

Transforming Food Systems: Event Report 28/04/26

GLOUCESTERSHIRE VCSE ALLIANCE

Feeding Gloucestershire

GLOUCESTERSHIRE FOOD & FARMING PARTNERSHIP

Transforming Food Systems Workshop

Uniting rural and urban communities through food, climate and nature and creating resilient local food systems in Gloucestershire – an ideas exchange workshop

Details:

- Date: Tuesday 28th April 2026
- Location: Dowty Sports Hall, Down Hatherley Lane, Gloucester GL2 9QH
- Time: 9:00 AM (9.30 start) – 3:00 PM

Hosted by Gloucestershire VCSE Alliance with Feeding Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire Food & Farming Partnership

How can we work together to transform our food systems, improve food security and respect nature and climate in Gloucestershire?

Join us for an interactive workshop to connect, share ideas, and explore collaborative opportunities to build a more resilient and fair food system across Gloucestershire. We will also generate ideas together for potential joint funding, such as a National Lottery Food Systems bid.

Find out more and register for the workshop [here](#)

Gloucestershire VCSE Alliance. Registered charity in England & Wales 1153760.

Event Brief: Background, Design and Objectives

A Core Group of people met on 2nd March 2026 to talk about an invitation from the National Lottery Community Fund for Food Systems bids:

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/funding-programmes/climate-action-fund-food-systems/>

They agreed a full-day workshop was needed to understand what individuals, communities and organisations in Gloucestershire are doing, the ideas they have, and the potential for collaborative action.

The workshop was commissioned jointly by [Feeding Gloucestershire](#) and the [Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership](#), convened by the [Gloucestershire VCSE Alliance](#) and independently hosted by [Jo Underwood Consulting](#).

The workshop was designed as an 'ideas exchange' – not to develop detailed plans at this stage, but to bring a range of people together to discover what we already know or do, and to share ideas about the future.

There were three objectives:

1. Build relationships that support our joint work to transform food systems
2. Explore collaborative opportunities for a more resilient and fair food system across Gloucestershire
3. Generate ideas for potential joint funding including (but not limited to) the National Lottery Climate Action Fund Food Systems partnerships

An invitation to the workshop was distributed on 13th April to contacts of Feeding Gloucestershire, the Food & Farming Partnership, and in the Gloucestershire VCSE Alliance newsletter to widen awareness. The workshop took place on Tuesday 28th April 2026 at Dowty Sports & Social Club, Gloucester.

Who came

There was a capacity of 40 and, given the tight turnaround, all of these spaces were booked before the day with no waiting list.

What Happened

Check-in

The day started with a check-in question:



Working together to transform our food systems, improve food security and respect nature and climate in Gloucestershire: What calls you to this work?

To find out more about why and when to use check-in questions look at [this resource developed by HCT Gloucestershire](#) – a Lottery Community Funded initiative to explore partnerships for inequality.

Ideas Exchange 1: Where are we now?

In this world-café exercise, participants were invited to move in table groups around five table discussions. These discussions were based on the National Lottery Climate Fund's aims for the Food Systems partnerships. The Lottery Community Fund website states that:

“Your project must work towards systems change in the way that:

- community organisations grow and produce food – using agroecological methods
- food gets distributed – aiming for equitable access to healthy, affordable food for all
- offers people and communities different food options – especially those experiencing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination”

These were adapted into five table themes to make group sizes manageable. These were:

1. Community organisations growing and producing food
2. Food distribution offering equitable access to nutritious food for all
3. People in **rural areas** offered different food options – especially those experiencing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination
4. People in **urban areas** offered different food options – especially those experiencing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination
5. Organisations working in partnership to transform systems

On each table theme there were pre-prepared flipchart sheets, with the same four questions:

Table questions

1. Stakeholders

Who has expertise/experience?
Who isn't here (but could/should be)?
Who is impacted?

2. Strengths and Sharing

What are we doing well?
What have we got to share/celebrate?
What evidence do we have?

3. Opportunities/Threats

What's possible?
What problems are there to solve?

4. Anything else...?

Risks?
What don't we know?
What else?

There were also bespoke handouts for each table topic to support discussion: See Appendix 1.

The first Ideas Exchange table notes have been gathered and collated by question (rather than topic) in the following pages.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders mentioned during the day have been combined into the following tables grouped by question, topic and specified organisations/general groups. Web links for specified organisations/groups are listed in Appendix 2.

Notes:

- These lists are based on the notes made on the day, and some groups may not have been mentioned on individual tables even though they do have expertise on a certain topic or are impacted by it.
- Participants in table groups may not have been aware of who else was in the room, so being named in the 'who isn't here?' lists does not mean the organisation or group wasn't there.

