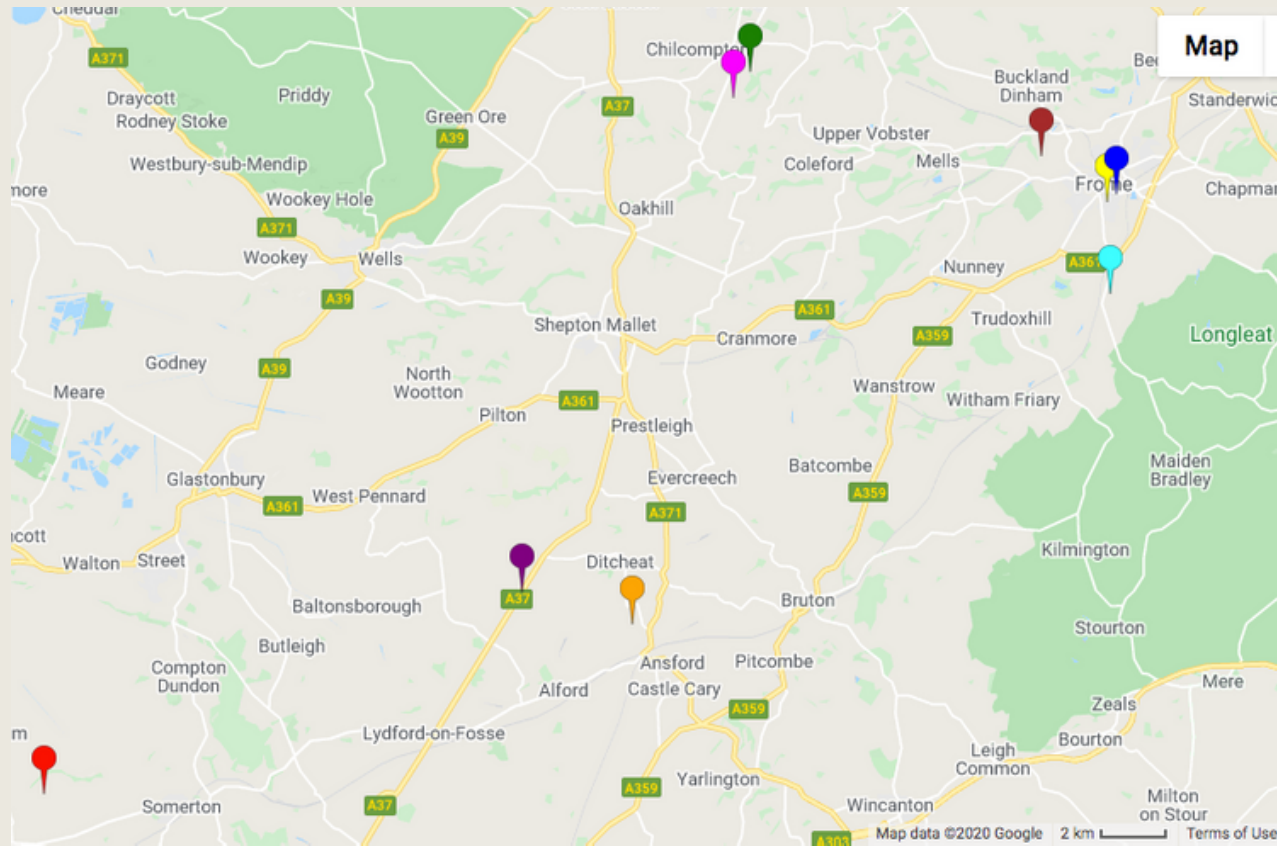


Location of food producers who responded to survey



Frome Town Council & Frome Field 2 Fork, June 2020

*Survey sent to over 30 growers within 40 miles of Frome in June 2020, 10 responded

** 1 respondent did not provide post code



Frome Town Council & Frome Field 2 Fork, June 2020

*Number in brackets = number of respondents

** Survey sent to over 30 growers within 40 miles of Frome in June 2020, 10 responded

1.2 Do you feel you will have any challenges or difficulties in the near future? (7/10 answered)

"Growing enough to supply demand, continuing with our struggling veg box website, which was fine with a smaller customer base, but requires a certain amount of manual admin, that has become quite hard to manage with the 400% increase in demand we have experienced."

