



**BWD FOOD ALLIANCE**  
**12 MONTH ACTION PLAN.**  
**APRIL 2023- MARCH 2024**



## Background.

The past year represented a significant milestone in the development of Blackburn with Darwen Food Alliance (BwDFA) which included taking on our first paid member of staff, gaining status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and obtaining our first externally funded grant from Sustainable Food Places. Alongside recruiting our board of trustees and steering group, we worked also on defining our charitable objects which inform all of our work going forward and are as follows:

*The promotion, preservation and protection of good health and the environment for the public benefit in Blackburn with Darwen and the surrounding area by increasing public understanding, involvement and knowledge of the way in which food is produced, distributed, consumed and disposed of and the effects this can have on human health and wellbeing and the health of the environment on which humans depend.*

We worked with our membership to revise the BwDFA food charter, BwDFA aims to:

- Support everyone to have a good relationship with food
- Promote how we can eat more healthily
- Build our skills as a community around preparing, cooking and growing food
- Link up those who produce food locally with local people
- Make good use of food surpluses & reduce food waste
- Support our communities to grow, cook & eat together.
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and to define clearly the principles which inform the ways in which we work:

- Celebrate & respect diversity within our community
- Oppose any form of discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability or religion
- Foster long-term partnerships & build trust through collaboration
- Work in ways which ensure that all sectors of our community have an opportunity to get involved in our work
- Act respectfully & recognise & respect the diversity of views around food
- Move from individual to collective action
- Always be open to learning
- Foster innovation & creativity

Undertaking the above work has enabled us to put in place the building blocks which will inform all that we do going forward. Whilst the charitable objectives are fixed, our food charter and guiding principles will be revisited with our members on an annual basis to ensure that they remains current and aligned to the needs, priorities and values of our community.

We have developed two work streams related to promoting Food Equality and Community Growing, input at a strategic level to a range of food related committees and ran a Let's Talk Food campaign to explore people's perception of good food. In March 2023 we held our first annual conference at Ewood Park which provided the opportunity for our membership to come together to learn, share and network.

Information about all of the above can be found on our website <https://bwdfoodalliance.org.uk>.

Against this background of early development this document sets out our proposed work programme for April 2023 - March 2024.

Dr Lynne Goodacre  
Co-ordinator Blackburn with Darwen Food Alliance.

<b>Work Programmes: Food Growing Network</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Sustain Key Issue</b>
Continue to support and develop a connected network of community gardening projects across the Borough and encourage and support those wishing to set a new project. (Delivered in partnership with Lancs Wildlife Trust (LWT))	Ongoing	2,3,6
Use social media channels to promote opportunities for people to develop food growing skills and expertise	Ongoing	2,3,6
Work with LWT and key stakeholders to increase the profile of food related climate actions that can be taken by residents	Ongoing	6
<b>Work Programmes: Cooking and Food Preparation</b>		
Promote through our website and social media channels opportunities across the Borough for people to increase their food knowledge		2,3
Organise, in conjunction with local community groups a regular Seasonal Cook-up to encourage people to use and prepare food in season	August 2023	2,3
Organise a Buy Local challenge as a catalyst to promote a buy local good food movement.	February 2024	4,
Work in conjunction with Whitehall Park Community Garden to organise a community Apple Day event	October 2023	2,3
Working in collaboration with key community groups to organise a series of food events drawing on the diverse cuisines within our community focused on increasing skills and food culture within BwD	October 2023 onwards	2
Identify opportunities to work with other organisations to inspire new and creative approaches to inspiring people to build their food knowledge	Ongoing	2
<b>Work Programmes: Putting a Face to Your Food</b>		
Map local sustainable food producers within a 20 mile radius of BwD and produce relevant online format to share the information	Ongoing	4,6
Undertake a series of visits with local producers to provide content for the Putting a Face to Your Food blog series	Monthly	2,4,6

Organise an online meeting to bring the local producers we have worked with together to explore the development of this work	November 2024	4,5
Develop links with catering managers from a wide range of organisations	Ongoing	5
To explore the potential of bringing together the local producers we have worked with and the network of catering managers	February 2024	4,5,6
<b>Work Programmes: Food Equality Group</b>		
To continue to support the network of organisations providing food support within BwD holding regular meetings to explore avenues for greater collaborative working, share knowledge and expertise	Ongoing	3
To work with the network to promote Healthy Start Vouchers and work to increase the uptake of this voucher within the Borough.	Ongoing	3
To support the work in BwD to develop a Food Club Model	Ongoing	3
To maintain information on the current agencies providing food support within BwD and share via the website	Ongoing	3
Continue to contribute to the work of the BwD Eat Well Move More strategy	Ongoing	3
Continue to contribute to the child poverty action group meetings	Ongoing	3
<b>Work Programmes: Food Waste</b>		
To deliver a range of activities during Action on Food Waste Week	March 2024	6
<b>BRONZE SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLACE AWARD</b>		
To prepare and submit our application to be recognised as a bronze Sustainable Food Place	May - Sept 2023	
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>		
Maintain and expand membership for individuals and organisations	Ongoing	1
Hold 2 membership events per year including a national conference	Ongoing	1

<b>COMMS</b>		
Continue to promote membership of the Food Alliance	Ongoing	1
Attend relevant events to promote the work of the Food Alliance	Ongoing	1
Update current website to integrate new work programmes	Ongoing	1
Produce quarterly newsletter	Ongoing	1
Staff to undertake training in Mail Chimp.	Autumn 2023	
<b>GOVERNANCE OF BWD FOOD ALLIANCE</b>		
Approve and monitor budget for 23/24	May 2024	1
Consult on, approve and monitor the Food Alliance Action Plan 23/24 and review on 6 monthly basis	Ongoing	1
Expand current board of Trustees		
Hold bi-monthly Trustee meetings	Ongoing	1
Hold steering group meetings on a quarterly basis.	Ongoing	1
Identify potential funders and develop applications to secure the future of the Food Alliance	Ongoing	1
Work in collaboration with BwD Public Health to deliver on service level agreement	Ongoing	

### Key to Sustain Food Places Key Issues

1. Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action.
  1. establishing a broad, representative and dynamic local food partnership
  2. develop, deliver and monitor, a food action plan
2. Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement
  1. inspire and engage the public in good food
  2. foster food citizenship and a local good food movement
3. Tackling food poverty and diet related ill-health and increasing access to affordable healthy food
  1. Tackle food poverty
  2. Promote Healthy Eating
4. Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy
  1. Put good food enterprise at the heart of local economic development
  2. Promote healthy, sustainable and independent food businesses to consumers
5. Transforming catering and procurement and revitalising local and sustainable food supply chains
  1. Change policy and practice to put good food on people's plates
  2. Improving connections and collaborations across the local supply chain

6. Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste
  1. Promote sustainable food production and consumption and resource efficiency
  2. Reduce, redirect and recycle food, packaging and related waste