Stakeholders who have expertise/experience	1: Communities growing and producing food	2: Food distribution: access to nutritious food for all	3: Rural communities, access and disadvantage	4: Urban Communities, access & disadvantage	5: Partnership working
Specific organisations					
Abbey Home Farm					x
Archers Community Orchard			x		
Bisley Farm Shop		x			
British Academy			x		
Butterfly Garden	x				
Camp Hill	x		x		
Cheltenham is Growing				x	
Citizens Advice			x		
Coates Farm		x			
Common Wealth		x			
Countryside & Community Research Institute (CCRI)			x		x
Crisis & Resilience Fund (CRF)			x		
FareShare		x			
FarmED		x	x		
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAG) - farmer clusters and groups	x		x		x
Feed Cheltenham				x	
Feeding Gloucestershire		x		x	
Forest Food Hub		x			
Forest Food Network					x
Gloucester HAF				x	
Gloucestershire County Council: community & economic development			x		
Gloucestershire Food & Farming Partnership					x
Gloucestershire Food & Farming: Lizzie Dyer's groups: growers and food equity & inclusion group			x		
Gloucestershire Gateway Trust		x			x
Gloucestershire Gleaning					x
GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council)	x		x		
Hartpury University/College	x		x		x
Holiday Activities Fund			x		
Network of Stroud Hubs (NoSH)		x			x
Norton Court Farm			x		

Stakeholders who have expertise/experience	1: Communities growing and producing food	2: Food distribution: access to nutritious food for all	3: Rural communities, access and disadvantage	4: Urban Communities, access & disadvantage	5: Partnership working
Specific organisations					
NHS - Gloucestershire Health & Wellbeing Partnership					x
Power to Change organisations	x				
RegenDeep					x
Royal Agricultural University (RAU)	x		x		x
RAU GREAT Market Garden	x				
Salvation Army			x		
Stroud Climate and Nature Partnership					x
Sustain		x			
The Great Plate		x			
The Nelson Trust			x	x	
The Orchard Trust	x		x		
The Long Table	x		x	x	
Twynning Village Community Growing			x		
University of Gloucestershire with NICRE and CCRI	x				
Wiggly (worm)			x		

Stakeholders who have expertise/experience	1: Communities growing and producing food	2: Food distribution: access to nutritious food for all	3: Rural communities, access and disadvantage	4: Urban Communities, access & disadvantage	5: Partnership working
Non-specified groups					
Abattoirs		x			
Businesses: shops				x	
Clients		x			
Communities/local residents				x	x
Community Hubs		x	x	x	
Corner shops		x			
Council procurement		x			
Councils - District and County					x
Food banks and pantries		x	x		x
Food distribution		x			
Food processors		x			
Food producers - growers, farmers etc			x	x	
Landowners			x	x	
Markets		x		x	
Schools and colleges				x	
Wholesalers (Creeds)		x			
Young People					x

Note on Who isn't Here: participants on table groups may not have been aware of the other participants in the room, so being named in this table doesn't necessarily mean the organisation or group wasn't represented in the room.

Who isn't here?	1: Communities growing and producing food	2: Food distribution: access to nutritious food for all	3: Rural communities, access and disadvantage	4: Urban Communities, access & disadvantage	5: Partnership working
Specific organisations					
Creative Sustainability: Youth Climate Network			X		
FareShare		X			
Farmer Guardians of the Upper Thames	X				
Hartpury University/College				X	X
NE Cotswold Farmer Cluster	X				
Neighbourly		X			
Olio		X			
Project Grow				X	X
Royal Agricultural University (RAU)				X	X
Severn Vale Guardians	X				
The Great Plate (part of Grace Network)		X			
Trussell Trust				X	
University of Gloucestershire				X	X
Young Farmers			X		

Note on Who isn't Here: participants on table groups may not have been aware of the other participants in the room, so being named in this table doesn't necessarily mean the organisation or group wasn't represented in the room.

Who isn't here?	1: Communities growing and producing food	2: Food distribution: access to nutritious food for all	3: Rural communities, access and disadvantage	4: Urban Communities, access & disadvantage	5: Partnership working
Non-specified groups					
Agroecology practitioners and experts	x				
Bangladeshi ladies - food and growing programme					x
Businesses: food producers, caterers and retail	x	x			x
Care homes	x				
Community Growers	x		x		
Food Banks				x	
Food producers: farmers, CLA and NFU producers, growers	x	x	x	x	x
Housing Associations				x	
Landowners				x	
Logistics - getting food from A to B			x		
NHS (public health, nutritionists, dieticians)	x	x		x	
People with lived experience (of poverty/food insecurity)	x	x	x	x	
People with lived experience: culturally diverse communities				x	
People with lived experience: faith groups				x	
Planners, and people who impact/develop policy			x		
Schools	x	x			
Supermarkets		x			
Suppliers				x	
Volunteers who support people with lived experience			x		
Young people		x	x		

Who is impacted?	1: Communities growing and producing food	2: Food distribution: access to nutritious food for all	3: Rural communities, access and disadvantage	4: Urban Communities, access & disadvantage	5: Partnership working
After school clubs					X
Businesses	X				
Communities	X	X			
Distributors					X
Farmers	X				
Growers					X
Households	X				
Nature: ecosystems, climate, soil, wildlife	X				
People with lived experience (of poverty/food insecurity)				X	
People with lived experience: culturally diverse communities				X	
People with lived experience: faith groups				X	
Processors					X
Producers					X

A full list of organisations mentioned, and their websites/social media (where available) is given in Appendix 2.

