Transition Cambridge Steering Group Minutes 26/11/09

Present: Maggie, Nicola, Anna, Pippa, Corrina, Naveen, Ceri, James

Sub-groups present: representatives of the Well-being group, Food group, Cherry Hinton area group, Energy group

Wellbeing Group
-Has been having bring and share events at member’s houses every 2 weeks and it’s apparently going well.
-They’ve organised a chill-out evening for the University. The University is keen to have them back, but they feel it may be necessary to get more space for awareness raising about Transition Cambridge if it is to be worthwhile.
-Anna has suggested developing a separate Heart And Soul Group, to facilitate those activities more likely to raise a few eyebrows and keep them separate from the Wellbeing Group’s scope.

Transition Cherry Hinton
-The main organisers are Corinna and Kara at the moment.
-They have a showing of The Age Of Stupid on the 29th of November.
-They plan to create links to other local groups.

Food Group
-Jacky was on the radio on Wednesday the 25th and feels that it went well.
-There hasn’t been any progress made on the Grow Your Own or Garden Share schemes lately.
-They have revised their 2031 East Of England plan and sent it to the council.
-They are planning to host a showing of a film showing the cruelty that pigs are subjected to in modern farming.
-The Making The Most Of Food event went well, but they suspect that they may have trouble finding people to run the next one.
-Ivan wants to run bread making courses ideally 3-4x per year and hopes to raise money through it. He wants to look for sponsorship from various local businesses.

Energy Group
-They’ve given up on anaerobic digestion for now.
-Some members of the group are still very keen on a hydroelectric project.
-There’s also interest in creating a company who put solar PV on commercial buildings.
-Another project of interest is microfinance to help people install insulation in their homes.

Housing Group?
-Ivan is involved with a group called Enlinca.
-There’s a plot of land in Orchard Park which the city council want to sell. Developers don’t want to pay the £3mil because of the state of the housing market. Enlinca want to pursue it as a housing co-op, and Ivan wants to get TC involved, maybe by starting a housing group. Enlinca already have similar aims and philosophies to TC.
-Ivan suggests a housing event in January to kick-start the process. He’ll write something for the bulletin, but will first speak with Stephen Conrad who is involved in the Enlinca project.

Permaculture Course
-Naveen has been in contact with permaculture teacher Hannah Thoroughgood, who is keen to teach a course in Cambridge. They want to arrange a meeting to plan and discuss it further.
-Ceri is also keen to help facilitate the teaching of permaculture in Cambridge.
-Nicky, Ceri, Anna and Naveen will meet to organise this.
**Steering Group**

Mill Road Winter Fair
- 3 tables are available to us.
- James wants to encourage the Food Group to use 2 of the tables.
- He’s created a template for Christmas card style leaflets.
- There’s a £50 budget for the fair.
- They’re considering printing the cards in good quality.
- Anna knows of a company who can print with vegetable ink on recycled paper.
- Anna will be there all day. Pippa from 10:30am. Naveen and Jono might make it. Nicky will be in and out.
- James needs a white board.

Film showing of No Impact Man
- Set for Tuesday the 8th of December at Romsey Mill.
- Nigel Dent and Anna are main organisers, with Ivan, Pippa and Naveen helping. Hopefully Corinna will be the speaker.
- May need help with the publicity

Advertising
- Nicky suggests that we get listed on Cambridge Online.
- We’re in danger of losing our space on the Arjuna board due to our neglecting to make good use of it.
Nicky will take some leaflets there at Mill Road Winter Fair.

Networking
- Pippa wants to host an event jointly with various other groups in Cambridge, such as CCF.
- She wants to host a “Women of Passion” event.

Community
- Ceri wants to arrange a fundraising Ceilidh event.
- She’s calculated that it would cost us around £4 per head, while it would seem reasonable for us to charge £8 per head therefore making a profit.
- Her plan is to contact the hall where it might be held, and then to arrange a meeting to plan it.
- Anna, Nicky and Naveen are in charge of arranging the TC Christmas Party.

Evolution of the Steering Group
- This is planned for 7:30pm on Monday the 11th of January at Friend’s Meeting House. It turns out that the only room they could offer is a no-food room, so the meeting will not be bring-and-share as was previously planned, unless there are objections to this.