Transition Cambridge Food Group Minutes 4th Nov 2009

Present: Pippa (Chair), Naveen, Ivan, Nicola, Lindsay, Dave F, Martin (secretary)

Apologies: Ceri/Dave, Jason, Rowan, Jacky, Jerry

Minutes of Oct 7th meeting were approved with the minor amendments included:

Matters Arising

We intend to develop formal contact with the University Transition group.
Action: Nicola will put Lindsay in contact with Becky

Bev Sedley is the official contact for TC grant applications
Action: Martin to contact her to confirm this and liaise on applications

Xmas party: The Geldart needs to know finally numbers and menu choices by 9th Dec.
Action: Nicola to give cost (£23.50 per head for 3 courses)/menu details in the bulletin

Mill Road Winter Fair

It was decided that we need a suitable theme, like raising awareness of waste. We agreed to develop a list of ideas for non-material Christmas presents
Action: Martin will submit a request for ideas to appear in the TC Bulletin
Action: Nicola will add the request to the website

Action: All should decide on a suitable table/stand display at the next meeting

Storage Area/Succession Planning

A new home is needed for the display stands for when Dave F and Kim are travelling next year with a solution required by Mar-April 2010. The default option is for the stand to be stored in Dave’s Trumpington Allotment hut but this is not optimal. Naveen advised that TC are also looking for a storage area. If anyone hears of any possibilities they should inform her.
Action All: The subject should be raised again at the next meeting on 18th Nov.

Seed Swap/Seedy Sunday Poster

The event is to be called Seedy Sunday and held on 17th Jan 2010.
Action: Dave will consider adding “Everyone Welcome” to encourage attendance.
Action: Pippa will contact Ceri to develop an A3 version.

Anglesey Abbey/National Trust

Discussion was held on possible ways to help this initiative. It was thought best this be focused on a launch event rather than being on-going due to the distance and time requirement. Some form of Q&A or GYO presentation may be suitable.
**Action: Nicola** to propose these ideas to Jackie to see if Ewan is interested. Jackie has already met with Ewan and can report back at the next meeting.

**Radio 209**

Pippa completed her interview, resulting in the offer of a monthly 15 minute spot. Jackie has offered to provide advice on foraging for the November slot. **Action: Pippa** will contact Malcolm at 209 to propose this. **Action All:** We need to come up with further ideas for future months if this is to be sustained.

**Ely Event Feedback/Agriculture Links**

Dave reported on his attendance at the Transition Ely event where speakers included Ben Reynolds from Sustain, Jim Pace local MP and the Shadow Agriculture spokesperson, the mayor of Ely and Ken Kelso who farms 120 acres sustainably at Fen End Farm, with Red Poll cattle, cereals and green manure. There were 37 attendees. It was proposed that the Food Group join Sustain at a cost of £20 per year, the community group rate which gives access to their network, invitation to events, copy of their bulletin etc. **Action: Dave** will bring their magazine to the next meeting which includes an application form. **Action: All** to look at the Sustain website before the next meeting.

Discussion was held on the possibility of holding a Food Conference in Cambridge in Spring 2010 with the theme of “Feeding Cambridge” and ways to mitigate the effects of climate change on local food production.

**Food Group Social**

Thanks were expressed to Martin for hosting the recent social gathering and the next is planned for Feb 2010, when hopefully Nicola’s building work will be finished (!) but we should consider other contingencies.

**Making the Most of Food**

Pippa, who organised this event, provided feedback. There were 7 newcomers as well as the 3 Food Group attendees. In view of the Lush fund grant provided by TC Steering there is a £100 surplus for further events. Positive feedback has been received from several attendees. **Action: Pippa** will write up her ideas for her proposed “Making the Most of Food” Group to appear in the bulletin.

**Local Fruit Tree Map**

Nicola reported that there had been 1700 viewings on the websites so far. **Action: Pippa** will contact Ally about his ongoing involvement. **Action: Nicola** will look at bringing a laptop version to the Mill Road Stall and possible
physical power generation

**European Waste Reduction Event – 21-19th November**

**Action:** Pippa to obtain materials from Cora

**Urban Larder**

Dave visited this new initiative located in Hope Street, off Argyle Street and said it was well worth supporting individually.

**Cambridge Matters**

Further to their request for submissions, Jackie is gathering material for an article on reducing food waste. They have also requested a list of events that we are organising but the lead time for publication may make it difficult for us to provide a firm list so far in advance.

**Action:** Nicola will advise them of the Seedy Sunday event and seek deadline/publication dates for 2010

**Introduction to Permaculture Weekend Course.**

Naveen advised on the proposal to hold a 10 day course, which she will be coordinating over several weekends with provisional attendance fee of £95.

**Garden Share Update**

Jackie is advertising this initiative through the Volunteer Centre

**GYO Plans for 2010**

The current plan is to provide allotment space to attendees of the CCF theory/discussion course so they can gain practical experience for those who do not have access to their own land.

**Action:** Martin to attend the CCF GYO session on Monday 9th November – done - and he will now coordinate with Liz Serocold, who plans to attend the next Food Group meeting. At present we have the offer of allotment space at Holbrook Road (Martin/Rowan) and possibly Stourbridge Road (Liz) but could do with other locations to give attendees easy access. We should also help advertise the CCF GYO scheme through the TC Bulletin/Website to offer the availability of land as above. The next CCF session will be in February 2010.

A very useful 2009 GYO review session was held on 17th Oct by Kim/Dave etc.

**Action:** Dave will upload the comments onto the Food Group website

**Action:** Pippa will talk to the Romsey Garden Club to see if they want to get involved

**Story Writing – Envisioning a Low Carbon World**

Favourable feedback was given on Rowan’s story telling activities.

**Action:** Nicola and Anna are pulling together some material for teachers to use in schools
Other Activities

The HICCA Stall event was successfully supported.
Pippa advised on potential for setting up Transition Fulbourn
Transition Network has published a book on encouraging local food production entitled
“How to Make it Happen in Your Community” by Tamsin Pinkerton and Rob Hopkins.
Dave F is reviewing a copy
Action: Ivan will obtain a copy for general use and
Action All: we should individually request the Central Library to obtain a copy

Next Meeting: 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th November at the Geldart Pub
Chairperson/Secretary to be agreed then