Strengths and Sharing: what we do well, what to celebrate and our evidence

Gloucestershire is rich in non-profit making organisations, businesses and social enterprises growing for local families and communities, with several examples of **local community models**:

- Gleaning Gloucestershire (but currently no funding)
- Cotswold Market Garden sells to 50 families each week
- Butterfly Garden
- Camp Hill
- Project Grow
- Orchard Trust
- Cheltenham is Growing
- RAU Market Garden ('GREAT' market garden = Gloucestershire Regenerative Environmental Agricultural Transition)

Our county is **rich in land**, growers, orchards and other spaces which give lots of opportunities for sharing and peer learning. There are also lots of agricultural producers here including award winners, e.g. Frampton, and our range of food production is very diverse:

- Arable – Cotswold arable group
- Farmer groups
- Oil, wheat, beef, dairy etc
- Opportunities for horticulture
- We have lots of good agroecological farmers

Participants noted our **strong agricultural academic/educational institutions** and said that we must influence and utilise their strengths.

We also have a track record of **research and strategies** that support food resilience e.g. [Gloucestershire Food and Farming for Net Zero](#), Gloucester City Food strategy [Nourishing Gloucester](#), as well as **developing resources**, e.g. the Feeding Gloucestershire [Food Map](#) and [FODCAP resilience web](#).

We talked about some specific collaborative action in **urban areas**:

- **Cheltenham Food Board**/Feed Cheltenham and collaboration with food banks and pantries in Cheltenham:
 - Sharing resources, information and knowledge
 - Working practices
 - Representation to Cheltenham Borough Council and Food Board
 - Linking to other agencies to support food security through supermarket vouchers
- Pilot for a **social supermarket in Gloucester City**
- ['We are Project Grow'](#) urban growing schemes
- [Gloucester City Holiday Activities Fund](#)

And in rural areas we talked about the learning from the [North East Food Cluster](#) in the Cotswolds. The Cotswold Farming Cluster has been working with a bottom-up blended finance and rural economy model. This type of public/private partnership needs seed funding for initial development.

The Network of Stroud Hubs (NOSH) builds partnerships with producers who agree a percentage of production for social use (for B Corps this contributes to adding social value). NOSH have a paid co-ordinator who gets surplus from Stroud market and multiple food businesses to distribute across a network of community hubs. They focus on developing partnerships between hubs to increase collaboration and reduce competition. They have also put arrangements in place with processors to use surplus and gluts at scale. Surplus is also shared outside of the immediate network, with a commitment never turn down offers of excess produce.

Evidence we have of collaborative/innovative food systems in our County:

- The Food Map produced by Feeding Gloucestershire is a great resource showing what's happening across the county: <https://www.feedinggloucestershire.org.uk/food-map/>
- [Cotswold National Landscape's Farming in Protected Landscapes](#) funding was noted as a strength: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38nd6zD-Jf8>;
- Bronze [Sustainable Food Places](#) award gained by Gloucestershire in 2024.
- The work of the [Long Table](#) was mentioned as a local innovation
- The [Great Plate](#) provides healthy meals for 16 primary schools. It needs to be supported financially as the financial envelope from Central Government for school meals is not enough.
- Hubs where people collect food from a project site, where it is also possible to provide cookery support, e.g. Community kitchens like [Wiggly](#) and [The Long Table](#)
- [Farm-Ed](#) – education, multi-business box scheme and production
- Surplus project/[Gloucestershire Gleaning](#)
- [Gloucestershire HAF](#)
- The Nelson Trust [Impact Report](#)
- [Academic Studies](#) at the Royal Agricultural University

Evidence and good practice we can learn from beyond Gloucestershire:

- **From other countries and areas:** [Nourish Scotland](#), [Food Sense Wales](#) (Welsh food in schools in partnership with Castel Howell), [Good Food Oxfordshire](#), [Apricot Centre](#) (Devon), [Batches Bakery](#) in Hartcliffe Bristol, which produces sourdough to sell in the community, [Incredible Edible's](#) Right to Grow, [The Bridge Plymouth](#), [Nourishing Norfolk](#)
- Sustainable Food Trust <https://sustainablefoodtrust.org/>
- Food Matters <https://www.foodmatters.org/>
- AFN Network/Root and Reason: <https://rootandreason.org.uk/>
- Landworkers' Alliance – land sharing <https://landworkersalliance.org.uk>
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN – agroecological principles <https://www.fao.org/home/en>
- Tim Lang – [Just in Case](#) report on civil food resilience
- [Land Use Framework](#) for England
- [National Food Strategy](#)
- [ADOPT](#) – UKRI programme for farmer innovation

Opportunities: what's possible

This section brings together the wide range of ideas and opportunities for collaborative action raised in all five themes.

