

## **Transition Cambridge AGM 5/Oct/2017**

Friends Meeting House, Jesus Lane 7.30-9.30pm There were approximately 20 people present. Jacky Sutton Adam chaired the meeting and Nicola Terry took minutes

### **Accounts**

Kate Gandee (treasurer) presented the accounts. A summary of these is reported in the Annual Report . The accounts were approved with no objections.

### **Election of Officers**

The three officers agreed to stand another year and the board was nominated and accepted unanimously.

- Chair: Jacky Sutton Adam
- Secretary: Nicola Terry
- Treasurer: Kate Gandee

### **Announcements**

Jacky announced that we are coordinating a film festival in February, in collaboration with Pivotal and others. This will be supported by the City Council – they have offered to host a couple of films. Each film will be accompanied by some related activity to encourage engagement.

This concluded the formal part of the meeting.

### **Short presentations**

#### **Social Innovation Project**

Jacky described some of the findings from the Cambridge University Social Innovation Project team we challenged back in February to:

- Find out more about our followers (people who read the newsletter) and members
- Suggest how to engage more people more actively in our projects.

Findings included:

Our followers are mainly older (3/4 are over 35), highly educated (3/4 have at least a bachelors degree), main female (2/3) and mainly white/European.

Transition members enjoy making a positive impact and building community. They also enjoy education and intellectual exchange. They are motivated by meeting like-minded people, making new friends and the potential for inner change. They are interested in food, wildlife and nature, energy and

transport. They enjoy activities that are outdoors, educational, involve discussions or repairing/repurposing stuff.

We could be more welcoming to new members if we had a designated project coordinate and volunteer engagement officer (as other organisations of similar size do). Other ways we could encourage engagement from new members include:

- Highlight the benefits of volunteering to the volunteer
- Support new project leaders
- Implement a buddy scheme for new participants
- Do more outreach
- Improve coordination on new projects

Any member can see the full report on request.

In response to these suggestions the Hub is resolved to put on more newcomer friendly events (like Pitch Up Pitch In), do more strategic outreach such as Volunteer for Cambridge (21<sup>st</sup> Oct) and opportunities at the Pumpkin Festival (28<sup>th</sup> Oct). We have also done some work to revamp our website, in particular bringing the food group pages up to date and to simplify the front page to make it easier to keep relevant.

It is important to focus on our members interests and motivations in planning future events.

### **Empty Common community Garden**

Charlotte gave a brief review of the year at Empty Common. During the year they planted and grew Old Burwell wheat, a heritage seed variety. This was threshed at Cropshare. They also planted apple trees for the Cambridge Community Collection, of heritage apples.

Building projects added new public seating space (often used by the public for picnics), a pond, and a compost loo. Future plans include a shed for community meetings and bike racks.

There will be more information in the annual report.

### **Repair Cafes**

A great number of repair cafes have occurred in villages this year. In Cambridge itself there was one at the Earth Optimism Fair in April, and there will be a huge (hopefully record breaking) event on 1<sup>st</sup> November – aiming for 150 repairs.

They have been collecting statistics on the ages, types, and repair success of items brought to cafes. The most common age of item is 3.5-5 years. However the success rate for this age is fairly low – only 50%. Older items are generally more likely to be fixed. However, the worst age for fixability is 2-3.5 years.

In terms of item type, in most cases the fix rate is more than 50% but it is very low for mobile phones – only 17%. We need more data to confirm these trends.

### **Pitch Up Pitch In**

Our first Pitch Up Pitch In event will be 28<sup>th</sup> November. The idea is to help get new projects started by giving potential project leaders an opportunity to pitch for volunteers. At the first event we will have 4 projects including the purely practical (a bike rack for ECCG, rain gardens for flood resilience), to mainly intellectual (social media practice) and entrepreneurial (connecting solar panels and electric cars). If this event is successful we will repeat it at least once a year.

### **Energy Group/Low Carbon Cambridge**

Nicola explained some of the results from the Energy Group brainstorming on how to make Cambridge more Low Carbon. Strategies range from personal choices (e.g. diet and transport) to low carbon heating for buildings, street level infrastructure and legislation. The last two are difficult to influence, at least for us working alone.

There are also a number of other initiatives in Cambridge with similar ambitions. For example, the City Council aims to make Cambridge zero carbon by 2050, Cambridge Commons has funding for a project called Zero Carbon Cambridge which aims for zero emissions in the city (so no fossil fuel cars), the Green Party has an ambition for Cambridge to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. None of these projects have plausible strategies or plans, as yet. Also, Smarter Cambridge Transport and Cambridge Connect aim to improve public transport which will also have a big impact on emissions from transport. This area is controversial.

### **Panel session**

In the panel session, Nicola mentioned an idea arising from a communications workshop, to influence plans for changes to transport infrastructure proposed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership. The intention is to draw up a 'Greater Cambridge Charter' that lists values that we wish to be taken into consideration, to include air quality, green infrastructure and other aspects contributing to making Cambridge a pleasant and healthy place to live. It was agreed that TC could contribute to this discussion.