Minutes of the meeting of the Transition Cambridge Food Group
The Geldart, Ainsworth Street
18.3.2009

Present: Dave Fox, Ceri Galloway, Phillipa Grimstone, Martin Roach, Nicola Terry

Apologies: Emily Bingley, Jason Palmer, Kim Warren, Rowan Wylie

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

2. Matters arising
(i) Dave Fox noted that there would not necessarily be excess funds from the Grow Your Own course to fund the production of a banner for the group.
(ii) Martin clarified that he had offered to act as publicity liaison person for any of the group's projects, not just the Grow Your Own course. The forthcoming survey of allotments was brought up as something that he could arrange a press release for, perhaps at the beginning of June for the mid-June council meeting.

3. Grow Your Own
Dave reported that the first practical session had been well-received by the participants, although it had appeared somewhat chaotic to the organisers. Small groups had moved from plot to plot, and had planted several kinds of vegetable. Most of those who had signed up for the course had attended. A blog was suggested for the course. Dave commented that the organisers did not have time to write one, put that there was a photo diary, with pictures of the plot being taken from the same viewpoint each time to record germination and growth. He said that more volunteers would be very helpful, especially at the practical sessions. Martin agreed to help at the next practical session.

4. Garden share scheme
It was reported that there were now two firm pairings, and two possible ones. There had been about 6 registrations via the web form, about one third garden owners and two thirds gardeners. Rowan had not yet re-established contact with Age Concern. Emily had expressed a wish to step down from the project, and there was a brief discussion about how the project would be manned, given that there would be more work if the scheme was widely publicised. Publicity was discussed. It was agreed that Kim could add a paragraph about the scheme to one of the Grow Your Own course's bulletins. It was agreed that figures about the number of pairings should be put on the website, which could indicate the growth of the scheme. Cambridge Carbon Footprint was suggested as a possible source of publicity. A question on the web registration form about how those registering had found out about the scheme was agreed to be a good idea. Ceri asked whether those on the Trumpington Allotments' waiting list should be told about a garden in Foster Road. It was agreed that any email to the list should not mention the specific garden.

Siân Reid had drawn Dave's attention to the Capital Growth scheme in London, which had lottery funding, and was offering 50 grants to establish pieces of land (not just gardens) as areas where food could be grown (a total of £50,000). While such a large-scale scheme was not thought to be viable in Cambridge yet, it was thought promising that Siân had taken the trouble to find out about such projects.

5. Meeting with Siân Reid
Dave gave a report on the meeting, which had taken place on 10 March. Executive City Councillor Sian Reid, Senior Planning Policy Officer Sara Cass, Planning Policy Officer Joanna Gilbert-Wooldridge, Dave Fox, and Ceri Galloway had been present. It became clear
that local planners worked within a strict framework governed by a regional plan, so involvement in the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) was necessary to influence planning decisions. It appeared that Emergency Planning could be a "way in" to influencing the local authority regarding Peak Oil.

The "East of England Plan" (RSS) had a 20 year scope, currently extending to 2021, but eventually to 2031. It set overall population, housing and job targets. It included green belt review but no detail such as "x acres allotments per 1000 people". Review consultation was planned for "later 2009". Local plans developed by districts such as Cambridge City and South Cambs were currently being extended piecemeal beyond their original 2009 scope. County level planning was being discontinued, although Cambridgeshire County Council still had some influence, and controlled minerals and waste planning. A planning update given to Cambridge residents associations in February gave some timescales for local consultations. However, none of the current plans said anything about food. Suggestions from the meeting regarding food concerned the introduction of more fruit trees (contact Open Spaces - Councillor Julie Smith). Siân Reid suggested that Localised Food should be stressed, rather than Peak Oil, because Peak Oil was too scary (though Dave felt that she did not fully understand the concept, unlike Joanna Gilbert-Woolridge). She claimed that the "new Cambridge" would have twice as much open space (including the Trumpington green wedge and Wildlife Trust managed area at Trumpington Meadows).

Sara Cass was given a copy of the PFPO report, which she promised to read and pass on.

In the Food Group meeting it was agreed that Transition Cambridge should liaise with other Transition groups in the region, to maximise impact in the EERA. Ceri agreed to pursue the issue of fruit trees.

### 6. Environment Festival

It was reported that a stall was available in the marquee on Parkers' Piece on 13 June. A larger site might be available outside, but this was felt to be risky if the weather was bad. It was thought that providing lots of fresh produce for the stall would be difficult in June, but that plants such as tomatoes, courgettes, squashes, peppers and herbs could be grown and given away (ideally for a donation). People on the group's list could be asked to raise some seedlings. Martin agreed to co-ordinate the acquisition and distribution of biodegradable pots, and seeds. Ceri had arranged for Rosie Fox to give a talk on 25 June at the Friends' Meeting House. Nicola and Rowan had agreed to speak about the Food Group briefly afterwards, and there would be a Transition stall. A slot had also been booked on 19 June. Kirstin Glendinning, who was employed by the Soil Association to promote Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), had contacted the group to ask if it would be interested in a presentation about the subject, and it was thought possible that she would give a presentation about it for the festival. Phillipa agreed to contact her about this. The possibility of getting someone to talk about Transition Towns was mentioned.

### 7. Logo and design

Someone called Daisy had offered design services to Transition Cambridge. The possibilities of her helping to design a logo and/or banner were discussed. The design of the group logo was dependent on the Transition Cambridge one, and it was thought that it would not change unless the Transition Cambridge one did.

### 8. Next meeting

The Geldart room had been booked for 7.30pm on 1 April. Nicola agreed ask Jason whether he could chair the meeting. Dave offered to chair if he could not.

### 9. AOB
(i) Nicola reported that two queries and one reply had been posted on the forums.
(ii) Ceri reported that she had met a man from Jerusalem, where 30 community gardens had been set up. He was going to send her information about them, which she would share with the group.
(iii) It was reported that Cambridge Carbon Footprint was going to run another one-off Grow Your Own session on 7 April. Dave would be presenting it with Keith Jordan. This would be reported to the Transition Cambridge bulletin.
(iv) Dave announced that he would be interviewed about allotments on 209 Radio on 30 March.
(v) A Master Composter course, to take place over two days at the end of March/beginning of April was also publicised, also to be reported to the Transition Cambridge bulletin.