Minutes of the meeting of the Transition Cambridge Food Group  
The Geldart  
4th February 2009

Present: Dave Fox, Kim Warren, Martin Roach, Emily Bingley, Jason Palmer (chair), Ceri Galloway, Rowan Wylie, Phillipa Grimstone, Nicola Terry, Dave Jackson

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<th>Item</th>
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<td><strong>1. Minutes</strong></td>
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<td>The minutes of the meeting on 14th January were agreed.</td>
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<td><strong>2. Beekeeping</strong></td>
<td>Ceri</td>
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<td>Ceri had not had time to chase CBKA on this but promised to do so before the next meeting.</td>
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<td><strong>3. Chair</strong></td>
<td>Dave F.</td>
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<td>It was agreed to have a small team of chair people. Martin, Jason, Dave Fox and Nicola volunteered to be in the team. Dave will chair the next meeting and Martin the one after that.</td>
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<td><strong>4. Garden Share</strong></td>
<td>Emily</td>
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<td>Emily reported that one pair had been successfully joined. However, as it was proving difficult to get enough people from just the transition community it was necessary to publicise the scheme more widely. A newspaper article had generated three or four contacts. It was agreed to pursue the possibility of a slot on Radio Cambridgeshire (Dougan Does Gardening, Sunday mornings at 11.)</td>
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<td>There was some discussion about the mechanism of joining people up. The one pair that had made it so far had met in the garden, but there was concern as to whether this was advisable as a general rule. To an extent it was a matter for the partners to negotiate. Ceri pointed out that people might join up who had mental health issues and it was essential that the garden owners were prepared in advance by considering what they would regard as acceptable behaviour.</td>
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<td>Martin reported from his investigations into Tavistock Garden Share and Brighton and Hove Transition Garden Share. The latter was raised as a good example. They had (i) an online form for registration - and a telephone alternative. Garden owners could submit a photo of the garden as well as answering simple questions about e.g. access rules, tools availability and requirements for organic methods or not. Gardeners would have questions including their experience level and whether they would share. (partnering was proving very popular). (ii) a google maps based application for matching gardeners and sharers by postcode (ii) meetings organised for small groups of participants at a local library where partners could get to know each other. Participants would be encouraged to bring a reference.</td>
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<td>All agreed that these were good ideas we could borrow from.</td>
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Martin suggested that Nicola talk to their IT man about how they were operating the registration as it was felt that our current scheme (involving emails to Phillipa being passed on to Rowan and copied by hand into a spreadsheet) was too much work.

A draft publicity poster had been circulated by email and comments received. Kim promised to send Emily some photos to put on it. Dave Fox said there would be a meeting of allotment managers on 26th February which would be convenient for distributing the poster so Emily and Rowan will try to ensure it is ready by then.

5. Grow your own
Relations with CCF are now mended. It is quite clear that despite the similar names the TC Grow Your Own scheme is very different from the CCF workshops, requiring continuing commitment over time and giving practical as well as theoretical instruction.

There will be a meeting this Saturday for Anna, Kim and Emily to complete an outline structure plan for the GYO 6 sessions.

Participants have been asked for special interests and the most popular subjects by far were (a) pest control and weeds (b) planning, suggesting a possible demand for extra sessions on these topics.

There is a poster now available (some laminated and flyers) and a good deal of information on the website about the project. 7 people have already signed up and Dave has not yet sent his email to people on the allotment waiting lists. Also there is an intention to put an advert in the Cambridge Evening news.

This lead to concern that we will be over subscribed. Dave F. recommended no more than 20 people could be accommodated in practical sessions even with three tutors, However, we could sign up 25 allowing for dropouts and occasional absentees. If there are a lot more people interested this will help us to plan for next year.

Kim intends to collect the course fee (£20) in cash at the first session. It was suggested it would be better to collect the money in advance as this would mean people would be less likely to drop out at the last minute. Kim was reluctant to handle cheques and Nicola said that they could be addressed to her as treasurer of the group. Kim is to liaise with Nicola about accounts for the course. Expenses will include hall hire, books for the tutors, photocopying and laminating costs, gloves, compost, fertiliser and seeds.

