



CIVIL FOOD RESILIENCE WEBINAR NOTES, LINKS AND Q&A



Emergent themes and values associated with food resilience

Connection / connectedness / relationships
Collaboration / cooperation / partnership
Community / community cohesion
Access / accessibility / affordability
Equity / equality / justice
Diversity / plurality / inclusion
Empowerment / agency / participation
Health / wellbeing / healing
Trust / care / compassion
Sustainability / regenerative / climate-forward
Sharing / solidarity / generosity
Local / rooted / home-grown
Resilience / adaptability / readiness
Food sovereignty / autonomy
Networks / coordination
Learning / awareness / communication

Reflections on participant framing:

- Strong emphasis on relationships and social fabric, not just food supply
- Equity and justice as foundational
- “Connection” was probably the dominant word/theme overall
- Many people framed resilience as local, participatory and community-led
- Suggests audience already sees food resilience as social infrastructure as much as physical infrastructure

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Key links shared

Core research/reports:

- SFP Civil Food Resilience in Practice report:
<https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/news/may26-cfrreport/>
- Potential Pathways and Solutions to Acute Food System Crisis in the UK (Sarah Bridle et al):
<https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/18/3/1342>
- Backcasting to Achieve Food Resilience in the UK:
<https://www.aru.ac.uk/global-sustainability-institute-gsi/research/backcasting-to-achieve-food-resilience>
- Just in Case: 7 steps to narrow the UK civil food resilience gap:
<https://nationalpreparednesscommission.uk/publications/just-in-case-7-steps-to-narrow-the-uk-civil-food-resilience-gap/>
- Broken Plate 2025: <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/publication/broken-plate-2025>
- JRF UK Poverty 2025:
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/uk-poverty-2025-the-essential-guide-to-understanding-poverty-in-the-uk>
- FoodSEqual: <https://research.reading.ac.uk/food-systems-equality/>

SFP case studies:

- Birmingham:
https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/resources/CFR_case_studies/7SFP_CFR_Birmingham_Case_Study.pdf
- Brighton & Sussex:
https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/resources/CFR_case_studies/3SFP_CFR_Brighton_and_Sussex_Case_Study.pdf
- Greater Lincolnshire:
https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/resources/CFR_case_studies/8SFP_CFR_Lincolnshire_Case_Study.pdf
- Monmouthshire:
https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/resources/CFR_case_studies/6SFP_CFR_Monmouthshire_Case_Study.pdf
- Bristol:
https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/resources/CFR_case_studies/2SFP_CFR_Bristol_Case_Study.pdf

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- Shropshire:
https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/resources/CFR_case_studies/1SFP_CFR_Shropshire_Case_Study.pdf
- Plymouth:
https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/resources/CFR_case_studies/4SFP_CFR_Plymouth_Case_Study.pdf
- Dyfed Powys:
https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/resources/CFR_case_studies/5SFP_CFR_Dyfed_Powys_Case_Study.pdf

Projects/practice examples:

- Dominic Watters' work: <https://dominicwatters.com/>
- Rethinking food poverty through lived experience:
<https://rootandreason.org.uk/resource/a-view-from-the-inside-rethinking-food-poverty-through-lived-experience/>
- London Community Asset Mapping Project:
<https://www.sustainweb.org/events/dec25-food-resilient-london-mapping-assets/>
- FoodSavers/pantry-credit union model: www.foodsaver.org.uk
- Food Plymouth: <https://foodplymouth.org/>
- Plymouth Fish Finger Project: <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/plymouth-fish-finger>
- Unlocking Abilities Together: <https://www.unlockingabilitiestogether.co.uk/>
- Bwyd Powys Food: <https://www.cultivate.uk.com/bwyd-powys-food/>
- Powys Machinery Ring: <https://www.cultivate.uk.com/powys-machinery-ring/>
- People's Emergency Briefing: <https://www.nebriefing.org>

Campaigns/policy links:

- Local Food Plan: <https://www.localfoodplan.org/>
- Right to Food Commission: <https://www.ianbyrne.org/rtfcommission>
- Right to Food Commission get involved: <https://www.ianbyrne.org/rtfcommission-get-involved>
- Four Pillars of Dignified Food Access:
<https://www.sustainweb.org/foodpoverty/four-pillars-of-dignified-food-access/>
- Plant-rich diets position paper:
<https://plantbasedhealthprofessionals.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Joint-Position-Paper-Regarding-the-Benefits-of-Plant-rich-Diets-PBHP-Foodrise-TVS-et-al.pdf>

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- Vegan Society Lobby Day, 3 June:
<https://www.vegansociety.com/news/blog/join-our-lobby-day-3-june>

SFP next steps:

- SFP newsletter: https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/get_involved/newsletter/
- Become an SFP member:
https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/get_involved/become_a_member/
- SFP Members Forum: https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/get_involved/members-forum/
- Webinar survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H9LLC6T>

Salient questions and points raised in the chat

- How do we accelerate food resilience work given worsening food insecurity, climate shocks and slow government progress?
- How do we make sure lived experience shapes policy, rather than communities being consulted and then ignored?
- Food insecurity is not only a future crisis — it is already a daily reality for many people.
- Food banks are not the answer on their own; people need dignity, choice, income, local provision and structural change.
- How can food partnerships and grassroots groups do long-term resilience work when they are already firefighting?
- How do we include Northern Ireland more meaningfully, given different legislation, governance and context?
- Public institutions should be supported to procure more locally and sustainably.
- Food hubs and short supply chains need support with warehouse space, affordable rent, infrastructure and local government backing.
- Community gardens, allotments and growing spaces matter, but cities need more radical approaches where land is limited.
- Food resilience needs to address inequality: people cannot make “choices” where there is no real choice.
- There is a need to connect risk registers and emergency planning with the lived reality of current food insecurity.
- Food sovereignty, local control, culturally appropriate food and ecologically sustainable production emerged as strong closing themes.

Q&A on following page -

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Key Q&A Questions Raised

Interesting that you've looked at food security through the lens of civil unrest — why this in particular over poor health outcomes or morbidity?	
Can Sarah Bridle distil some key interventions emerging from the game, especially those most relevant to food partnerships around the UK?	
Could you say something about the connections between the Food Resilience movement and the Right to Food Commission?	
Resilience is linked to the Civil Contingencies Act. What engagement has been made with the Civil Contingencies Secretariat?	
Question for Dominic: what would you say to policymakers about what needs to be done to help people with similar experiences to you plan effectively for food/water shortages and stockpile essentials?	
With 80–90% of food in Wales brought in through major retailer logistics networks, how can we engage retailers more meaningfully in food resilience work?	
Why are some Local Resilience Forums progressing food resilience work while others appear to be waiting for direction from DEFRA?	
What are the most impactful strategic actions VCFS organisations can take now to build food resilience — both within their direct control and sphere of influence?	
Food banks are often described as 'not the answer' — what role should food co-operatives and alternative community food models play?	