"Beef and arable sides of the business has to some extent levelled out, but remain unpredictable."

"Replacing the hens is going to be a financial burden. Cost of market table at Somerset Farmers Market means we will have to cancel this; prior to Covid-19 we shared a table with another farmer, however now because of social distancing we cannot share. Market Manager of Frome approach me to sell eggs on a weekly basis in the weekly town market - however, again, the cost was too high as I have a low value product. Advertising our business and product is hard work! We cannot afford to pay for advertising and rely on social media.."

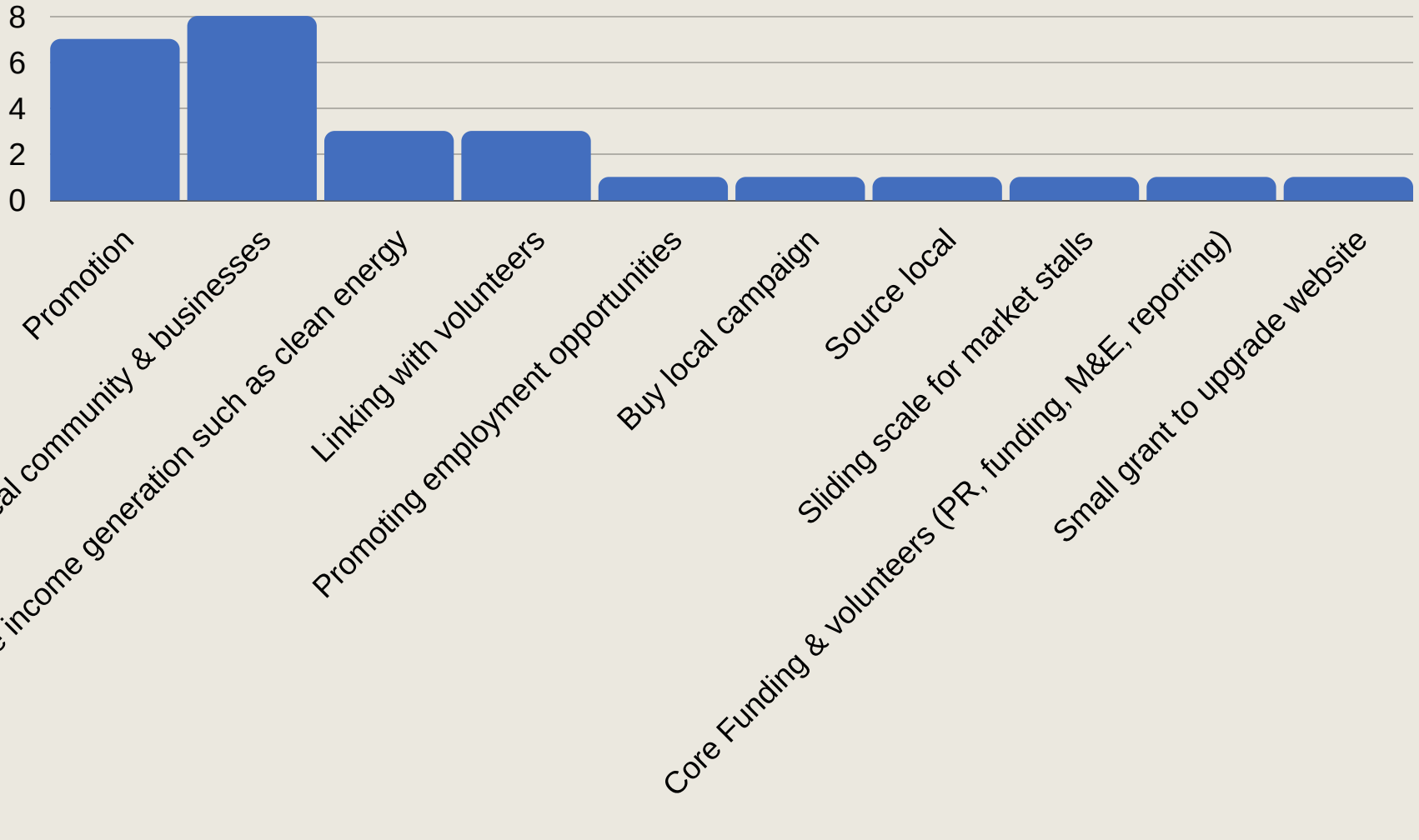
"High cost of labour compared to price of vegetables sold."