Policy and planning

- Section 106 – make community growing a priority in new developments: land use and food deserts – planning and regulation
- Get food in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Ask for the next Director of Public Health Annual Report to be about food systems

Supply networks/food distribution

- Re-establishing local supply chains/food processing (mills, abattoirs, storage, refrigeration) and eco-systems of growers, distribution, families and schools/public places. This can work commercially, i.e. pay a living wage but only if upfront costs are funded to set up at scale, e.g. '[grow more growers](#)' in Buckinghamshire and East Oxfordshire, and [FiPL](#) in Cotswolds.
- Pop-up shop network (one per parish) with shared equipment, consolidating different sources of food
- Using village shops as hubs for collection (as Amazon do)
- Milk-float model of distribution
- Scrapstore model for food distribution, e.g. Plymouth hub – training and employment
- [Wolves Lane](#) model in London/Ubele network – businesses buying/supply
- Try to get a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)/market garden in every town
- Affordable, fresh produce, e.g. [Bisley Farm Shop](#)
- National canteen concept: publicly owned network of catering outlets existed after WWII. Scotland are trying to reintroduce
- Get Neighbourly/Olio/FareShare round the table as on ground level supermarkets don't know what is going where/for what purpose
- Social supermarkets
- Supply chain – surplus, gleaning, shared storage
- Market to your door in Forest tried to delivery fresh produce but it failed and no-one knows why. Worth finding out.

Asset matching – joining up our resources

- Some farmers have land but not horticultural experience – match land with growers
- Use development land pre-construction
- Linking over-supply to cooked products
- Linked transport for shopping
- School/hospital and farm partnerships – e.g. NOSH (Network of Stroud Food Hubs)
- Shared facilities: share disused kitchens as local hubs
- Sharing electric vehicles for distribution between different schemes

Community food

- Overcome shame through community dining
- Take an asset-based approach rather than top-down

Financing

- Joint ventures, Public/private partnerships – blended finance models
- Interest-free loans from Dean Organic Resilience – training through diversity within enterprise

Training/Education and use of technology

- Using community farms to train people in regenerative practices in farming, using agroecological principles.
- Horticulture – upskilling young people
- Education: schools, early years, youth centres: impact, climate change
- School food – new strategy linking to production (Food for Life framework)
- Educate people re. what we can grow
- Empowering people with nutritional data and research through technology
- Increasing awareness of processed/ultra-processed foods
- Need business training for community growing project leaders

Build on/work with existing projects named above and including:

- Emergent generation
- [Regenerative Agriculture accelerator programme](#)
- [RegenDeep](#)
- Farmer Cluster Groups, e.g. [NECF](#), [FWAG](#)
- [Grate Plate](#)
- [FarmED](#)
- RAV – [Coates Farm](#)

Threats: what are the problems and risks?

Defining and demonstrating value

- Is it about how communities grow food, or how food is grown for communities?
- Demonstrating social value – what are we setting out to change/impact?
- Systemic – how to balance geographies, local, county-wide views?

Issues relating to system funding and access

Funding can liberate innovation, but it also creates tensions and can store up future issues:

- Inequitable funding across organisations/communities, and long-term funding
- Competition for funding
- Time – inequity in access to time for less resourced community groups/individuals to be involved.
- See this article about collaborative grant holding and partnership:
<https://www.hctgloucestershire.co.uk/stone2/money-money-money#article>

Affordability (food systems) structural and economic

- Skilled head-growers who can/will work on low wages

- Persuading commercial growers that it's worth it
- Most growers are on minimum wage, and accommodation in rural areas is an issue
- Undercutting/subsidising
- Mobile abattoirs aren't efficient (as shown by Fir Farm)
- Balancing affordability with fair price to growers
- Costs to pantries/food banks of grown food, costs to consumers, distribution to promote access wipes out profits
- Infrastructure costs, e.g. polytunnels
- Rural foodbanks more limited in what they can offer
- Distribution is expensive (collection is common)

Affordability (individuals) equity and access

- Structural poverty which means people on low incomes can't afford healthy, sustainable food
- Misconception of the value of food driven by market forces
- Hidden/not so hidden pockets of rural isolation, access and lack of transport
- Transport and access, including [digital inclusion](#), and the practical, e.g. 'can you carry it'?
- Time/access – 90% of people nationally use supermarkets (in person/online) because of barriers to access/availability of alternative food networks. Supermarkets require less effort.

