What's good in Coventry?  Food abundance vs Food poverty

CONTEXT, AIMS & METHODOLOGY

The over-arching research question “What's good in Coventry?” explores “food abundance” through the application of an agroecological lens on urban foodscape in the United Kingdom (UK) and elsewhere. The few pockets of resistance that can shed light into the implementation of long-term local actions for food sovereignty deserve major support.

How? Situated experience – Enjoy the city while identifying local food initiatives
Where? Transect walks – Observe, listen and describe remarkable “landscape units”
Who? Key informants – Collect historical and current insights from local actors

Food abundance

- Food swamps: a disproportionate availability of unhealthy, highly processed, fast food and low-nutrient foods.
- Beyond supermarkets, affordable food can be accessed in the city through local shops, low-cost greengrocers, and public markets.
- Fast foods often occur in more disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- Footbanks, often operated by churches and charities, supply free basic provisions and non-perishable food items to people in need.
- Public houses have a historical social responsibility under English common law to welcome all travelers willing to pay the price for food, drink, and lodging.
- Growing crops in allotments, balconies and home gardens can provide an important source of food to local residents.
- Foodbanks, often operated by churches and charities, supply free basic provisions and non-perishable food items to people in need.
- The Coventry Retail Market, managed by the City Council, provides affordable fresh food and local business opportunities.
- The Live and Dye Garden is an urban growing space within the Cathedral, focused on plants used for dyes, inks and medicinal purposes.
- Coventry University’s Edible Garden is located on campus and is open for all to share the space to plant, grow and pick vegetables, herbs and fruit.
- FarGo Village is a creative quarter, hosting community cafes, restaurants, and small boutiques in repurposed shipping containers.
- The Pod Café is a unique award-winning social restaurant supported by the City Council and largely funded by the Integrated Care System (ICS), offering low-cost healthy meals to the general public. Food resources are partially produced on the Food Union community garden, located at the Sherbourne Valley Allotments.

Food poverty

- Growing crops in allotments, balconies and home gardens can provide an important source of food to local residents.