"It will take time for markets to re-emerge after the restrictions have been limited and some won't make it, thus a smaller marketplace. Trade agreements following BREXIT may oversupply the market with food produced to standards illegal here on the UK."

"Yes, core funding to keep our project open."

"A combination of food prices and planning laws make it difficult for small local market gardens to get the labour they ideally need. Low impact local growing still has a disappointingly small market share. If there's a major recession in the wake of the pandemic it's possible that we'll lose custom to cheaper volume commodity suppliers. Brexit is also potentially a challenge if new trade deals bring in cheaper volume commodity suppliers – and if they allow practices such as spraying with previously banned agri-chemicals or growing GM crops which might threaten our production methods directly. Climate change is a challenge for all the usual reasons. Already the warm, wet winters and dry summers we've been having are affecting our husbandry."

1.3 Do you have any suggestions as to how Frome Town Council & Frome Field 2 Fork could support you? (9/10 answered)



Frome Town Council & Frome Field 2 Fork, June 2020

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1.4 Are you interested in other income generating activities such as renewable energy?

(Income from wind for example can be £10,000-15,000 per year for 0.5 acre of land, solar potentially offers similar returns.)

Yes: 6

No: 4

Any other info or comments

Local food
hub
promotion

Promoting
case for
locally
grown, low-
impact
food

Visit us to
see the
hard work
put in

Self-build
register for
new local
smallholdin
gs

Joined up
planning
policy with
Mendip

Polytunnels
for rent if
land
available

continued... Any other info or comments - full comments

- I would be very interested in any work involving promotion of a local food hub.
- Please come and visit Frome Eggs to get a true measure of the hard work we have put in over the last four years.
- If there is any land available i have polytunnels and can make more so people can rent them and produce their own salads.
- Main income is writing and teaching. Selling vegetables earns little per hour. Hence the shortage of local food.
- FTC could maybe help us by publicising the case for the public to support locally-grown low impact food. Linking with Mendip District Council to develop some progressive and joined-up planning policy around local food production and agricultural dwellings could also be a great help in making it easier for operations like ours to get started. Another route might be to use the local self-build register as a means of creating new local smallholdings, with positive effects on local food sovereignty.

1.5 Do you currently supply to businesses in or near Frome?

Yes: 4

No: 6

Those who do not supply locally would be interested in doing so.

1.6 What are your reasons for choosing to supply locally?

- We prefer to reduce food miles, keep money within the local economy, supply our local communities, and help produce circular economies.
- Lowering food miles, and therefore carbon footprint, also like seeing our produce eaten by people who can see it growing
- We've always been committed politically to the local/sustainable food movement and have developed our business accordingly.

1.7 What initiatives are you involved in which have helped you to supply locally?

- Castle Cary Chamber of Commerce, Somerset Local Food Direct. That is probably it, everything else has been through personal contact with restaurants, shops, customers, and other local veg box schemes.
- No specific initiatives, just seek local markets
- The Food Hub (previously the Food Assembly). Occasional selling to local festivals and other businesses. Our main route is our own veg box scheme.

1.8 What are the current challenges which have meant that you do not supply locally?

- We do sell in our farm shop and to other outlets local to us.
- With beef it is a balance to sell the prime cuts (hind quarter) and the forequarter meat so that nothing is wasted. It needs a range of customers from catering to households to make this work efficiently
- I was supplying Vallis Veg before their salad crops came in. Now selling to friends.
- We supply to Glastonbury (Earthfare) & sell at the Frome Independent (when operating). We're hoping to sell into Somerset Local Food soon & working on another small food distributor close to Frome. I've never wanted to push the Frome market due to Vallis Veg already having a presence here & wouldn't want to impinge on the good work Chris & Ellis are doing & always keen for solidarity amongst growers to stay strong & sustainable.