

Minutes of the 4th Food Resilience meeting
June 14th 2019

Attendees

Dave	Sally	Alex
Dilly	Nick	Dominique
Julie	Helen	Cathy
Chris	Allison	Ellie
Luisa	Paula	Kath
Jeannie	Sid	Liz
Julian	Oak	

Jeannie intro

Trying to bring in framework for what this might be

Umbrella body supporting different projects

Eg. Sid growing veg, Ames growing herbs etc. Helping with education and fundraising

Supporting food resilience and biodiversity projects in Stroud.

Collating names for different areas:

Land

Structure of organisation (CIC, legal, media, financial etc.)

Community – the potential can be realised through working together – methods of engagement

Sid:

Let's go into more detail

Land is a huge subject eg. land surveys, our needs survey, client's needs survey (eg council, landowner).

We don't want to lose information so we need some system of collating info

Identifying potentials, land mapping

Dave:

Meeting on Wed at Stroud Council – discussed building and land use over the next 12 years – some restrictions, but lots of ideas to be shared back, will share them. Viable plans hopefully. Jeannie added that SC is behind things but SDC or further up the ladder are more problematic.

Julian has a district map

Sid: what are we trying to identify as? Making this up as we go along though!

Community: Jeannie: How we organise ourselves, how we have meetings, how do we act as a community (essential for resilience)

Sid: write a paragraph of your project and we'll make a portfolio of projects

Talking about projects:

Sid: interested in large scale, core principle of this being a platform for social change, food security and climate change. Intensive acre site and gave way all food. Made lots of interest happen. Done sensitively. Women's shelters, schools. Julian added we have a fantastic MP and he is excited re Labour policy and get DD here. Sid replied he's writing letters to landowners for us. Push him a bit. 'we might just have to get radical'

Kath: food growing in SSF (Stroud Slad Farm)

Cathy: Interested in supporting in helping from allotments to widespread growing

Oak: foundations for the coop very linked to this (probably); regenerative agri course which inspired him how cheap and easily you can produce organic compost, fungicide, mineral brews etc. soil regeneration/replenishment company which has cheaper products. Will start small.

Alex: allotment – growing her whole life and likes guerrilla gardening eg. roundabouts –skills in growing veg.

Dominique: no current projects, waiting to find her place

Ellie: similar to Dom, just started growing veg and wants to help in any way she can. Passionate.

Dave: putting together a community fridge similar to the one in Brixton, Bristol, Frome etc. none near us. To reduce food waste. On average £500 wasted per family each year. Pop good food into the fridge and anyone can help themselves.

Don't poison, label, find a location, council needs to be on board – positive so far, may help with location. Gathering together folk interested in helping.

How to make it safe and well stocked? Early stages. Help welcomed. Wants location or folk with food hygiene or legal.

Dilly: landscape architect, nice pics for fundraising projects – she can help!

Julie: listening

Jeannie: other Dom has a project with community kitchen/low cost café/education. Like a shop front for the projects. Could process fruits and veg, smoking/preserving etc. Josie is at capacity for Edible Stroud, needs more folk to help and roll out the project.

Jeannie herself wants to map and put together the ideas to make a fantastic project and fund them. Crowd funding course on Wed - grant funding etc.

From Dursley, has market garden, year off from growing due to complications last year but she has lots of ideas and try to replicate this project in Dursley and work side by side.

Luisa: getting excited. Digging. Planting and growing. Cooking. Co-works with schools (primary), growing in raised beds to process grief. Therapeutic elements of growing.

Julian – profesh background in water and food security. Now mentors and funds students in water and food security. Around the world.

Liz: with Dilly and Dave- taking over Stroud Local Food website, wants to make it into a hub and forum, agro-eco methods, hort. Belt idea. Researched and she thinks it is a good idea to engage with the whole district and with the farmers. Difficult but opportunities. Growers link with farmers and take on a field. Big process. Wants help! Lot of small operations connected in. Food security for other areas outside Stroud (SD). Not too dissimilar from Bristol food policy. They've had lots of funding. Goats keep the railway line (old one!) clear for example. Started with a small holder saying they need help. Small farms key to food security. Website overhaul.

Ames: herbal project – apothecary and herb growing for all in different areas.

Sally: support. Biodiversity; insects etc. wild flower meadows. She's there for you if you want help with one!

Nick: techy –maps, digital, has been talking to other Dom. Stroud Carbon Neutral mapping dating site. Is matching project to skills and time, new and old etc. carbon neutral and food not strictly reducing in principle but he wants to connect the 2. Replicated if needed, not if not. Minimal data now and expanding. Carbon neutral projects first. Tho grey area. Grows stuff too.
Julian adds he works with students with GIS. Nick knew what that meant. Then they chatted. Can you farm in a carbon reductive way and sequestering of carbon in soil... Agrochemical supporters say no, he disagrees. Sid added Jasmine Black and Barney are working for CCRI (Cheltenham?).
endothermic process. LWA shout out talking about the sequestering of C. Liz: Sustain has influenced DD who now has ideas. Water21 website film 'regeneration'.

