Minutes of the meeting of the Transition Cambridge Food Group
The Geldart, Ainsworth Street
12.8.2009

Present: Jerry Carr-Brion, Dave Fox, Ceri Galloway, Phillipa Grimstone, Ivan Ivanovic, Dave Jackson, Jason Palmer, Pippa Vine, Kim Warren, Rowan Wylie

Apologies: Jacky Sutton-Adam, Nicola Terry

1. Minutes
Ceri wished it to be recorded that she had offered apologies at the previous meeting, but they had been omitted from the minutes. The minutes of the last meeting were otherwise approved.

2. Matters arising
i) Pippa wished to clarify that the events schedule would be flexible enough to respond to ad hoc invitations where desirable.

3. Garden Share scheme
Rowan reported that two more pairings had been set up, with a number of people still waiting. Dave Fox reported that he had plugged the scheme during an interview with Cambridge Evening News, asking particularly for more gardens and an additional organiser. It was thought that one of the people from the new pairings might be prepared to help co-ordinate the scheme.

4. Grow Your Own
Arrangements for a social event for those on the first course were discussed, at which further feedback would be sought. 17 October was the first choice date, with 10 October as a second choice. Trumpington Pavilion was suggested as a venue, and Ceri agreed to check if it would be available. 11am-2pm was suggested. The event would include a meal, discussion of the first course and options for future ones, and perhaps a walk around the allotments and orchard. £160 remained from the course, and this could perhaps be used to pay for food. It was agreed that local councillors, Keith Jordan, and Ro Randall from Cambridge Carbon Footprint should be invited, in addition to those who had participated in the first course. Dave Fox agreed to invite them. It was agreed that co-operation with CCF was important in planning future courses. Jason agreed to bring up the possibility with CCF.

Actions: Dave Fox, Ceri, Jason

5. Events
It was agreed that events should be scheduled where possible, with one per month a rule of thumb, but that some flexibility to respond to ad hoc invitations was important. A calendar setting out known events and attached to the end of the minutes was thought to be useful. Dave Fox agreed to send Phillipa an example from the Trumpington Allotment Society minutes. The Seed Swap in January, and a potato day in February were discussed. Ceri agreed to send the details of both to Phillipa. Rowan agreed to help Ceri with the seed swap. Dave Fox agreed to move the events to the top of the list on the website.

Arrangements for the event on 19-20 September were discussed. A food swap was suggested, although it was thought by some to be too complicated for the setting.

Jerry announced that a pop-up gazebo belonging to Oxfam might be available for Food Group use. Dave Jackson and Ceri had a bike trailer, which could be transferred...
relatively easily from one bicycle to another. It had come from the Dig Workers' Co- operative, Northampton (perhaps no longer in existence). Ivan reported that the Council would in principle be happy to lend its cargo trike to the group free of charge. He agreed to try to find out how much it would carry, and what its dimensions were.

Ivan suggested that the group should visit some orchards around Blountisham, which were having a weekend of open days. He agreed to forward details to the group's email account for circulation.

Actions: Ceri, Dave Fox, Phillipa, Ivan

6. Possible grant opportunity
There was discussion about whether the group should have its own bank account if it was going to apply for grants. It was agreed that it would save work if the Food Group used the Transition Cambridge account, its funds being ring-fenced, although this might not be sufficient for large applications, and agreement would need to be sought from the Steering Group.

Ivan agreed to draft a proposal for publicity, Grow Your Own, and display boards to be presented to Lush. It was thought that the Steering Group might also be applying, and a joint approach was considered.

Actions: Ivan.

7. Publicity
Rowan and Pippa had met with Hilary and produced some drafts of a Food Group leaflet. These were circulated for comment. Various suggestions were made, most notably that there was too much text. Graphics were also discussed, as was the question of whether the leaflet should be in colour or black and white, or perhaps have two versions, one in each. Ivan agreed to get a quote for printing from a social enterprise printing company in Burwell. The front image was discussed, perhaps the supermarket trolley v. wheelbarrow of produce pictures, or something incorporating an iconic image of Cambridge, such a King's College Chapel. It was agreed that a draft should be put on the group's wiki for further comment. Dave Fox agreed to help those who were not confident with using a wiki.

Actions: Pippa, Dave Fox, Ivan

8. Preserving food
Pippa announced that she had arranged a session on jam-making and fruit-bottling on 12 September at Coleridge Community College, and perhaps an informal one at a friend's house on 22 August. She would send details to the email account for forwarding.

Rowan announced that she had access to a great many apples, if anyone could use them. It was suggested that she should contact Maggie to ask if she was arranging any juice-making.

Actions: Pippa

9. CSAs / food co-operatives
Ivan suggested setting up a CSA sub-group. It was suggested that a note be put into the Transition Cambridge bulletin, to try to gauge interest in this. He had also spoken to Richard
Todd at Anglesey Abbey. There were three pieces of land there which could possibly be used for a CSA project, although they were quite far from Cambridge, and involvement by those who lived in the nearby villages might be needed. Ways of involving local people were discussed. It was thought that setting up market gardening-style CSAs would be quite complicated, and that it might be better to start with a scheme which involved an existing producer, such as Waterland Organics. It was suggested that Kirstin Glendinning (from the Social Association) be invited to speak to the group about setting up CSAs. Ivan agreed to contact her, and also to have further discussion with Richard Todd.

Actions: Ivan

10. DEFRA consultation
Dave Fox and Ivan reported that DEFRA had set up a public consultation process surrounding food security. The timescale was far-reaching (2030), and the process very open, with online forums to which anyone could contribute (though postings were monitored). They encouraged everyone to take part, and put in as many links to supporting evidence as possible. Dave Fox agreed to send a note about it to the Transition Cambridge bulletin, and Ivan agreed to draft a summary and link for the Food Group webpages.

Actions: Dave Fox, Ivan.

11. Permaculture
Ceri reported that she had not had any further contact from Janet Holden, but was following up three or four other contacts.

12. Next meeting
The Geldart room would be booked for 7.30pm on 26 August. Jason agreed to chair.

14. AOB
(i) An allotment questionnaire was brought to the group’s attention, and participation was encouraged. Ceri agreed to send a note to the Transition Cambridge bulletin asking people to complete the questionnaire if they received one. A formal question was to be tabled at the December Council meeting, asking for results in easing the demand for allotments.

Actions: Ceri.

(ii) Pippa brought a Bristol-based project called Growzones to the group’s attention. It aimed to encourage people to help each other to establish food-growing in gardens. Members of the Christian group that had set it up would be in Cambridge in September, and Pippa intended to talk to them. She agreed to forward details to the group.

Actions: Pippa.

(iii) Pippa agreed to forward details of a guerrilla-gardening group to the group.

Actions: Pippa.