

Lewes District Food Partnership February & March 2023 Update

How are we addressing the priority areas?

How can we move beyond foodbanks and develop a sustainable approach to tackling food insecurity?

- I spoke at an Adur & Worthing online event talking about different models of food support. I shared how the Newhaven and Peacehaven Community Supermarkets are a hybrid model which pull on a number of different 'social supermarket' elements including Pay-As-You-Feel.
- Attended the 'South Coast Right to Food Event' in Worthing. An important campaign and networking opportunity.
- 'Feeling the Pinch: Have Your Say!' project has begun with recruitment of participants. I have been visiting community projects across the district to talk to residents about taking part in the Inequality Truth Hearing; sharing their lived experiences of the Cost-of-Living Crisis and food insecurity. (Projects visited: Lewes Men's Shed, Ringmer Breakfast Clubs, Peacehaven Community Supermarket, Fitzjohns Foodbank, Friends of Bishopstone Station Community Group).
- Stef and I went to Kingston University for a workshop to develop a Charter for Dignified Food Support. The principles have been developed by Stef Lake, Carl Walker (Community Psychologist) and Ronald Ranata (University Lecturer at Kingston Uni) then shared with those working with community & emergency food for feedback.
- Emergency Food Network meeting in March where we were joined by Natasha from Fareshare Go.
- The Emergency Food Network collaborated on a letter to Lewes District Council requesting that some incorrect information be changed in a video released on their website which inaccurately portrayed foodbanks as being a service run by the council.

What are the links between food & other essential living costs – how can we ensure a joined-up approach?

- Spoke at the Lewes District Council Cost-of-Living Summit on the 2nd of February about the 'Feeling the Pinch: Have Your Say' and Dignity-Led Food Provision projects. The COL-summit is well-attended by local councillors and other community development workers.

How can connections be fostered to promote community growing, cooking & eating?

- Working with two student placements to help develop the Grow Cook Eat network. One horticulture student from Plumpton College who will be helping gardening projects in Lewes District. F will be planting up the raised beds out the back of Fitzjohns Foodbank and helping out at Lewes FC Community Kitchen Garden. R is a Nutrition Student from Brighton Uni who will be working with food projects to develop recipes that everyone can use.
- Attended a meeting in Lewes by author Ruth Wilson who is writing a new book called 'Grown in Lewes' to document historical and current growing projects and groups in Lewes.

LDFP have been asked to contribute something for the book on food culture and food security in the area.

- Met with Robin the Community Chef and Clarissa from Human Nature to talk about community feasts and events for the community that promote a Good Food Movement.

Engaging farmers and agriculturalists -

- Visited a Dairy Farm in Chailey to learn about milk production on our doorstep.
- In contact with L from B&H Food Partnership on the Soil in the City project and L from BHFP who works on the Changing Chalks project to develop Meat Sharing Cooperatives. I am looking at ways that LDFP can work with BHFP to develop our engagement with local farms.
- Met with Helen from Wealden Food Partnership to share our experiences reaching out to farmers and comparing notes on outcomes.
- Cllr Emily O'Brien shared information about farm clusters and how they are a good point of contact for reaching out to farmers.

Schools and Food

- Engaging schools in being part of a Good Food Movement is building momentum with a number of schools engaged or involved in initial talks including schools in Seaford, Lewes and Chailey.
- Attended a webinar 'What is the role of school food in social justice, health and sustainability' and have been looking at how new Ofsted regulations talk about 'food cultures' in schools.
- Talks with Daphne Lambert from Green Cuisine and Mari from Albion in the Community who both work with schools to deliver workshops on nutrition, food skills and confidence, and well-being.

Comms & Engagement

- Launched our first LDFP Newsletter with LDFP news, funding news, links to events and volunteering opportunities. Feedback has been very good with people saying the links are a helpful resource.
- Steering Group meeting on the 8th of February attended by 8 steering group members.
- Started a LDFP Facebook.
- Launched Small Grants Round 3 with an emphasis on partnership working to link projects together, contributing to a Good Food Movement and the idea that tackling food insecurity is not just about food parcels but also positive relationships with food including well-being, food activities, community support and building confidence.
- Attended the Sustainable Food Places Conference in Oxford.

Next steps –

- Meeting with Plumpton College in April to develop a 'Pop-Up Shop' on their campus to help students & staff access affordable & healthy food.
- School Food subgroup meeting in April to share updates and hear from Albion in the Community which are a local group that run workshops in schools around good food.
- Building our application for Sustainable Food Places Bronze Award.
- Recruit the new Grow Cook Eat network sessional worker to take on the development of the network, including reaching out to more groups and creating a newsletter.
- Visit Lovebrook Farm on the 14th of April to talk about joining the GCE network.
- Attend the Community Support Day at Kings Church in Lewes on the 22nd of April offering a one-stop