Helen: P/C kitchen garden in Whiteshill and takes students. 29th 4-10pm can go see party/kitchen garden. Has surplus of herbs and veg so wants fridge and herbs project.

Allison : SSF community project; last phases now of buying the field of Ways Farm (by Summer St) to start with low key agro with its restrictions, horse grazing, cattle, maybe link with Hawkwood CSA. Interested in wild flower meadows and insects travelling up the valleys. Own interest is in herbs and fruit and processing it. No fixed plans, may require change of use. Keep as natural as poss.

Paula: biodynamic apprentice; cosmic forces influence on the soil. P/C seeds, growing food is quite physical; movement for gardeners – how to stay fit and healthy while growing food.

Sid: a couple of acres site coming up if peeps would like to go and look at it in Cainscross. Jeannie, Dave, Dilly, Sally want to see it. Came up from Roz (DD's case worker). AMAZING!

Now Sally is doing singing bowls with us!

Break

Initial meeting in groups to decide what we're discussing then come and tell each other and cross check and then go back into groups and go into detail more.

Land:

Balance between land use and biod. Outreach and making contact with land owners. Gardening scale projects / larger scale projects. Matching them up. The relationship we have with the land is fundamental. How we interact with that – apply to larger and smaller scales relations. Splitting land – groups of people: those who seek land, those who are trained to a good level to assess and evaluate. Feedback. Collating opportunities. Centralised portfolio – mapping and viewable – eg sites that are pending or SSSIs. – (Ames adds linking to GWT etc.? through websites etc.)

Don't lose clients by making sure needs and wants are met.

Allison added connecting with other groups eg. Down to Earth etc.

Community:

Summary – helping to hold the community of THIS group – how we meet, how well we disagree/celebrate; how to interact with wider community – who isn't here and how to get them here?

Embody the whole story of this group. Nuances and being able to tell the story really well. JOY. Good strong community through building it.
Connection, heart, engagement and relationship

Structure:

The purpose and the function of the group – what the point of being together is?

Is it just a name, an identity?

Is it bigger than that?

What are the needs of this group?

Applying for funding, but are there other bodies that do it eg. Transition Towns – under their umbrella – they get insurance, legal protection, bank accounts (can receive funds), trustees.

Dilly and Liz did it with Go Grow in Nailsworth but was an association. Not onerous but needs doing.

TT have got clout now SDC have passed climate emergency.

TT: Fred Barker (from Schumacher); and contacts with Richard runs NCAT (Nailsworth Climate Action Town – or Trust? What is the T?).

This group came out of the TT meeting and XR.

£500 grants immediately from TT.

Website.

Functions:

Help for

Growers

Food/plant/medicine producers

Land owners/managers/'conservationists' – what are they conserving/ landscape

Consumers

Policy makers

Education

Supportive/funding

Need a conference once the website is up including everyone?

Conservationists and farmers non-radical for a long time. Need ideas changing.

Council involvement

Researchers like CCRI

Organisation – needs a code of conduct, eg if a piece of land comes up

Difference between CIC CIO CCO?! Which kind of organisation are we for funding, establishment etc.
Should someone do a mini-presentation on the options.

Vision for the group.

Unified voice to talk to people we can make partnerships with. Sub aims. Supportive association.

People who have skills in legal/associative structures and pathways. Or someone from TT

HUB

Language used to connect all types of people.

How to deliver with carbon neutrality in mind.

Bring stuff! Eg leaflets. Make your paragraphs

How to communicate – we need a committee. Nick happy to email /communicate but didn't know about meetings!

Printing forms etc. CORE GROUP? Of organisation of meetings etc.

Nick will set up website in 1 hour! Dave Crane – helping Stroud Local Food

Supporting groups to access land – we need one world policy! Have the clout of the group to bring it! BRING IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In groups a basic idea of what the groups are about. Eg Dave will do a paragraph and Kath will edit it.

We are desperately longing for a forum/central communication.

New emails added to the minutes? Or give each newcomer an email to mail their names to.

Dave: can we nail the name/vision for next week?

Convergent Facilitation: you've decided you're gonna bake a cake, then all ingredients, then all allergies, until you have something we are all happy with. For post it notes up and down idea.

Natural drop off and gain of people.

Should we ask the kids?

Nick to send email out for vision, name and purpose.

How to organise ourselves? Through consensus, through vote etc.? Get the basics rights. Apologies for being painful. But it is essential!

How do we fund ourselves?

Shopping lists for Crowd funding/funds.

Summer solstice – firebowl etc. also sunrise walk for anyone. Next week celebrations.

Check out:

Driven	Positive	Settled
Energised	Possibilities	Thoughtful
Connected	Delighted	Vibrant
Inspired	Snappy	Appetite back
Excited	Hopeful	
Hopeful	Purposeful	

Namaste song and bowl. Heart bowl.

Send your email address or contacts to:

nick@ecowebuk.co.uk