Social considerations

- Social norms and stigma around food including perception
- Social isolation and link to food choices/options
- Health – obesity in children, malnutrition in Gloucester, food deserts
- Poverty – access to affordable, nutritious food
- Lack of food cultural diversity – choice
- Disconnection from food production and land
- Knowledge of what to do with food – cooking
- Changing/celebrating food cultures, e.g. different approaches to meat/preparation/slaughter
- Diversity – across Gloucestershire

Safety considerations

- Safeguarding for everyone
- Food safety – transporting at correct temperatures etc
- Security – Stealing the food if accessible

Resources and planning

- Access to enough land, land-use for housing/industrial
- Access to facilities (markets, kitchens, vehicles)
- Access to volunteers: <https://www.govolunteerglos.org/>
- School terms impact growing in schools (harvest in July, sow in September) as nobody to water during the summer.
- Need large-scale supply of fresh produce to work with larger school food providers. School food suppliers hard to change/dislodge.
- Housing on grade 1 farm land in Mitcheldean – land use framework? CIL?

- Maturity of infrastructure in the county

Political and geopolitical

- Local government reorganisation
- National policy (outside our control) and politics
- Reliance of affordability, rising need
- Climate change, biodiversity loss, resource crisis (building resilience) = food system collapse – not being seen as a priority
- Global food security, economic shock, unstable supply chains, food price rises,
- Capitalism
- Resilience to multiple crises – inequality, climate, instability



Where are we now? World café table topics

Partnership for Transformation: 'how' we work as well as 'what' we do

It is easy – and natural – to get into the detail of ideas, planning and implementation. However, the National Lottery Community Fund calls for **partnership working that transforms systems**. The fifth topic was designed for participants to think beyond Food Systems to the county's overall experience of working in partnership to transform systems.

Strengths & sharing: what we do well, what to celebrate and what evidence we have

"How to join the middle to the edge and the edge to the middle?"

Gloucestershire has a strong record of cross-system, cross-sector partnership at county and local level. There are many partnership resources to draw from beyond food systems:

- Infrastructure support to partnerships from the Gloucestershire Voluntary Sector Alliance: <https://www.glosalliance.org.uk/partnerships-and-collaboration>
- The Hotspots Network: <https://gloucestershirehotspots.org/>
- Healthy Communities Together Gloucestershire: <https://www.hctgloucestershire.co.uk/>
- Place-based partnerships, e.g. [Matson, Robinswood and White City Partnership](#), [Podsmead Partnership](#), [Forest of Dean Climate Action Partnership](#)
- [Community Safety Partnerships](#)

"Go to communities rather than expecting communities to come to us"

There is a lot of experience of community-held initiatives in the food system. There is also a long history of asset-based community development and community building in Gloucestershire more generally, and many organisations have years of experience of community-led change:

- [Gloucestershire Gateway Trust](#)
- [Forest Voluntary Action Forum](#)
- [Gloucester Community Building Collective](#)
- [Stroud Community Hubs](#)

Opportunities and threats: considerations for partnerships

The following themes came up for partnerships to pay attention to.

Data to inform partnership action

- Census and Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 update: what do we know about our county's data and needs?
- How do we use our land, and who in Gloucestershire is farming/growing?
- Information about lived experience of food in poverty-impacted communities.
- Information about food options and behaviour: what is available already? What are barriers? What options do people want?
- Scientific information on nutrition, e.g. nutritional value of vegetables – how/why does it vary? Is it the genetics, how it's grown how fresh it is, etc?

Infrastructure that supports partnership

- Funded infrastructure organisation to support this work

- What county-wide partnerships do we have for food-based work? How can we utilise and make them work for others.
- Do we need a County-wide food strategy?
- Develop a transferable model of a 'good food system' but which takes local context into account
- Each district doesn't have a food network
- Need for trained facilitators e.g. [FWAG](#) to bring groups together, to learn from each other and work together

Communication and culture

- Building Trust/a shared vision
- Work with [FFCC](#) to run a Glos-based 'food conversation' – very powerful!
- Grow a culture of collaboration
 - Between agencies doing similar work to provide better joined-up work across areas
 - Address current disconnection/fragmentation in system
 - Leaving no-one out of the conversation
- Pay attention to inclusion including cultural diversity
- Storytelling – means of connection in the urban/rural divide
- Using social media positively and inclusively
- Branding/brand semiotics used positively and inclusively

Ideas Exchange 2: Open Space

Open Space¹ meetings are interactive and inclusive events where participants set the agenda. Creating parallel working sessions around a central theme, people work through issues and ideas, understanding different views around a topic and often coming up with new ideas or practical solutions. The real opportunity of Open Space is that everyone who comes takes responsibility for making the solutions happen. So, one important thing to remember is: you can't control the outcome!

Open Space works best when:

- There is a real, complex and urgent issue to be explored
- There are diverse people and points of view
- People really care and are invested in the conversation, which leads to real responsibility

Our central theme on the day was:

How can we work together to transform food systems, improve food security and respect nature and climate in Gloucestershire?

