

Transition Cambridge Hub 15/Sept/2014

Present: Dave Jackson, Ceri Galloway, Meg Clarke, Anna McIvor, Jacky Sutton-Adam, Liz Serocold, Nicola Terry, Toni Mayer, Sarah Rodger

Apologies: Oscar Gillespie

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted. No Matters Arising; we did a lot!

Round-up of Groups and Projects

Cafe

Semi dormant for the time being as a new venue is needed. Any ideas for new cafe home welcome, it should be rent free. The last event was the newcomers meeting on 11 September which was well attended, around 13 new faces plus good representation from the TC interest groups.

Energy

The group is continuing as per usual, the next topic is going to be Biochar which although not strictly energy, has attracted a lot of interest. Nicola has asked Paul from Willow Farm to contribute.

After Biochar will come 2050 Pathways.

The next energy forum is lighting: LEDs, exotic CFLs etc.

There is also a plan for a schools workshop. Community energy project has gone quiet, Netherhall school needs a contact call.

Growing Spaces

Is also progressing smoothly, A potential contact from the Daily Bread Cooperative , Loic, has expressed interest in collaborating with TC; Jacky has dropped in a few TC Free Press copies (as the ones destined for the food group were not needed)

The Growing Spaces facebook page and the website are both done.

Cropshare

Harvest party was great, and raised around £150. The rye harvest is in and under cover and they are waiting for the thresher.

Cropshare organising team are currently Axel Minet, Sarah Rodger, Anne Lally, Matt Hasler

Permaculture

Permies in Pubs meetings are ongoing on the last Thursday of the month. Permaculture Convergence was on the 13th and 14th September; Dave and Ceri went. They have news of next year's International Permaculture Convergence 11th -16th September 2015 which has the support of Polly Higgins and Rob Hopkins. It will take place in Gilmer Park – accessible from Cambridge. Is there energy for organising an 'edge' event? Perhaps invite some overseas delegates to spend time in Cambridge learning about our

projects. It would be a good exchange/learning opportunity. Host accommodation and people needed. Dave and Ceri will canvass the Permaculture group and maybe flag it in the bulletin and on the website.

Cambake

Meg brings news of Maskell's bakery on Akeman Street CB4 which is up for rent; proposals and business plan will need to reach the council within the next fortnight. Meg thinks that with offers of finance received so far, plus crowd-funding that there will be enough money to run the site as a community cafe with occasional baking for a year. New bakers who want to be involved with the enterprise are needed as the original Cambake people have moved on with their micro-bakeries and are not in a position to take up the Akeman St premises. There is a good level of local support for a community cafe. It would also provide a base and meeting space for Transition Cambridge groups. Jennie Debenham and Andrew Clarke are keen to take forward the cafe side of the plans with a Reconomy focus. Jacky will have a look at the existing business plan for Cambake to assess what can be reused in the new proposal. Sarah also offered assistance.

Skillshare

This group is becoming more focussed on repairs at the moment. Upcoming events include Cottenham's Repair Cafe on 20th September and Cambridge's first Restart Party on 30th September 5-8pm.

Romsey Community Garden

The garden is doing well and a new coordinator is needed.

Media group

Message from Oscar: We are talking about ways to get more content on the blog and website in general and promote Transition events. He'll try to kick off some interviews with people soon – says 'it'll be less scary once we've completed and published a couple of them.'

Admin Group

Has been revived! A meeting happened recently and there are 4 people who are taking on some of the tasks. We welcome them with gratitude! Minutes of hub meetings will be posted on the website and will consist of a round-up of what we've done and what we will do, along with any agreed decisions that we make.

Food Group

Had their first meeting following the summer break, ran a stall at the Food Garden and Produce Fair on Parker's Piece 13-14th September. It was much quieter than usual and we covered our costs from the donations for plums purchased from local fruit farms. We will decide if there is energy to run a weekend long stalls in the future.

Upcoming activities and events:

20th 21st September: Cambridge Community gardening weekend

Rock Abundance pop up veg and fruit swap stalls - several planned until mid October

25th October: some FG members attending the Incredible Edible Todmorden Food conference. TC Food group will have a table top to showcase our projects.

26th October: Botanic Garden Apple Day - we will have a Fruit Harvest Project stall.

Midsummer 2015: we are thinking about running a stone fruits pruning workshop with Charlotte Synge

Agenda items

Sustainability hacking group

Toni has an idea to start a 'sustainability hacking' group – for programmers who would like to use their skills to do things for sustainability. She will submit an item for the newsletter about it.

Politics

We have been approached by an MEP asking if we would like to work together, where our plans have a European dimension. **Anna will respond inviting him to get involved in our activities but saying that we don't really have capacity to comment on EU policies.**

We have also been invited to work with the Green Party. Other groups such as Norwich and Peterborough have strong links with their local Green Party and in fact we have considerable overlap in membership. However, TC has a strict 'no party politics' rule. This means that we won't run activities that are exclusively aimed at Green Party people and we can't be seen to support the Green Party over other political parties.

We agreed it would be OK to speak at Green Party events if we were invited.

Also **we could organise a hustings before the May 2015 elections.** We did this once before – Anne Lally organised it and we will ask her for advice.

Joining CCVS

We are invited to join CCVS (Cambridge charity to support voluntary groups). There is a small charge to join and we can then get training for e.g. legal issues and writing grant applications, getting administrative support and so on. **Nicola is to apply to join CCVS. The hub approves the cost (circa £30).**

Café Project

The café project is closing down and has some funds to pass on to another project.

Be the change

Antony Carpen ran a 'Conversation Café' event at Anglia Ruskin on 13th Sept. None of us were there but it was apparently successful. [There is a video about it here.

<http://bethechangecambridge.org.uk/> One of the things he talks about is venues – community groups need venues but venue owners say they have trouble getting bookings (I wonder if that has something to do with price).]

Mill Road Winter Fair

Liz has requested a stall at the fair. It will be on December 6th.

Ethical Guide to Cambridge

<http://www.cambridgehub.org/ethical-guide>

This is a 20 page booklet, mainly aimed at students. It was produced 2 years ago by Kate Honey. Now it is managed by the Cambridge Hub. We have been invited to pay £60 for a half page advert.

We agreed to take this up, advertising opportunities for students to get involved. We will ask Anna Williams to design something but first we need some text – Anna will send something based on text from Mill Road Winter Fair leaflets and the events leaflet and send it to Jacky for drafting.

New projector

We have a new projector with LED light – procured by Lesley Guebert for free (somewhere online). Thanks Lesley!

Finances

Our general finances are a bit run down (quite a lot of the money in the bank is restricted, being ear marked for particular groups or projects). People who have in the past given regularly by standing order and were told we didn't need the money are invited to resume.

Getting grants

The Sustainable City Grant scheme has changed and they now commission projects rather than funding anything that comes along. We should ask for advice in understanding the new regime.

Cambridge Community Foundation Is another potential source of grants.

<http://www.cambscf.org.uk/core-grant-programmes.html>

AGM

Nicola has the membership list in hand and will send out an invite (done).

There are three parts to this: group reports, formal AGM and workshop. Martin has the accounts in hand for the AGM. **Anna and Nicola will organise the group presentations.**

The workshop bit is very important as it gives new people a chance to join in and have their say. Last time the group reports ran on too long and we had hardly any time for the workshop – this time we must be stricter on timings for the reports. We will give projects 2 minutes only and groups 4 minutes. They don't need to present everything they have done – just the highlights.

Next Hub meeting: Monday 13th October (a week early because of the AGM)