Transition Cambridge meeting 12.08.08, 7:30pm, Clown’s Cafe

Present: David, James, Anna, Jono, Naveen (Chair), Nicky, Beck (Minutes)
Apologies: Sharon, Corrina, Martin, Mary

Agenda

1. Meeting structure
2. Mainstreaming
3. Awareness-raising
4. Old email account
5. Website
6. Follow up from Open Space
7. Film at Friends’ Meeting House
8. Education Group
9. AOB

1. Meeting structure

The group agreed to try a fixed meeting time slot of 6-7.30pm and to use the time in a more formally structured way. Selecting a Chair and minute-taker should be the first item of business at every meeting.

The following items were suggested as standard recurring items for the agenda: matters arising; subgroups; public events; ongoing projects; AOB. This standard list could be reviewed at any time.

Naveen offered to circulate a draft agenda before each meeting. Additional items can be added at the meeting.

Anna suggested putting the group’s minutes on the website for public information and reasons of transparency. The group agreed this was a good idea.

2. Mainstreaming

Beck suggested that the group start to think about locations in Cambridge where events could be held to throw TC more into the mainstream. The Junction was suggested – perhaps for an open mic night/local bands, DJ Skunk? Any places we want to use we will need to book soon.

James will find out the name of the person at the Akashi Project who has been working on mainstreaming environmental messages.

3. Awareness-raising

The Buddhist Centre will be showing The Power of Community on Thursday 14 August from 7pm. David and Anna will be there to represent TC. Anyone else from the group is welcome to come along and support the discussion.

Jono felt that it is important that we offer evidence that TC is actually doing things, rather than appearing to be another talking shop. Could we do something like make over a community garden or a litter collection?

James suggested involving existing local groups.
Nicky suggested that physical manifestations of TC will come about through events such as the film showing at the Arts Picturehouse, getting grants and getting the sub-groups going.

Anna suggested choosing one activity that would not have happened without TC, make it high profile and get some press attention.

Beck suggested contacting Simon Chubb at Cambridge Sustainable City to find out whether there are any manageable projects we could partner on.

David highlighted the fact that any project we take on will need to be something that the Council will maintain. Sharon has a connection with someone on the Council with responsibility for trees. Maybe a couple of people should meet this person. James & David volunteered. This may then act as the start of the Trees Subgroup.

4. Old email account

Some people will have emailed this and not had a reply. Nicky has asked Ben to reset his security question but will ask him again.

5. Website

The idea of personal profiles had been suggested but individuals’ permission is needed. TC members should let Anna know if they are happy to have a profile on the website and forward a short piece of text, if necessary. Members can also send photos if they wish. Anna will thank Nicola for her work on the website, which launches next week.

6. Follow-up from Open Space

David asked whether there is more we could be doing to take forward some of the ideas that came out of the Open Space. Several groups’ notes are on the website – could they be used? There is a ‘trees for food and fuel’ group that someone could run with. David will write a short paragraph for the bulletin on getting this group started. (It was later suggested that this be saved for September.)

Beck will review the other notes on the website, see which are ripe for starting a new group and write something for the next bulletin.

James suggested that it might be wise to meet with the Council before starting up a trees group. He suggested bringing reflections on this subject to the next meeting.

David suggested convening a tree group meeting just to see who comes. It was also suggested that TC be careful to keep itself distinct from the Council.

7. Film at Friends’ Meeting House

Peter has offered to organise a film showing. It was agreed that “Crude Awakening” might be a good choice and that a Wednesday or Thursday in mid-October might be the best time, as students will be back. Anna will suggest some dates to Peter.

Nicky will speak with Emilia (CUSU Ethical Affairs) about being part of their One World Coalition stand at the Freshers’ Fair in October. David has also contacted the students’ union at ARU but not had a reply. Nicky will follow this up with ARU’s Roots & Shoots Group.
James suggested having a Transition Town stand at Climate Camp. David will ask Robin de Carteret whether there was a TT presence this year.

8. Education Group

Nicky flagged up that there was no-one from the SG at the Education Group meeting, as Corrina was away. It was felt that someone from the SG should be at each subgroup meeting.

Nicky suggested that subgroup meetings feed back to the transitioncambridge email address, and that these notes should then be circulated to the SG. Also, if a member of each subgroup would like to attend SG meetings, they would be welcome.

David reported that seven people attended the first Education Group meeting. Beck will try to make the next one, along with Corrina.

Anna will check with each group whether they would be happy for their minutes to appear on the website.

9. AOB

i) Café Project

As several TC members are busy on Wednesdays, could we move our night at the Café Project to a different evening? Nicky will consult with the group about switching to Thursdays and contact Emilia.

David suggested that we have our meetings on Thursdays from 6-7.30pm, then open the café from 7.30. (Meetings would remain fortnightly.)

ii) December event

It was suggested that the group fits in another event before the end of the year. There will be two film showings (mid Oct at the Friends’ Meeting House and 25 Nov at the Arts Picturehouse) in the Autumn.

A Transition Christmas/Winter Party was suggested. This could be combined with a music event. Nicky will call David’s contact at the Junction to find out costs and whether we could have one of their spaces.

A presentation/talk was also suggested. Beck will contact Tony Juniper to ask whether he would like to be involved, in principle, and, if so, which of our events he would like to take part in.

Date and time of next meeting:

Thursday 28 August
6.00-7.30pm
Café Project, Jesus Lane – TBC