



Lewes District Food Partnership November 2025 Update

Natalie Pearson, LDFF coordinator

General updates:

- LDFF attended the Sustainable Food Places Day of Celebration and Action, which recognised the progress that has been made on the food agenda with great momentum of initiatives, activities, collaborations and looking ahead to the forthcoming National Food Strategy.
- Lewes District Emergency Food Network winter fundraiser is now open:
<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/support-local-emergency-food-projects-this-winter>
- Lewes District Food Partnership presented about local food systems work and the need for local/regional strategies on behalf of the Alliance of Sussex Food Partnerships at the inaugural Food for Thought conference, alongside author Stuart Gillespie and Minette Batters who led the Defra Farm Profitability Review. [See slides here.](#)

How are we addressing the priority areas?

Developing more sustainable and dignified approaches to community food support

- A winter fundraiser for the Emergency Food Network was launched with an event attended by over 30 local councillors, community projects and businesses. The EFN projects spoke about what they do, the challenges they are facing, and how the funding will enable them to continue to support communities with dignity, choice and kindness. Work continues to spread the word through flyers, articles, social media and events such as Christmas markets.
- The Seasons meal kit programme has now come to an end, with evaluations taking place now; to collate, communicate and consider possible next steps with Robin and social prescribers.
- Potential collaboration with BHFP and Sussex Food Partnerships on civil resilience, with funding from Sustainable Food Places. Idea is provide an overview of priorities for our area or region and decide the next steps for moving beyond responsiveness and recovery toward preparedness and security of community access to good food.

Fostering Young People's Connections with food:

- LDFF has submitted a funding bid to Lewes Town Council to fund a BRITE Box pilot in 2026, which would give a class of primary school children a specially-designed meal kit to prepare at home with their families, gain cooking skills and
- Meeting with Lewes schools/farms participating in the programme planned for January 2026.



- Small grants programme including applicants from schools to build veg patches and integrate food education into their curriculum.

Championing a Good Food Culture for Lewes District:

- Through the Sussex Alliance of Food Partnerships, working to articulate a vision for food in the region and the mechanisms to do so – chiming with the Lewes strategy and vision and highlighting local work.
- Invited the Grow Cook Eat Network to attend the Lewes District Community Action Network launch, which aims to build resilient and sustainable community projects.
- Provisional dates booked for the LDFFP summit in March 2026.

Pinch Points:

- Delivery date of Pinch Points Year 2 extended from end of April to end of June.
- Info sessions took place across Lewes, Newhaven and Peacehaven, with around 20 new participants potentially recruited.
- Onboarding sessions for new participants planned for the second week of December.
- Planning meetings for the collaboration partners to take place in Dec/Jan.
- Team members attended trauma-informed practice and active bystander training.

Priorities for December

- Natalie to wrap up and hand over to Hilary, who will be taking on the Coordinator role.
- Send winter newsletter.
- Launch EFN Hardship Fund.