Transition Cambridge Steering Group – Minutes of meeting held 30th April 2009

Present: Ceri [Chair], Irma, Naveen, Jono, Anna, James, Rob

Apologies: Dave, Sharon, Peter, Nicki

1. Environment Festival.

James went through the detailed program for the Environment Festival events. Volunteers, equipment and logistics were discussed for each event. James has a record of details. Also arising from this discussion:

a. Should we purchase a projector for the display of films and presentations? *It was decided not to do this at this time.*

b. Should a ‘Stall Group’ be formed? *This might be a good idea as a lot of the pressure for stall events ends up on Jono and Naveen. It would be good to form a pool of people who could help on the stalls. Preferably they would be people with some of knowledge of Transition issues. Helping on a stall with a more experienced person could be a good way of ‘picking up’ Transition knowledge.*

c. James noted that we should not refer directly to the Rosie Cox talk in any of our Environment Festival materials.

d. It was decided that we won’t, on this occasion, invite an external guest speaker for the What is Transition event. *Rob will continue to compile a list of speakers for future reference.*

2. Sustainable Communities Act

Jono and Ceri attended the SCA Panel discussion. It was felt to have been a generally positive experience. The outcome will be considered at a City Council meeting on the 29th June. The public will be able to attend this meeting and ask questions.

3. Open Space

It was agreed to hold an Open Space event. The target date is the 11th July (2-5pm). *Anna will try and book a venue for the event.* This will be 'brainstormed' at a Steering Group meeting closer to the time.

4. Strawberry Fair

Nicky has booked a pitch and will supply a gazebo.

- *Anna will try and find some help for Naveen with preparing materials for the stall.*

- If we are using a car to transport materials on site then that car will need to be registered with the Fair organisers.

- *Irma is collating films for the Schnews collaboration.*
5. EERA [East of England Regional Assembly]

The ERA is developing a structural strategy which will have an effect on the actions that smaller authorities can take for a significant timeframe (the next 20 years). Our first engagement with this subject was via members of the Food Group and, at a previous SG meeting, it was noted that the original contactees were the people best placed to progress this. However, the ERA strategy will influence other subjects beyond the scope of the Food Group. The Food Group feel that it would be appropriate for the Steering Group to contribute to any input into the ERA process.

This was discussed. There is a very short timescale for submission (3rd July 2009?). Both the Food and Steering Groups are suffering from the same lack of person-hours to undertake this type of work. A request for volunteers to help with this specific topic will be put into the Bulletin.

6. Permaculture Training

Ceri spoke to this. She feels strongly that we need to increase the depth of Transition culture in the local area in order to progress as we must. One way to do this would be to increase the local understanding of Permaculture. Ceri offered to look into organising Permaculture training in Cambridge. This was strongly supported.

7. Volunteer Bureaus

Irma has registered Transition Cambridge with two local volunteer bureaus. It is hoped that these will offer us some opportunities for some extra hands when we need them as well as raising our profile in the local volunteer community.

8. T Shirts

Nicky has sourced a supplier for T shirts. Naveen took numbers to order to pass on.

9. Tony Juniper

It was agreed to wait until the autumn to ask Tony to speak.

10. Transition Tavern

This event will be going ahead on the 31st May. Rob will circulate info & posters via e-mail for input.