Kim will send out reminders to the participants one week before the course starts.

6. Overview of Transition Food issues
Nicola has been working on a page for the website about why peak oil and climate change were issues for the food chain and hence why...
the food group existed and did what it did. It was agreed that this should be made public as soon as possible (even incomplete) and comments invited on the forum.

7. Slow food
There had been a suggestion on the forum that we link up with the slow food campaign. It was agreed that this should be dropped for the time being as although there probably were overlapping aims this needed to be verified and we do not have time at the moment.

8. FAQ
Suggestions were invited for the FAQ page. One possibility is 'What is the food group.' We agreed that we needed to present more of a personal identity on the website, so that people could see we were ordinary people and would be encouraged to join. Jason will bring a camera to the next meeting to take some photos.

9. Icon and logo
Nicola showed an apple icon (prepared by her partner) and it was agreed this was acceptable for annotating food group items on the transition cambridge web pages (e.g. home page and events).

It was felt we needed a logo too. One possibility is to combine the apple with the transition cambridge logo and Nicola agreed to get her partner to try it out.

10. Discussion Forum
Activity was good for a short while but has petered out. It was agreed to start a new topic on good places to buy/eat local food.

11. Cash
After paying for the Ross Street Community centre hire the kitty now stands at £9.70. Since there are no expenses anticipated for the moment, it was agreed not to raise any more for now.

12. Meeting with Sian Reid
Members of the steering group and Dave Fox met with Sian Reid (executive councillor for climate change and growth) and Simon Chubb (climate change officer) and some others on 23rd Jan. Dave reported from this that the city council people seemed to know nothing at all about Peak Oil. They have since explicitly asked for advice from us on how the Peak Oil issue would affect the Climate Change Strategy. It was agreed that we could do some work on this and it should go on the website as well.

Ceri read out a letter from Sian Reid in response to the above meeting. There were several more issues which the food group could pick up:

Sian suggested we liaise with Helen Witherington about how we could contribute to the Environment festival at the end of May. Kim agreed
to do this. Kim is keen to make use of any money being spent in schools on art workshops, by guiding themes and making use of examples of the children's work which the schools will let us have. Kim will inform the Education group of her plans.

Also we were invited to look at DEFRA's report of January 2008 A Framework for Pro-Environment Behaviour. Dave Jackson offered to do this.

As a result of the meeting, relations between Dave Fox and the council have been lubricated and he will be meeting with Sara Cass soon on planning for more allotments. Jason, Dave and Ceri offered to support him, depending on the date which is yet to be arranged.

13. Cooperation with EAFL
Nicola reported that Tully Wakeman of EAFL is working on an energy descent plan food chapter for Transition Norwich. Since he already has some UEA students as helpers, he had proposed that we help out by reviewing the results. Also, we can expect to be able to borrow from the results for our own plan. He expects to have finished the project by early summer.

14. More allotments update
Dave Fox is meeting with Trumpington councillors about instigating a management plan for the allotments for the new development at Clay Farm.

15. Telephone numbers
Rowan suggested it would be helpful if members of the group shared telephone numbers. One possibility is put your telephone number in the signature of your email. Phillipa also suggested that she could keep telephone numbers in the contacts folder of the food group gmail account. This would only be directly accessible to people with access to that account which at the moment is Phillipa and Nicola. Phillipa collected names and numbers at the meeting.

16. Permaculture course
Ceri suggested we should enquire into having a permaculture weekend course run in Cambridge - how much it would cost and what we would need. It was agreed that Ceri should pursue this.

16. Future meetings
It was agreed that the Geldart, 7.30-9.30 every 2 weeks should be the general rule for the near future. Jason can book the room for a few more sessions and we can advertise more than one meeting in advance on the calendar.

Next Meeting: Geldart Pub, Wed 18th February 7.30pm; chair: Dave Fox.