Together, we created agendas for the two subsequent sessions:



¹ Open Space Technology was created by Harrison Owen. You can find resources and guides at [openspaceworld.org](https://www.openspaceworld.org)

OPEN SPACE SESSION 2: 1.45 - 2.30			
LOUNGE (main room)	Lounge 1 Food insecurity - how to connect the most vulnerable communities in terms of food insecurity to the wider food system - (amongst market-value/surplus)	Lounge 2 GIVEN CRITERIA WHAT WOULD A WINNING BID HAVE TO INVOLVE? PHIL	Lounge 3 How does education need to change?
	Lounge 4 Young People	Lounge 5 Diversity of culture	
Community Room (tea/coffee)	Community 1 What is our ask of the County Council? Chloe Turner	Community 2 How can we make food systems less overwhelming / more manageable? What is your ask at a county or Council level?	Community 3 (KITCHEN) Food Warehouse/HUB o Central Sourcing / o including gleanings/surplus o Effective distribution o Eff Efficient Sourcing / distribution o Making Affordable Clubs/Pantries Resilient

An overview of each of the recorded discussions is provided below, and the scanned notes are available as a separate document from Feeding Gloucestershire, if required.

Why are we here? What's the problem?

- There are people struggling to get food, while globally food is over-produced
- Public health crisis and climate change crisis
- We (food organisations) are too siloed – need to communicate better, work together and stop competing against each other for funds

What next? County needs to get behind one bid: Feeding Gloucestershire

Sharing an idea developing in Gloucester

- Partnership working to create a synergy in urban community growing and learning
- Horticultural apprenticeship scheme, using Children and Family Centres as educational growing spaces and school growing spaces as hubs

What next: Consider if a Gloucester bid feeds into a larger concept or does it dilute to be a 'Shire' bid. Could it be part of a strong urban bid?

Building on existing initiatives

- Vulnerability calls for community resilience, with integrated local delivery

What next: email jenny.phelps@fwagsw.org.uk

Connecting and Mapping Food Systems Networks in Gloucestershire

- Start with existing networks and maps, e.g. Stroud Hubs and Feeding Glos map
- Do a survey to gather who's who, and add Case Studies to the Feeding Glos map
- Get food in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

What next: Survey, a Networking and Communication Tool, working groups

Forest of Dean Partnership for System Change

- Processing hub – shared/own space? Network of hubs, building community and resilience
- Training for cooks, pay as you can, facilities, supported employment
- Guild – what are the conditions that would attract people/funding?
- Potential partnership solution – funding potential from BCORPs/matched funding

What next: Food Showcase session to engage community and producers

Economics and Value

- Addiction to cheap food – rising household costs and 'time poor' families
- Hard to make sustainable shopping accessible and affordable

What next: Look at places people *already gather* (sports, schools, worship, pubs) which provide food: scheme to bring provision of more sustainable food options to where people already are.

Agricultural skills & infrastructure to increase good food production

A project scoped by FWAG Southwest and Glos Food and Farming Partnership with 3 objectives:

- Practical financial support to adopt agroecological practices (advice, soil testing, consultancy)
- Skills – marketing and supply chain advice, business management
- Infrastructure – shared vehicle for deliveries based at local (village) hub

What next: develop and share project scoping

Climate Risk – future-proof and prepare

- Climate risk and vulnerability assessment: Glos County Council Climate Leadership Group
- By 2050 a 13–19% drop in summer rainfall: adaptation/mitigation – drought resistant crops, bore holes, SUDS, GWT Waterscapes Project
- Renewables infrastructure and know-how

What next: need for organic and regenerative agriculture at high level/commercial scale balanced against need for food security and basic provision for those in need

Diversity of culture

- How do we reflect and celebrate culture through food? Connections with cultural growing and sharing food and knowledge
- Barton and Tredworth Cultural Fayre a great example
- Back to basics: reduce reliance on large consortia and retailers
- Acknowledge that – as we develop resilience – other communities especially in equatorial Africa – will have to migrate north to escape climate crisis and survive

What next: capture good practice and share impact, meet at different venues to connect with different cultures, training, find ways to welcome and support climate migrants

What would a winning bid involve?

- Structure (impact measurement)
- Data (e.g. climate impact, flooding)
- Ambition

What next: could there be a non-fragmented conversation to build trust looking at common ground?

What's our ask of the County Council?

- Have a representative with a brief for food
- Public health – make the annual public health report about food
- Get out of the way of VCSE sector that has established relationships in communities
- S106 to include growing spaces and relate back to local plans, encourage developers to think outside the box
- Invest in food partnerships – we're falling behind
- Improve available data about impact on poverty

What next: the full notes from this session were taken back to GCC for discussion

Food insecurity

- Look at models like The Bridge – Plymouth, Nourishing Norfolk and Gleaning
- Transforming food from growers to distribution: passionate people to transform food into another longer-lasting project
- Hubs for storing/buying in bulk, with hublets in more rural areas – joined up across Gloucestershire to keep costs low and food outlets/assets sustainable

Any other topics on the agenda either had no conversation, or no notes from the conversation.



