Minutes - Food group meeting 15 April 2009

Attending: Nicola Terry (minutes), Jacky Sutton-Adam, Rowan Wylie, Dave Fox (chair), Kim Warren, Pippa Vine, Dave Jackson,
Apologies: Jason Palmer, Martin Roach, Emily Bingley, Ceri Galloway, Phillipa Grimstone

Last weeks minutes were approved.
Welcome to new member Pippa.

Grow your own course

There have been 2 more sessions since last meeting, one theory and one outdoor. The outdoor session was postponed at short notice to the Sunday because of the weather but 12 people still came and no one complained about the change. Lesson: have a bad weather backup plan and make sure people know about it!

They plan to ask for provisional feedback - just some simple questions like ‘what is working for you - and what is not?’.

The next outdoor session will be 25th April 10.30 - 12.30 and they would really like another helper to be photographer and general gopher - no experience required.

Action Dave to compose email and Nicola to send on to whole food group

Garden Share

Now has 5/6 active pairs. Jacky has not yet contacted HICCA for a Histon garden. There was a plea for a Newmarket Road gardener in the last Transition Cambridge bulletin. There was some concern that a recent volunteer registration which appeared to be one person was actually a group of 3 and we need to update the registration form to capture this detail. Also more information about exactly how much garden is available would be helpful on the owner reg.

Further publicity was discussed. Pippa suggested she could pen something for the Cambridge Evening News. She requested a photo of a happy pair. Rowan suggested we contact Sue Dougan from Radio Cambridgeshire again to give her an update.

The Hugh Fernley Whitingstall website went live last week. It seems to be like a bulletin board where you post availability/requirements. It has some potentially useful template legal agreements which we should look at.

A rival garden share scheme has contacted us: homegrownuk (http://homegrownuk.org). This is a national scheme and they are charging
garden owners and gardeners to pay for administration.

**Action Nicola** to send Jacky login details for the wiki (done)
**Action Jacky** to update the project and food group home page with a status update
**Action Rowan** to contact Sue Dougan with status update
**Action Pippa** to pen something for Cambridge Evening News
**Action Jacky** to give Pippa a photo
**Action Jacky** to give Nicola details of how the registration forms should be changed (or do it herself).
**Action Jacky** to contact HICCA (done)

**Environment week**

Martin was not here to give an update on plant propagation for the stall. We should have another appeal for growers real soon now but we will leave it until Martin is back from holiday.

The ‘vision’ as presented by Nicola’s update on the aims page was generally approved of, though it needs a little tweaking on the presentation. There were lots of ideas on how to present this on the stall, with interactive exhibits including maps appealing to children and hopefully adults. Kim, Jacky, Rowan, possibly Pippa and Martin will get together for a special planning meeting before the next meeting: Tuesday 28th at 6.30, venue to be decided.

Rowan will pick up the display boards from Dave Fox before he and Kim go away on 10th June.

We wish to promote CSA and/or veg box schemes somehow. We looked at leaflets from CSA describing Headlingley Pig and Poulty CSA schemes which are fairly simply but not good display material. Nicola will talk to box scheme providers if someone can point her at them - regarding if they want CSA help or just advertising from us.

Dave J and Nicola will definitely be available on 13th June to help. Jacky is not definite, Rowan is a maybe.

We did not discuss banner sourcing as Martin was not here.

**Action Nicola** to tweak aims table
**Action Kim, Rowan, Pippa and Jacky** to organise planning meeting.
**Action Nicola** to contact box scheme providers
**Action All** - to tell Nicola of box schemes
**Action Nicola** (maybe) to distil a simple CSA message
**Action Nicola** to ask SG meeting about plans for a ‘generic’ stall.

**Rosie Cox talk**

Dave J. explained that the council has refused to include the Rose Cox talk on
its list of events because it was too political. But the talk is going ahead anyway and we should publicise it any way we can.

The lesson from this is be very careful how events are described for the council, and don’t use the word ‘politics’.

**EERA**

The next public consultation on the regional spatial strategy is Sep-Oct-Nov (for plans which go out to 2031). At that time we will be asked to choose between options covering topic areas including:

- Core spatial strategy: Overall strategy and green belt
- Economic development: Strategic employment locations
- CO2 and renewable energy: CO2 emissions and energy performance, Renewable energy targets
- Regional Transport strategy: freight movements

All of which are relevant to aspects of food production: land allocation, jobs and reducing freight. However the whole issue is wider than just food.

We need to find out if it would be better to put in lots of individual responses or one for the group. We wish to alert other transition initiatives to the importance of this consultation and possibly collaborate with them. We could meet online, maybe through the discussion forum.

*Action Jacky* to contact other groups about this

**Speakers wanted:**

We will definitely supply a speaker for a transition tavern, the aim of which is to fire up helpers for environment week - probably Nicola or Martin.

*Action Nicola* to contact Ben regarding Transition Tavern.

Romsey Action are holding a Recycling/help with the Recession day on 30th May 10-4pm and would like someone from Transition Cambridge Food to come and talk especially about bees and chickens. Unfortunately Ceri will not be available.

*Action Rowan* to attend Romsey Recycling to advertise garden share etc.

*Action Rowan* to point them at Cambridgeshire Bee Keepers Association

**Social**

We would like to have a social to meet people who are on the mailing list but do not actually come to meetings. It woud be nice to get one in in May but it is difficult to identify a location. The botanical gardens was suggested - but only if we can get a room for a bad weather backup plan. The cafe would be weather resilient but they do not allow alcohol. Also, a follow on from the last Grow Your
Own session, which would be Saturday 27th June 12.30 in the Trumpington Community Orchard. Backup plan would be shift to Sunday. There may be an advantage in that this is just after the Environment week so we can publicise it then.

**Action Nicola to check out Botanical Gardens venue**  
**Action Nicola to check out availability of Cafe for a social in May**

**Allotments Network**

Dave Fox gave us an update. It is now almost exactly a year since his first city wide survey and he will be doing another for comparison. The City Council has been asking their allotment tenants (which is about 10% of allotments in Cambridge) if they would like to shrink their plots and they are now offering new tenants only 25 m² compared to a traditional full plot of 250 m². This is not necessarily a bad thing as it clearly is a way to reduce waiting lists and it will get people started. But it is important that people who want more can still get more.

**Bottom of the minutes - for discussion at some point:**

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

**Next meeting: 29th April at the Geldart.**