Minutes - Food group meeting 01 April 2009

Apologies: Phillipa Grimstone, Rowan Wylie, Emily Bingley, Joseph??
Dave Jackson, Dave Fox

1 Garden Share Scheme
There’s been steady progress with 4 up and running pairings, and a steady stream of registrations from the TC website. Volunteers continue to outnumber garden owners by about 65% to 35%. Nicola’s Google map for garden share is being populated, it might be possible down the line to use the image for publicity if registrants’ personal details are removed first. Two long standing registrations, a volunteer in Histon and a garden owner in Newmarket road area have no one close by for a suitable match. Jacky will contact Siobhan Mellon from HICCA and ask if they can mention garden share in their newsletter to try and get a match for this volunteer. Jacky will pen a similar ad for the TC bulletin for the Newmarket road volunteer. With Emily working intensively on the GYO, Jacky and Rowan would welcome another person on the team, to assist with admin and visits to garden share prospective match meetings. Jacky will write an ad for Nicola to circulate to the food group mailing list.

2 Grow Your Own course
No one was present to comment on progress, although anecdotal conversation and sightings of groups on the allotment suggest that all is going well.

3 Advertising Banners
It was agreed that designing a food group specific TC logo should be postponed for the moment because of time/energy constraints, and that a general TC banner could be used by all sub groups.
Martin has a high resolution image of the TC logo, which was deemed acceptable for the time being. Martin agreed to coordinate production of a banner. Ceri had a banner printer contact and will forward details to Martin, Jacky has too.

4. CSA workshop
Only 4 positive responses were received for the idea of a CSA workshop hosted by Kirstin Glendinning. It was felt by all present that there was not enough known about the concept of CSA, so Nicola will ask Anna McIvor to get some publicity material from Kirstin, so we can start to raise awareness of the concept at meetings and future public events. Ceri suggested that the Farmer John film gives a good personal view of the scheme (although not specifically about CSA) and agreed to buy it, so that Nicola can host a food group screening perhaps to coincide with environment week.

5. Environment Week (EW)
Everyone was surprised at news of the decision by Cambridge City Council not to include Rosie Cox’s talk on the local and global sustainability of food shopping in their programme, on the grounds that would be ‘too political.’
5. Environment Week (EW) cont.
James Southwick from the TCSC is going back to the Council to discuss their decision and the feeling is that TC will host Rosie’s talk if the Council don’t change their minds.
Martin had no responses to the email request for people to raise plants to give away; it was felt the email needed to be more specific and was perhaps sent too early.
Martin will order seed and send another email for mid April looking for 20 growers to grow 10 pots each. GYO and GS participants will also be emailed (Martin to send email to Emily and Jacky for circulation? This wasn’t discussed)
Jacky offered the Cambridge Cheese Company as a pick up point for seeds and pots.
Publicity for the food group at EW will be fully discussed at the end of April meeting, but some ideas were put forward that we can start working on.
- ‘Distance diagram ‘ (showing location of where food comes from) would make a good poster for the display boards, and we have permission to use it on the website. Nicola will put it up/ link to it.
- GYO and GS photo documenting Jacky, /Emily?
- Obtaining local fruit and veg to give away for a donation; Ceri can source gages, Martin and maybe Dave F vegetables, Jacky Elderflower cordial.
- Someone (Nicola?) suggested asking food group members what vision should we promote/focus on for EW

These items are ‘bottom of the minutes’ items for discussion at the next meeting

- Possible visit to Peterborough Allotments, as a follow up activity from Farmer John screening (Ceri will research contact details of P’boro’ Allotments)

- East of England Regional Authority (EERA) have no policy for local food provision; the steering committee suggested the food group contact other East Anglia Transition towns to see if they are considering this issue and to find out whether a coordinated approach can be made to EERA to achieve a local food policy inclusion, Nicola will find out dates and deadlines for the consultation.

- Food group summer meet: as a way of putting faces to names on the food group email list, many of whom have not been able to attend meetings. Jacky suggested an informal meet on Jesus Green with a bring and share picnic one summer weekend.

Date of next meeting: 15 April; Chairperson to be Jason (if he’s coming, please advise)