The Open Space session underway

Feedback

Participants were invited to complete a shared feedback grid on their way out, and to add comments if they wished:

	STRONGLY DISAGREE				STRONGLY AGREE
I have made new/stronger connections with others				✓	✓✓ ✓✓
I was able to contribute			✓		✓✓ ✓✓
I understand more about the National Lottery Food Systems fund aims	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I have had/developed ideas for collaboration				✓ ✓	✓ ✓

Super day – lovely to meet so many positive people!

*already knew quite a bit (relating to National Lottery Food System aims)

Very positive – would be good to build on this

Great connections which need sustaining! (via a forum/email/WhatsApp group)

Feel like this has really restarted some latent energy around systemic food & family thinking in Glos, thanks for organising

For more inclusive attendance consider funding expenses for people from vol. sector and attendance by experts by lived experience

Thank you Let's keep talking

Leadership needed to pick this up and run with it

What Next?

This workshop was designed as an 'ideas exchange' to bring a range of people together to discover what we already know or do, and to share ideas about the future.

There were three objectives:

1. Build relationships that support our joint work to transform food systems
2. Explore collaborative opportunities for a more resilient and fair food system across Gloucestershire
3. Generate ideas for potential joint funding including (but not limited to) the National Lottery Climate Action Fund Food Systems partnerships

The ideas exchange, and the contents of this report are illustrative of the **breadth of knowledge, ambition, care and commitment to working together** to improve our food systems. It also illustrates the complexity of food systems and the challenges associated with developing shared plans for collaborative action.

As people left the day, there was energy (verging on overwhelm!) for the work of collaborating to improve food systems in Gloucestershire.

There were **new connections and ideas, increased awareness** of some of what's happening across our county, and **suggestions for people who should be part of future conversations**.

Whereas conversations on the day were divergent and wide-ranging, the **next step will need to see us converge to a more manageable set of ideas and tangible actions**. There was a desire to come together again to build on what we've started – some facilitated time to get more specific about what we want to collaborate on: the why, who, what, how and when of planning.

As Matt Lennard said in his introduction, funding alone is not a good reason for systems to come together. **Good collaborative action is founded on strong relationships, good communication, and trust**.

Thanks to:

- Everyone who attended the Ideas Exchange workshop for your time and energy
- Feeding Gloucestershire & Gloucestershire Food & Farming Partnership for convening
- Gloucestershire VCSE Alliance for hosting and supporting the day
- The event team: Joanna Scott, Benjamin Dent, Matt Lennard with Jenny, Rebecca & Sophie



This Workshop and Event Report were produced by Jo Underwood Consulting – an independent consultant, facilitator and life coach based in North Somerset.

Appendix 1: Table Handouts

Topic 1: Community organisations growing and producing food

What are we looking for – aim 1



Improve how community organisations grow and produce food - using agroecological methods

By community organisations, we mean:

- community-owned groups
- cooperatives
- social enterprises
- any other forms of not-for-profit organisations

By agroecology, we mean: working with nature to create **resilient, sustainable and equitable food systems**

Why agroecology is the right focus right now



The [FAO's 10 Elements of Agroecology](#)



Topic 2: Food distribution offering equitable access to nutritious food

What are we looking for – aim 2



Equitable access to healthy, nutritious food for all

No matter who they are or where they live.

Your project could focus on:

- making food systems more resilient by improving access to land, facilities and resources
- giving local communities more control over food to improve access to healthy, affordable options
- creating community-owned food spaces and activities that people want to take part in.

This could include supporting networks that help communities influence change. Or connecting existing local projects.

People in urban and rural areas offered different food options – especially those experiencing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination (Topics 3 & 4)

What are we looking for – aim 3



Offer people and communities different food options

Especially those experiencing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination.

This could include:


- reducing reliance on surplus food redistribution
- improving community food spaces and services such as retail, catering, food growing, community kitchens, cafés, and public dining spaces

Projects could also focus on:

- promoting sustainable and seasonal food practices
- encouraging life-long learning about food
- preventing food crises.

