Present: Emily Bingley, Colin Clews, Dave Fox, Phillipa Grimstone, Carl Myhill, Jason Palmer, Martin Roach, Nicola Terry, Jacky Sutton-Adams, Caroline Williams, Rowan Wylie
Apologies: Gareth Barr, Ceri Galloway

1. Minutes
The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Venue for meetings
Colin gave a résumé of the venue situation. A venue that was being used exclusively by the group, or offered few distractions was desirable, but it was difficult to find somewhere that was free, or low cost. The discussion had been prolonged because low attendance at some meetings had meant that hiring a room was expensive, and relied on members being prepared to continue to contribute each time. He listed some of the options which had been considered. Nicola announced that her husband was prepared to make up any shortfall in the cost of hiring the room at Ross Street for the next six meetings. The group expressed its gratitude, and it was agreed that it should continue to be booked (although other options would not be excluded if cheaper). A suggestion was made that meetings could be every three weeks instead of every two, to reduce the cost, but it was felt that it would be more difficult to remember when meetings were under this arrangement, and momentum might also be lost. 3 December was agreed on for the next meeting (to get back in step with the initial two week cycle).

3. "Going live"
Colin had produced a draft leaflet, and circulated it for comment. He said that the Food Group would be given 5 minutes to speak at the film event. There was further discussion of what was needed, both for the leaflet, and for the display boards for the event. It was felt that material on why action was needed, with facts and figures, was required, and sources of such material were discussed. Dave had allotment statistics. The need for a food strategy was discussed again, as were "energy descent" plans. It was agreed that while a strategy would be very desirable, the group could still promote activities which would encourage eco-friendly eating without one.

The practicalities of the event, such as the manning of the stall, the production of material for the display boards, and their transportation, and name badges were discussed.

4. Garden share scheme
4 people had responded to the call for volunteers for a trial garden share scheme, placed in the Transition Cambridge bulletin. There were also people wanting growing space in the Google spreadsheet. There was discussion of how to find gardens to match these people. It was agreed that Jacky would facilitate the project, and begin by contacting Age Concern, as Rowan had had positive feedback from the meeting that she had attended. Jacky agreed to forward the agreement drawn up for the Tavistock garden share project to the group via email, and comments were invited. It was agreed that the garden share scheme could be alluded to in the allotments policy, and that the "Grow your own" scheme might also produce participants.

There was further discussion about liability and CRB checks.

5. Allotments
Dave announced that he had over 500 signatures on his petition, and therefore could demand his right to address the council meeting on 4 December. Allotments had also been discussed in Parliament. David Howarth had been approached, and had appeared
supportive, signing the petition. It was clear that area committees needed to be targeted, to increase allotment provision. New developments should have adequate provision planned for, better use should be made of existing sites, and other options, such as garden share, should be investigated. Dave quoted figures showing that the numbers on allotment waiting list had grown from 391 in April to 643 in November. The numbers at Histon Road allotments had grown from 16 to 68, as insufficient provision had been made for growing at the new Orchard Park development. It was possible that two existing sites were going to be built on.

6. "Grow your own" support groups
Colin announced that he was going to speak to Keith Jordan at the Cambridge Carbon Footprint talk on 17 November. He wanted to set up a questionnaire for participants. He asked if member would be prepared to set up area groups. The question arose of whether this should be done by the Food Group or Cambridge Carbon Footprint.

7. Jenny Bailey and Tony Juniper
Both had shown interest in the work of the Food Group and Transition Cambridge, and there was a brief discussion of how they might help. Tony Juniper was very interested in food waste, and it was suggested that he could work in this area.

8. Winston House
Dave, Emily and Phillipa had visited, and discussed the possibility of growing vegetables there. The proposed plot was not ideally sited, and would need quite a lot of clearing, including overhanging trees in the Botanical Garden, but it would be possible to grow vegetables there if there was sufficient enthusiasm from the staff, and three fruit trees were already there. It was felt to be of potential benefit to the residents, if they could be involved.. One or two already had small areas which they tended in another part of the grounds. Insurance and CRB checks were clearly issues for the staff, and might prove stumbling blocks to the project. It was felt that it was probably not suitable as a site for practical sessions for the "Grow your own" talks, as vulnerable people were involved.

7. Chutney-making
Martin explained that this event had been planned as a way of keeping alive the memories of how life had been around 30 years ago, especially how food had been grown and used. Another on marmalade-making was also planned. It would provide information on one way of storing food, as well as fostering community. Martin agreed to take photographs at the event, and provide information for the food preservation and storage part of the group's website..

8. AOB
Colin announced his wish to stand down as Chair of the group by the end of the year.