of FL members who are interested to discuss further. Sonja will apply to Climate Action Leeds for funding for the work.

ACTION ALL

Please contact Sonja if you are interested in being involved in the website development and discussions.

If anyone wishes to comment or raise any issues/changes with the website please add details to this spreadsheet https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1p28NSs6O-m5vhlKgBr-qi-HFmzBCFaasNCSuE2TBB_E/edit?usp=sharing

Building Capacity in Food Growing Networks: Sonja has arranged a meeting on Weds 4th Dec from 2pm for all interested parties – the meeting will be held at the new "Imagine Leeds" Climate Action venue, 9 Blenheim Terrace, LS2 9HZ. This venue will have meeting rooms we can use for the next 6 months.

Just One More (veg) campaign 2025. (LCC Food Strategy) Activity week planned for 19th– 23rd May 2025 followed by a month long awareness and engagement campaign until the 27th June (with a closing activity tbc). The campaign will feature seasonal reminders in Autumn 25, Winter 25 and Spring 26 to keep the campaign momentum throughout the year.

ACTION ALL Please consider getting involved, add the dates to your diaries and contact Emma Strachan LCC Health Improvement Specialist (Food and Nutrition) emma.strachan@leeds.gov.uk if you can have any ideas for the campaign resources/promo or would like to share any photos.

- Upload any veggie packed recipes to the FoodWise website here: <https://foodwiseleeds.org/recipe-hub/> It's really simple to do and shouldn't take longer than 5-10mins per recipe. Please ask partners who are aware have recipes to do this too.
- If you can share images of local people with vegetables, growing vegetables, eating vegetables, buying vegetables etc. these would be much appreciated
- Finally, if you have any ideas on resources or poster requests for a specific audience, please let me know as I am working up a list of resource requests for the campaign

Date of Next Meetings

Our next meeting will be the AGM in February 2025. We have indicated the dates in 2025 we intend to hold future meetings below, although we tend to hold meetings on a Monday this year we trialled using different days and we are happy to continue this if it suits our members.

Monday 24 th February	AGM at MVUF
w/c 28 th April	(in person possibly at Imagine tbc)
w/c 16 th June	(in person or virtual tbc)
w/c 15 th September	(in person tbc)
w/c 17 th November	(in person or virtual tbc)

Action All

Save the date for the AGM Monday 24th February at MVUF

Confirm your preference for the day of future meetings so we can try and accommodate as many people as possible attending.

Many thanks!
Rosie A & SJ