NOTES FROM TRANSITION CAMBRIDGE FOOD GROUP MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Present: Carl, Nicola, Bobby, Jason, Dave, Jacky, Jane, Emily, Colin

Apologies: Ceri, Mary

1. Venue

Colin raised the issue of the Transition Café as a long term venue. There may be issues of space as the group grows and also our use of the space means that it isn’t really available to others who might want to come in.

The issue was further confused by the announcement in the most recent Transition Bulletin that the opening night of the café would change from Wednesday to Thursday nights with immediate effect.

After some discussion it was agreed that the group would prefer to continue meeting at the Café on Wednesday nights. Colin will raise this when he attends the next Transition Cambridge Steering Committee meeting. Colin was also asked to raise the group’s concern that an announcement regarding the change of evenings had been made without reference to the food group and that this may have caused some confusion amongst some people.

2. Food and Garden Festival 20th and 21st September, Parker’s Piece.

Dave Fox advised the group that he was going to try and put a stall together on behalf of the Allotments Network.

3. ‘Edible Plants: Between Nature and Culture’

Dave has been asked to give a talk at an event on ‘Edible Plants: Between Nature and Culture’ at the Centre for Research in Archaeology and Social Sciences in Mill Lane in September 2009.

4. School Allotments

Jane advised the group that there is a school allotment at St Philips School in Vinery Road. Volunteers are always welcome – to help with the allotment and/or work with the kids. At present Naveen and Mary are doing some work there. The work is usually undertaken between 3.30 and 5 p.m., depending on the light. Anyone interested in helping please contact the school on 508707.

5. Members Email Addresses

Colin raised the issue of exchanging members email addresses with other members. At present the only central list of email addresses is held at the Food Groups Googlemail account. However, there is clearly a need for members to be able to contact each other (for example, to discuss or arrange work of one of the sub-groups).

This lead to a broader discussion of who deals with enquiries that are specific to one of the sub-groups. A number of possibilities were canvassed and it was agreed that an informal roster system of monitoring emails will be trialled.
It was also agreed that Colin will circulate a list of members email addresses. The list will also identify which sub-groups each member has signed up to.

6. Aims of the Food Group

Nicola had drafted some aims and these had been circulated to various members for discussion. Nicola now presented these to the meeting for further discussion and, ideally, final agreement.

Further discussion ensued and final terms were agreed. These are:

- To raise awareness among the people of Cambridge on the extent to which our current food supply is dependent upon cheap energy and the serious impact that Peak Oil will have on this.
- To minimise the local impact of Peak Oil by promoting and enabling the production of food locally and sustainably (considering water resources as well as energy consumption):
  - working directly or in partnership with other organisations
  - providing education and support to local people to encourage them to produce their own food sustainably
  - developing small-scale and community-based initiatives that will increase sustainable food production initiatives in the area.
  - promoting and supporting local suppliers and retail outlets that provide food that has been grown and distributed locally
  - lobbying local and central government for action and policies that will optimise opportunities for producing food locally and sustainably.
  - promoting more efficient use of existing food resources and significantly reduce the current high levels of food waste.

7. Garden Share Scheme

Jacky is keen to take the lead on a garden share scheme and will start to look at different models currently available as a first step. Anyone with any information or wishing to help please contact her.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 24th September at the Transition Café, 22a Jesus Lane (no matter what it says in the Transition Bulletin!).