

## Transition and Sustainable Food Seminar Summary Information

<b>Existing and Future Work</b>	<b>Support Needed</b>	<b>Support Received</b>	<b>Links to Local Authority</b>
<b>Transition Glastonbury</b>			
<p>Food Group running since July 2007 (50 members). Successful events including a local food conference last year.</p> <p>A transition gardening project - a community garden, teaching people skills to grow their own food.</p> <p>We have gained funding to produce a local food map and we are in the process of gathering information for this, this will include a 'local food' creative competition to involve children and families in the process.</p> <p>We have 'saved' our local green grocer and we are supporting its development into a local food shop.</p> <p>Establishing a green business club and have plans to promote local food being served in more local establishments including B&amp;Bs.</p>	<p>Good ideas and case studies of successful local food initiatives</p> <p>Opportunities to discuss progress with other initiatives</p> <p>Support with more strategic development and having a greater influence on local policy and procedures etc.</p> <p>Examples of food energy decent action plans?</p>	<p>We tried to set up a 'hubs and clusters' event, with a helpful Nick Weir. Our barrier was funding for the event. We found our own solutions in the end and drew upon the contacts we have already made in Somerset.</p> <p>The Soil Association supported a local food conference recently - through an opening speech.</p>	<p>None so far.</p>
<b>Portobello Transition Group (Edinburgh)</b>			
<p>Local food shindig – summer 2006 - people brought produce from their allotments. We had a bike workshop, a puppet show, and a 'food miles' game for kids.</p> <p>Local food market – autumn 2007 - this was great event, with a bike parade and lots of stalls, which tied in with World Car Free Day. It wasn't such good timing from the produce point of view: most people's gluts had</p>	<p>More time – ie involvement of more people with time to spare.</p> <p>Or – payment for work. This may happen through grants – the orchard application has a day a week for a community involvement person.</p>	<p>Participation of other food group members – extremely useful!</p> <p>Participation of others in community – extremely useful!</p> <p>ideas from other Transition initiatives i.e. though the Kiinsale EDAP,</p>	<p>We are working loosely with the parks department on the orchard project. They have been enthusiastic about the idea, and have helped find land to use. They're happy to help with advice in the future – no 'hard' (trees, equipment) help however.</p>

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<p>passed. People did bring home baking, quite a lot of jam, and some lovely worm tea. we kicked off the orchard project, giving out lots of information on the back of paper apples.</p> <p>Dr. Window-Box stall – summer 2007 - part of the above event. we got some window boxes and seeds on sale or return from the local hardware shop, and made some leaflets with ideas about what to plant in window boxes. Suffered from a similar end-of-season problem as the market.</p> <p>Orchard project – grant application submitted. This will be on a patch of neglected land on the boundary of our area and the next one. The project will go ahead in a smaller way, even without funding. We're hoping to be able to build a roundhouse to store tools and shelter, as well as to have indoor space for courses and social events. Want to conduct a local fruit audit.</p> <p>Future ideas: Gardens for gardeners scheme – match making people with gardens to those with gardening skills; addressing need for allotments;</p>	<p>Opportunities to find out more about what's already happening – share, meet talk with people who're involved with similar projects (like this - thanks!)</p>	<p>Kiinsale EDAP, websites, hearing from Ben when he was up tour.</p>	
<b>Sustainable Brampton</b>			
<p>Food Sub-Group of 8 members.</p> <p>Overarching project: “Feeding Brampton”. Initial research commissioned to explore the area’s food needs, current food</p>	<p>Analysis of the commercial obstacles to diverse production/local marketing.</p> <p>Analysis of the</p>	<p>Regional Soil Association advice.</p> <p>Interest and involvement in seminars by:</p>	<p>Connections with local authority policies and plans: Very recent interest by Carlisle City Council in “transition towns” and have now established regular liaison.</p>

