Transition Cambridge Meeting
19 March 2008 6:30-8 in CB1

Present: Naveen, David, Sharon, Martin, Ceri, Becks, Corrina, Nicky, Anna

David offered to chair the meeting. People who agreed to do things are in **bold**.
Basic agenda for the meeting: to report back on what we’ve been doing and envision an awareness raising campaign.

1. Ben has sent round the minutes, including a really nice vision of how Cambridge might look. Thanks Ben!

2. Report on films – one on Sunday was good and will be one this coming Sunday at Ian and Suzy’s. **Anna** is burning a film from Corrina to give to Ian on Friday.

3. **David** will write something for the Friends of the Earth newsletter. **Ceri** will e-mail what she sent into Cambridge Matters. We should keep a copy of all these things, e.g. on a memory stick and website-wiki. **Becks** will get us a memory stick.

4. **Corrina** has a list of university groups that are relevant to Transition Towns from her friend who is involved in the Community Cafe. She’ll give these to Ben and Becks and they can also go on file.

5. Martin has got an application form from the Coop bank. We’ll need to send our aims and objectives (see mission statement below). We need a bank account to become a Transition Town. **Martin and Nicki are happy to be treasurers, and Sharon, David and Becks are happy to be additional signatories. Martin** will e-mail round to organise this. Bank account name to be Transition Cambridge.

6. Ceri has looked into grants and has given Nicky a copy of the grant application that she was involved with. She has found some small grants to apply to and will liaise with Nicky on this.

7. Ceri has been in touch with Philipa Sutton (Councillor for Trumpington) who suggested being in touch with Sian Reid (City Councillor responsible for climate change). Simon Chubb is the climate change officer on the council. Sian Ried would like to hear from us to find out what Transition Towns are. **Ceri** will draft a letter and circulate to everyone before sending. She suggests that we can work together with the council, perhaps reaching people that they don’t.

8. Corrina met the Mayor on Friday and she is keen to meet us and come to a meeting. We can arrange a film showing at Cotto (David and Sharon are in contact) who have offered to let us use their space and have a projector. We could show a short film (e.g. the one Ben Brangwyn sent to the States – **Martin** will find this) that introduces Transition Towns, and then introduce ourselves and tell her what we are doing. **Corrina** will be in contact with the mayor to find a date between 20 and 24 April to do this, and then we’ll need to check with Cotto.
9. David recommends that we keep records of all the communication we have with these people (alongside our press releases e.g. to Cambridge Matters); contact with the council is needed to become an official Transition Town. Again this can go on our wiki website and memory stick. Corrina will keep a log of contacts. Becks is happy to keep a press file so please send relevant things to her. It could also go on a blog – we may get one as become a transition town. Corrina will contact the transition towns people to get a web and blog space. The minutes of our meetings can also go on our web-space. A wiki is a web-site that anyone can add to without needing to know how to write web-pages.

10. Naveen and Anna have made a 1st draft of a mission statement. Various suggestions were made to improve it. Naveen will send it round and we can all add to it until we are happy with it. Extra words that could be included are: sustainable, energy descent pathway/plan, raising awareness, practical actions. Also needs cutting into shorter sentences, leadership, simpler values of life, look forward to, reclaim simplicity. Again this would be great to do on a wiki if we get one soon, otherwise by e-mail.

11. Nikki has been in contact with Ben Brangwyn about needing a constitution. We only need one for the bank, not for Transition Towns, but this may become a requirement in the future. Becks has some examples and notes. She is happy to work on this, but David suggests that it should not be a high priority for now.

12. Nikki has an offer for us to show a film at Strawberry Fair on 7 June. All agreed is a great idea. Also perhaps a stall where we could have posters and leaflets, and could collect names and e-mails, and also ask what areas people are interested in/ have skills to contribute to – this will also encourage us to have conversations with people. Corrina can prepare a table for people to enter this information. The poster can display visually what transition towns are about, e.g. using a mindmap, examples of projects, pictures. We can also offer to put other groups’ leaflets on our stall to help make connections between groups.

If show a film we should have some kind of forum/conversation to follow it (e.g. a deep ecology exercise from Anna?). Ask for a 2 hour slot if possible. We’ll need to choose a film. This can be our first public awareness-raising event. We could make t-shirts, perhaps in different colours (definitely fair trade, organic cotton). Sharon and Jo can design.

We’ll need to come up with a programme of activities to put on a leaflet (post-card sized flyer), so we can tell people “What next?” For events, several of us can facilitate (e.g. David, Corrina, Anna) and Becks has access to high-profile facilitators. Need to emphasize that we are action-orientated. Nicky and Naveen are meeting up end of this week to discuss(? sorry missed this bit). The leaflet should include our logo, mission statement and calendar of events. This leaflet will be very useful to give out at several local events to raise awareness.

13. We could also have an event during Environment Week from 26 May, e.g. a stall on Parkers Piece if there is a fair for environmental groups in Cambridge, or a film with the Cambridge Cycle Cinema. Environment Week is run by Sustainable City, part of the City Council’s climate change agenda. Who’s looking into this?
14. Sharon questioned how big we are thinking when we talk about events… perhaps starting small and growing? And how long shall we do this awareness-raising phase – when we have a ground swell of interest is the time to do something really big as a Launch Date. We want people to feel they are joining a movement. By that time some practical action groups may have taken shape. Perhaps in Environment Week next year. At each event we want people to have the chance to meet and talk to each other, and we want to set the challenge for practical action. From this the sub-groups will form, if they do so organically that’s great.

15. Ceri told us that Harambi might run an event for children for us. They usually charge for this but we might be able to get a grant to pay for it. We’d need to write them a letter to ask about this. We agreed to leave this for the future when we have a better idea of what events we are running.

16. Sharon is very concerned about the lack of sustainability or green initiatives related to housing. Only 10% renewable energy currently required in new housing developments e.g. in Trumpington. Wants to connect up with people to work on this. Suggestions of people to contact are the Mayor (passionate about this) and Andy Brown of Cambridge Carbon Footprint who is an architect and is very knowledgeable. Could form a housing group to discuss this very pressing issue. This could be the first sub-group forming!

17. We did a quick run-round of the areas we are interested in:
   Ceri – food
   Nicki – events
   Beck and Corrina – youth
   Beck – transport
   Corrina, David and Anna – psychology of change and emotional well-being
   Sharon – my story, the elders
   Martin – business
   Anna - economics
   Sharon, Naveen, David, Anna – arts and crafts

18. We’ll also need to keep a calendar of dates on the wiki/blog.

19. Public film screening – need to decide which films and in what sequence. Should also get some good speakers (who generally like coming to Cambridge) such as George Monbiot, Tony Juniper, Rob Hopkins. Need to think about dates for these (summer/autumn/winter). Do them in different parts of the city to catch different audiences and social backgrounds. Another idea for an event is a wind-turbine making workshop.

20. Ceri gave us an article on how to beat denial of these issues. Various people in the group now have copies which we can share.

Next meeting – Thursday 10 April, 6:30pm in the Community Café (venue to be confirmed).