Transition Cambridge Education Sub-group Open Meeting
15 January 2009, Friends Meeting House, Jesus Lane

Present
- James Southwick, Kerry ?, Rosie Amos, Anna McIvor, Sue Woodsford, Clayton Lavallin, Natalie Shale, Philip Richards, Mark Skipper, Nic Rogers

Appologies
- Beck Collins, Di Hinds

Format
1. Three Gs
On arrival, we were invited to share their Gives (what do you bring to offer this event), Gets (what do you hope to get from this event) and Ghastlys (What are you afraid of this event becoming) together with what previous experience or knowledge of the Transition Movement by putting anonymous sticky notes onto posters on the wall. This mingling event gave us a chance to see what the others were bringing without having to own up to any particular fear or aspiration. The contributions included:

- Give: enthusiasm and experience of workshop design and facilitation
- Get: to find out more about the Education Group
- Give: ex-worker in Cambridge City Council Environment Centre
- Give: Facilitation skills, teaching experience and enthusiasm for learning
- Get: Knowledge of what you folk (the Ed. Group?) have been up to
- Get: Inspiration
- Get: Ideas about how an education group might run, who might be in it and what it will do
- Get: Does the Education have a place yet or is it too soon
- Get: seeing a possible way to be involved in Cambridge education in future
- Ghastly: Afraid we will be “interested” but not “willing”
- Ghastly: leave without action points or a plan
- Ghastly: that it will take up time but not achieve anything
- Ghastly: talk not action
- Give: Youth group /space to trial workshops/ sessions, can help facilitate and prepare workshops
- Give: knowledge and passion for Transition Education
- Give: Facilitation/ willingness to support future work in Education
- Experience of transition: Keen observer/ find it the most optimistic approach to climate change and peak oil
2. Letting go

Everyone blew up a fair-trade balloon and filled it with all their stress and worries, and the phone calls and text messages of the day. We then let go of that stress by letting go of the balloons. Great fun! (some did it twice)

3. Zooming in

After brief introductions, there was a short context talk on:

- The Transition movement and its 12 step approach (Mark)
- Transition Cambridge history and present position (James)
- Transition Cambridge Education group, how, why and who (Rosie)

4. Celebrations

A brainstorm on what contribution an Education group might make to the work of the Transition movement in Cambridge. Suggestions included

- Following up and responding to enquiries and invitations to give talks
- Support the other groups in awareness raising (which is a kind of education)
- There is lots of fun to be had around re-skilling, the education group could facilitate this.
- Part of the education group's role is in connection people
- Maintaining a database of available skills (already starting with bike repairers)
- Make all the other projects visible / get the press on board / add Transition branding to raise awareness of peak oil
- Permaculture training in Cambridge
- Training for Transition: we could train to be come the trainers
- Lots of people still don't know what Peak Oil is and the message of Climate change needs to get out too.
- Films / cartoons (like those linked to the by the bulletin)
- Transition training is amazing, encourage everyone to do it, there are good resources and ways to do it interactively
- Publicity: Evening News, Radio, TV
- Arts project/ Making banners / Photography
- A Forum theatre piece, e.g. on Parker's Piece, to work on our feelings, hopes and fears around peak oil

There followed a more focussed exercise on what achievements the group might be celebrating in December 2009. We talked in pairs and wrote answers on sticky notes to put up on the wall. Some of the things we came up with:

- A database of skills of people willing to share skills
- A workshop for schools, churches, youth groups, U3A, WI etc. / Concrete plans for educational workshops / Ideas on how to move forward and what the group might become / (satisfying a) hunger for speakers / offering to go tell about Transition
• Planning / offering a Permaculture training
• A film festival
• An Arts exhibition or theatre project with lots of publicity
• A Certain number of people have heard of Transition, a multiple of (the?) people who have heard of Transition Totnes
• To have a functioning group of 12 – 16 people meeting regularly, to have a large education group mailing list, a collection of names and addresses for (learning?) workshops
• Transition project with VI formers or Uni’ students / Having setup a Pack for them to use
• Transition Cambridge grow-your-own project in Schools / Inspiring teachers and schools for guidance to start this up.
• Transition training happened in Cambridge

We were invited to review the achievements on the wall and to put an anonymous dot (with a fat pen) on any to which we would be personally willing to contribute effort this year.

5. First steps

We split into two groups and took the two most popular causes for celebration (those with the most dots) to discuss what might be the first steps to bringing about those achievements.

• An arts project / Theatre project
• Responding to the demand to speak / deliver training in schools

The discussion involved asking and answering the following questions in turn until the answer to the second question was “yes”:

• What's the first step?
• Could we do that this week?

The first steps we could take this week included:

• Self-education: read the Transition Handbook
• Contacting people to let them know that the Education group exists / asking them if they would be willing to participate in an Arts project. A list of possible contacts was drawn up.
• Identifying members who are willing to deliver training or give talks or lead workshops
• Put something in the bulletin: Dear teachers, we are offering this workshop on Transition Tows...
• Looking into existing materials for workshops and talks
• Contacting schools and groups to let them know that the group is willing to give talks / workshops on climate change, peak oil and the transition movement.
• Creating a press release for this meeting
• Writing a paragraph about this meeting for the weekly transition bulletin

6. Support

The small groups reported their first steps and the whole group discussed what resources and support might be gained from the education group meeting regularly. Suggestions included:

With this in mind, we have set the date for the next meeting as 19 February 2009 at The Cafe Project, Jesus Lane. The following topics to be dealt with:

• What projects we will actually undertake this year (may be from among those suggested above or others)

• Purpose/mission of the group

• Building a database of skills/resources

• Building a contact list / bringing or brainstorming contacts