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<p>production, and food production potential; established limited range of local production; very little local marketing; area capable of self-sufficiency in basic diet of seasonal, organically grown food.</p> <p>Sub-projects currently active: Promoting take-up of “Food for Life” – communicating with all local schools Encouraging home-grown food production – local experts being identified Campaign for more allotments – Parish Council contacted, land being identified, names of new allotment users being sought in March. Engagement with local farmers on production potential/obstacles – initial contacts made. Engagement with local retailers – awaiting outcome of work with farmers. Promotion of purchasing of locally produced food by residents and procurers – promoting in general terms, but awaiting clarification on availability. General Sustainable Brampton promotion through monthly Farmers’ Market stall.</p> <p>Social enterprise activity being actively considered in the light of progress on the above: “Community (Market) Garden” company for either demonstration or commercial production – land being identified.</p>	<p>carbon case for local/organically produced food.</p> <p>Best practice advice on community initiatives.</p> <p>Networking arrangements - to keep up to date.</p> <p>Advice for farmers on growing options and economically safe transition.</p> <p>Economic development agency support to stimulate changes in commercial production, provide local collective resources and encourage social enterprise.</p> <p>Social enterprise advice and start-up support.</p>	<p>University of Newcastle, Centre for Rural Economy Cumbria International Centre for the Uplands Local Rural Community Council Edinburgh University academic – support on behavioural change.</p> <p>Very limited interest and support by Councils at County/District and Parish levels</p>	<p>Spent the last 15 months through consultation processes seeking change in local economic and Local Strategic Partnership strategies and plans, with some emphasis on “food”, to no apparent effect.</p> <p>County/Regional Development Agency position similar.</p> <p>Dialogue with Regional Development Agency’s local rural support body, which has limited resources, offered no practical way forward – concentrating on niche markets/added value/premium prices/tourism-based diversification.</p> <p>All public sector thinking dominated by the private sector and seeking to maximize GVA and provide support for the market (any market).</p> <p>Resources still being allocated to traditional, large, economic growth-orientated projects (“iconic” town centre and tourist development)</p> <p>No economic development planning.</p> <p>No local community perspective.</p> <p>Lack of ideas and unwillingness to engage in discussion.</p> <p>Lack of mainstream community leadership.</p> <p>Some evidence that things might be starting to change, but nothing tangible yet!</p>

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Distribution company to link producers and retailers – in light of producer/retailer feedback			
<b>Transition Stroud Food Group (also separate sheet)</b>			
<p>There is a high concentration of local food work here in Stroud. We all communicate freely and there is no overt competition. We have each committed to assist other projects where we can. We have decided to remain as separate organisations, with diverse origins and circumstances and ties to particular locations. We are each of a scale that members can have a meaningful sense of community and involvement. We are all keen to demonstrate what we are doing when we have shown that our models work. We are enthusiastic to showcase what we have done together as practical and inspirational models. We hope that in time these projects will collectively provide visitors to Stroud with an informative study trip experience, showing all that a town can do for local food.</p> <p>There are a large number of existing projects (See separate sheet) including: Community Supported Agriculture Farms; Stroud Food Hub - members of the food club can order food directly from producers; Vital Squeeze Kitchen; Stroudsown Promotions / Events; Stroud Communal</p>			<p>In terms of our connections with local authority policies and plans, we have a very supportive Green town council who are paying for the promotion of the Food Festival in Sept 2008. Transition Stroud has a working group that focuses entirely on local authority liaison. The <b>Food Group</b> (and other <b>Transition Stroud</b> working groups) are channeling suggestions for the Local Strategic Plan through the local authority liaison group.</p>

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Allotment Group; Community Kitchen Project; Stroud Food Festival; Apple Capital Stroud			
<b>Transition Nottingham</b>			
<p>Our food group is very much in its embryonic stage so concentrating on building links with existing groups in Nottingham (garden to plate (a network of community gardens), the food initiatives group (part of the PCT) and the federation of city farms. We are working on a project to graft fruit trees for planting around the city We are also investigating the potential of biochar for fertilizer and as a carbon sink etc. We have also started to map existing projects, resources etc</p> <p>We are exploring the idea of a wholesale hub where local farmers can bring food for sale to local shops and are researching the current situation. We have no shortage of ideas and these range from turning the now derelict walled garden of a local hall (now a council park) into a training facility and market garden to using the many caves of Nottingham for cultivation of mushrooms!</p>	<p>Support we need are finding ways of managing such projects and allowing them to become “stand alone” so that we can put time into developing new ideas.</p> <p>We have good networks with the projects in Nottingham but we need to develop better partnerships with them. A difficulty is that when a new round of funding comes out several projects want to bid into it and that can lead to competition as opposed to cooperation.</p>	<p>We’ve received a lot of support from the local fieldworker for the fed of community gardens and city farms and this was/and will be very useful to publicise events etc</p>	<p>We have a difficulty in Nottingham as our sustainability officer left post in August last year and there wont be a new person in post till April!</p> <p>We are starting to develop links with the food initiatives group and hope to play a prominent role during the council sponsored green weeks in June. The city has a parks and green spaces policy which says there should be a community garden in every ward, but we’re not sure how well publicized this policy is!</p> <p>I imagine one of the early tasks of the food group will be to look at these in more detail and try and have influence for example by adding a food element to the city in bloom competition which is high on the councils agenda.</p> <p>There is an interesting issue with regards to plans to develop 21 greenbelt sites for housing which will destroy a lot of farms surrounding Nottingham. These are covered by several different councils though so we haven’t yet discovered how it fits in with there plans.</p>