Topic 5: Organisations working in partnership to transform systems



- Working towards a shared vision 
- Core members established before applying
- Working together to develop the project around the changes you want to collectively achieve
- General understanding of who will be responsible for what, and how you will share resources and responsibilities
- Can be local, regional or national
- One UK country or more
- New or already established
- Partnership agreement not needed at this stage - but discuss with partners now

Partnership expectations



- Involve the communities they work with in design and delivery of the project
- Ensure equitable access to project funding and resources
- Consider capacity building and good governance
- Share what you learn across the sector and with other projects we fund
- Work across different sectors
- Include expertise in areas like food systems and agroecology, climate, environment, nature, communications, learning and evaluation, and community representation

Appendix 2: Stakeholder list from conversations

Named Organisations/Groups in Gloucestershire

Abbey Home Farm	https://www.theorganicfarmshop.co.uk/
Archers Community Orchard	https://deerparkarchers.co.uk/orchard-project/
Bisley Farm Shop	https://www.bisleyfarmshop.com/
British Academy	https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/
Brockworth Community Gardens (St. George's Church, and Perrybrook)	https://www.stgeorgesbrockworth.org/communitygarden
Butterfly Garden	https://www.thebutterflygarden.org/
Camp Hill	https://www.camphillvillagetrust.org.uk/
Cheltenham is Growing	
Citizens Advice	https://gloscab.org.uk/
Coates Farm	https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/
Common Soil	https://www.rau.ac.uk/about-rau/partners/farm-partners
Common Wealth	https://commonsoil.co.uk/
	https://www.common-wealth.org/
Cotswold Food Network	https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/communities-and-leisure/support-for-communities/community-wellbeing/food-sustainability/
Countryside & Community Research Institute (CCRI)	https://ccri.ac.uk/
Creative Sustainability: Youth Climate Network	https://cscic.org/programmes/gycg/
Crisis & Resilience Fund (CRF)	https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/crisis-and-resilience-fund/
FareShare	https://fareshare.org.uk/
FarmED	https://www.farm-ed.co.uk/
Farmer Guardians of the Upper Thames	https://www.farmerguardians.co.uk/
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAG) - farmer clusters and groups	https://fwagsw.org.uk/
Feed Cheltenham	https://ymcacheltenham.com/feed-cheltenham/
Feeding Gloucestershire	https://www.feedinggloucestershire.org.uk/
Forest Food Hub	https://www.deanforestfoodhub.org.uk/
Forest Food Network	https://www.squiffweb.co.uk/exhibits/forest-food-network/
Gloucester HAF	https://theventurecommunityhub.co.uk/services/haf-holiday-activities-and-food/
Gloucestershire County Council: community & economic development	https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/
Gloucestershire Food & Farming Partnership	https://www.gloucestershirefoodandfarmingpartnership.org/
Gloucestershire Food & Farming: Lizzie Dyer's groups: growers and food equity & inclusion group	info@gloucestershirefoodandfarmingpartnership.org
Gloucestershire Gateway Trust	https://gloucestershiregatewaytrust.org.uk/
Gloucestershire Gleaning	https://www.gloucestershiregleaning.co.uk/
Good Small Farms	https://goodsmallfarms.co.uk/
GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council)	https://www.grcc.org.uk/

Hartpury University/College	https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/
Holiday Activities Fund	https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/
NE Cotswold Farmer Cluster	https://www.cotswoldfarmers.org/
Neighbourly	https://www.neighbourly.com/
Network of Stroud Hubs (NoSH)	https://www.facebook.com/NoSHStroud
NHS - Gloucestershire Health & Wellbeing Partnership	https://www.onegloucestershire.net/about-us/#about-ghwp
Norton Court Farm	https://www.nortoncourtfarm.co.uk/
Olio	https://olioapp.com/en/
Power to Change organisations	https://www.powertochange.org.uk/
Priors Park Community Allotments	https://www.facebook.com/PriorsParkGarden/
Project GROW	https://www.weareprojectgrow.com/
RAU GREAT Market Garden	https://www.greatglos.co.uk/greatzerodig
RegenDeep	https://www.regendeep.co.uk/
Royal Agricultural University (RAU)	https://www.rau.ac.uk/
Salvation Army	https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/gloucester
Severn Vale Guardians	https://www.severnvaleguardians.co.uk/
Stroud Climate and Nature Partnership	
Sustain	https://www.sustainweb.org/
Tewkesbury Borough Food Providers	https://tewkesbury.gov.uk/services/community/cost-of-living-support/
Tewkesbury Nature Reserve Community Garden	https://tewkesburynaturereserve.org.uk/
The Great Plate	https://www.thegreatplate.org.uk/
The Long Table	https://thelongtableonline.com/
The Nelson Trust	https://www.nelsontrust.com/
The Orchard Trust	https://orchard-trust.org.uk/
Transition Cleeve Community Orchard	https://www.facebook.com/grangefieldcommunityorchard
Trussell Trust	https://www.trussell.org.uk/
Twynning Village Community Growing	
University of Gloucestershire	https://www.glos.ac.uk/about-us/academic-schools/countryside-and-community-research-institute/
University of Gloucestershire with NICRE and CCRI	https://nicre.co.uk/about-us/ and https://www.glos.ac.uk/about-us/academic-schools/countryside-and-community-research-institute/
Wiggly	https://wigglycharity.org/
Winchcombe Community Allotment and Orchard	https://winchcombefca.co.uk/
Young Farmers	https://www.gloucestershireyfc.co.uk/