



Rotherham Food Network

September Update

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The network - benefits

- Membership of RFN continues to grow with up to **77 members** receiving invites to the meetings, representing **26 stakeholder organisations**.
- Stakeholder workshop held end of April facilitating collaborative planning and supporting opportunities for organisations to link up.
- Links made into **South Yorkshire regional food partnership**.
- Working as a 'system' – this is a broad scope which no organisation can take responsibility for alone.

Bronze award

- The Sustainable Food Places Award is designed to recognise and celebrate the success of those places taking a **joined up, holistic approach** to food and achieving significant positive change on a range of key food issues.
- Evidence needed to cover the **6 key areas**
 - Governance
 - Good Food Movement
 - Healthy Food for All
 - Food Economy
 - Catering and Procurement
 - Food for the planet

Congratulations!

Achieving the bronze award recognises the steps that Rotherham has taken to raise awareness of food challenges, promote and produce locally sourced produce, tackle food poverty, and more.

As well as celebrating the success of the network and its members who are actively making positive changes to Rotherham's food sector, system, and to the way food is viewed as a society.

Rotherham's application can be found online -
<https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/awards/>



Best practice from application

- “This is a strong Bronze application, showcasing an impressive body of work across the key issue areas. A fantastic achievement to pull all this evidence together in the absence of a dedicated, funded coordinator role.”
- “Efforts of the council's catering company is so great to see, and we hope they continue with the Food for Life work.”

What next?

- Development of **working groups**
 - Food Growing
 - Healthy Eating
 - Food in Crisis
 - Commercial Food
- Developing a **food strategy** (required for silver)
- Creating a **brand** for the network – creating more of a presence within the borough
 - This will be carried out by RNN students

Risks and issues

- In other areas, various partners/grants generally **fund** food partnerships.
 - We currently have no direct funding avenues for food work
- Partners have stretched **capacity** with competing **priorities**
- Further work **engaging** and supporting local food **businesses, farmers, and supply chains**.
 - This was identified within our bronze application

Opportunities

- **Food Strategy** – In partnership with our members in the food network, a food strategy should
 - Build a broad understanding of the local context and local food culture and collect baseline data
 - Explore different perspectives on food issues, facilitate community participation, and build representation
 - Share knowledge and build the food system through representative partnership structures and processes
- Longer **action plan** (5 years) – to align to strategy and refresh of Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Recommendations

- Health and Wellbeing board to acknowledge the achievements so far within the Rotherham Food Network
- Health and Wellbeing board members to acknowledge the risks in progression to silver without additional resources
- Members to offer steer as to future prioritisation for the network