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<b>Transition Brighton and Hove</b>			
<p>We have just had the second meeting of the Food Group (which I co-ordinate), at which we started to outline some plans for future work. Our working objective is to increase the amount of food grown and consumed locally, as well as to increase residents' awareness of the importance of this. On a side note: this objective is very much parallel to the Brighton &amp; Hove Food Partnership's objective, which I work for. I would be really interested to know how others in this position strike the balance between existing food work in cities / towns / villages and the food work within their transition initiative.</p> <p>For our first big event we are planning a day with a film screening (hopefully The Future of Food), talks, growing demonstrations (probably around potting seeds and growing in pots – giving people the chance to pot something and bring it home with them). More generally we want to educate people around the importance of eating more seasonally, and just last night it was suggested that we create a wall chart about seasonality (fruit &amp; veg).</p>	<p>Support we need: we will need some sort of financial support, whether in kind, donations or actual cash. Ideally there will be sympathetic venues who will allow us to use space for free or for a nominal fee. Also support from and cooperation with other groups will be crucial.</p>	<p>I suppose just the time that people in the group are contributing. We're still very new, so we've not done much yet.</p>	<p>None as yet, though our work will be in line with Spade to Spoon, the food strategy and action plan for Brighton and Hove. This document represents a joined-up approach to creating a more sustainable food system for B&amp;H. The City Council, Primary Care Trust, Food Partnership and other groups across B&amp;H are committed to achieving targets in the action plan.</p>

### **National Food Sector Organisations**

#### **F3**

Current mainstream agricultural and food retail systems depend heavily on oil. This dependence runs right through from initial production methods (oil-based fertilisers and pesticides), through distribution (supermarkets add thousands of air, sea and road food miles to most foods) to retail outlets, which are often out of towns and require consumers to travel to purchase their food. The project we are proposing is to enable f3 and Transition Town food groups to work together through a facilitated process by which local needs can be translated

into appropriate activities and outcomes – projects and enterprise. Enabling local food requires committed participation from diverse stakeholders including representation from health, business, environment, farmers and community groups to address complex issues such as collaboration, transport, energy use, culture and investment. Our approach would enable participants to identify and support individual local food enterprises, promote capacity in the whole local food sector and if required establish the basis for continued support for local food within their area – a strategy or the remit for a local food organisation.

### **Soil Association**

The Soil Association is a strong supporter of the Transition movement and has been involved from the outset with the development of the Transition Initiatives in Bristol and in West Wales. Rob Hopkins is also an SA Council Member. We have a particular interest in helping transition communities to engage with the food and farming agenda and develop innovative practical solutions. There are numerous opportunities for transition communities to engage with SA food and farming networks and with practical initiatives such as the Community Supported Agriculture and organic buying groups projects, the Food for Life Partnership and our local group activities. We are also in the process of securing funding to develop an interactive web map of the UK providing a one-stop shop that sign-posts people to local organic food networks, organic demonstration farms, SA regional programmes, SA local groups and related SA project initiatives, including our 4000+ producers, processors and retailers across the UK. We are also happy to ensure that our SA members are made aware of transition initiatives in their area to help boost the movement. We are keen to enable as many Transition Community food groups to get involved in our existing practical project work as possible. We are also keen to explore what other support might be needed. In the past the SA has worked with local groups and local authorities/health authorities to both plan and develop local food systems and economies over a period of 12-18 months. This help could be made available again if required as long as we can find appropriate funding.

### **Food Links UK**

Food Links UK is now a project that sits within Sustain (having previously been a separate organisation). Food Links UK represents 22 member organizations that operate at a local level throughout the UK to promote the development of sustainable local food systems. Food Links members come in a variety of shapes and sizes with some covering whole cities (London Food Link), others whole regions (East Anglia Food Link), whilst others focus on one town (Local Food Links based in Bridport). Food Links UK offers networking, seminars, fundraising and advocacy. The National Coordinator for Food Links UK is leaving her post shortly and the work is likely to be taken forward as part of a wider programme of work within Sustain to take local food projects out of the margins and integrate sustainable food and farming into routine policies and practices. Food Links Members have had some involvement with Transition Groups. They have been approached to have a lead role in food groups, have provided project ideas, contacts, facilitation for meetings, advice etc. whilst others have had no contact at all. In some cases Food Links have had to turn down opportunities to get involved due to lack of capacity.