Minutes of the meeting of the Transition Cambridge Food Group
Ross Street Community Centre
16th December, 2008
Present: Nicola, Maggie, Mark, Emily, Jackie, Dave F, Dave J, Phillipa, Martin

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<th>Item</th>
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<td>1. There was a minor correction to the last minutes regarding the Hugh F-W website for garden sharing</td>
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<td>2. Nicola advised that a bulletin board is now available on the <a href="http://www.transitioncambridge.org">www.transitioncambridge.org</a> website under ‘Forums’ in the side bar</td>
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<td>3. Until further notice, future meetings will be held at the Geldart pub in Ainsworth Street – next meeting 14th Jan at 8pm, when we will also consider making an earlier meeting time if agreed. The pub has a wifi facility</td>
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<td>4. Nicola advised that if anyone has a problem accessing the Google group then they should email to <a href="mailto:cambridgefoodgroup@googlemail.com">cambridgefoodgroup@googlemail.com</a> for advice.</td>
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<td>5. <strong>Garden Share Scheme</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jackie said that she has four potential pairings. She aims to get these people to meet by mid-January so that some pilot projects can be started before the spring growing season&lt;br&gt;Emily will arrange with Rowan to contact Maggie to arrange an assessment visit to her neighbour’s garden in Shelford. This is owned by Peter who has tremendous knowledge and enthusiasm for gardening but now needs physical help in digging/clear up etc. If this can be progressed then he may also be willing to feature in activity to help publicise the Garden Share programme.&lt;br&gt;Jackie has contacts with the student volunteer service that could help in rejuvenating gardens. She seeks a description of the opportunity to submit to Jo, the student organiser and will therefore work with Emily to table a draft leaflet promoting the scheme for consideration at the next Food Group meeting (14/1)</td>
<td>Jackie&lt;br&gt;Emily/Rowan&lt;br&gt;Jackie/Emily</td>
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<td>6. <strong>Campaign for More Allotments</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dave F reported that at the 4/12 Council City Meeting a motion was agreed to measure demand for allotments and seek land to meet this need. The council will also seek to ensure that new developments e.g. Arbury Park have allotments to meet residents’ needs.&lt;br&gt;Dave F will review the City-wide demand in April 2009, a year</td>
<td>Dave F</td>
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after his initial survey.

In May 2009 we should then submit a question to the Council asking what they have done since their motion was passed.

Details of how to submit a public question is available on the Council website under their constitution section but simply involves writing to the Council at least a day before setting out the question. The requester then has 2 minutes at the Council Meeting to verbally raise the question.

Dave F will look at the minutes of the last Council Meeting to see which Counsellor asked the question regarding Arbury Park and therefore may have particular interest.

The Area Development Plan process has now been replaced by one involving a Core Strategy and Local Development Framework which includes a consultation process. Dave F will find out the calendar of timings in this rolling process so we can be sure to comment at the appropriate time.

7. Food Security Plan

Contributions towards this are being added to the dedicated section on the website. Further comment and data inputs are welcome.

Phillipa offered to find out more about small holdings and allotments near Wisbech etc.

8. Soil Testing

Some concern was raised about possible high levels of contaminants in soil. It was agreed that we would find out how to get soil tested for people with a specific concern rather than developing a policy.

(Follow up – Nicola researched this and put a link on the website under ‘leadfacts’. The feedback is not to worry because lead in the soil is not very bioavailable and in practice atmospheric levels are more important but these are much reduced. A FSA study in 2004 found no allotment produce above statutory limits).

9. Seed Swap (25th January)

Phillipa will send Ceri the revised leaflet to help in promoting the event. Ceri should advise if further help with publicity is required.

The display boards will be used at the seed swap – Martin will advise whether the materials should be returned to the Steering Committee afterwards
10. **Grow Your Own Teaching Sessions**

Several potential instructors have been identified including:

- **Alison** – RHS trained/cultivation techniques/organic pest and weed control
- **Keith Jordon** – various subjects – ran the recent CCF session,
- **Karen** – from the University? And seeks information on the proposed plan
- **Anna/Mary** – TC members with share and experience in allotments and permaculture
- **Eric Benton, John Fuller (both via Dave F); Eric has years of practical experience and John is an ex-potato breeding expert – both could run a session on growing vegetables at their allotments in Trumpington In March.**
- **Peter Vince (Master Composter)** – via Dave F

Emily agreed to coordinate this programme with help from Martin, as required.

The next step should be to arrange a meeting of the possible instructors to agree a schedule and content for the programme, Colin’s spreadsheet setting out the required tasks could form an initial basis for this. Nicola will email this to Emily

| Emily/Martin |
| Nicola |

11. **Follow up to Film Showing - Martin will chase from the Steering Group the email addresses of those who signed up with interest in the Food Group**

| Martin |
| Phillipsa |

12. **Google Email Account – Phillipa agreed to monitor the account to respond to any emails**

| Phillipa |

13. **Bee Keeping - The chairman of the Cambridge Bee Keeping Association is interested in arranging a joint awareness event to explain the plight of our bees. Dave J will contact him regarding a possible date/venue for such an event.**

| Dave J |

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**Next Meeting:** Geldart Pub, Ainsworth Street; January 14th, 8pm;