

Minutes of the Food Resilience Group meeting held on 28th June

at the Centre for Science and Art

Present: Ben, Dave, Fran, Jeannie, Josie, Liz, Neil, Paula, Red, Sam, Sophia, Sid

Check In.

Report on Hamwell Leaze

It was reported that a group had gone to meet councillor Roz Scott-Hodgetts, in order to see land at Hamwell Leaze, Cainscross. The land was owned by Cainscross Parish Council, who were open to it being used for community projects.

The 3.5 acre plot of land was sloped down to a stream, with willows and wet areas at the lower section, an area of quite steeply sloping meadow and a mix of hazel, alder, oak and sycamore trees present.

The Stroud Valleys Project had been involved previously and had received funding to put in recycled plastic walkways around the willow area. A notice board indicated that a mowing regime to reduce fertility and thus encourage wild flower growth on the meadow area had been initiated. It did not appear that this area had been mowed for some time.

Potential for Site: It was apparent that options for producing food on the site were limited, but there was potential for community engagement and education and that the site had good biodiversity value.

Josie suggested that some fruit trees or bushes might be appropriate for the meadow area.

This would be a good opportunity to practice land mapping techniques and assessment practices.

Jeannie agreed to contact SVP to see if they maintained an interest in the site and if they would give us access to any survey data they may have gathered.

It was noted that the views of local residents should be sought as part of any assessment, so that they had an opportunity to engage with any work undertaken.

Website Meeting

A website planning meeting attended by Dave, Dom, Nick and Jeannie had taken place on 27th June.

It had been suggested that a “dating site” style of site would be appropriate, where people could match their interests, availability etc, with projects needing volunteers. Nick was already working on a similar site for another group which would have the same core functionality. “Taxonomy” would be important, in order to ensure that searches were successful.

It was agreed that a website subgroup would be needed to take this on. Those present at the initial website meeting were willing to continue and would welcome other interested parties to join them.

Work could progress as soon as a name for the group was approved so that the domain name could be purchased.

Convent Garden

Sam reported that he had been meeting with owners of the old Convent, opposite the bus station in Stroud. They appeared open to the possibility of the group using the garden and would hopefully make a decision on this within a fortnight.

Practical Work Opportunities

Edible Stroud – Josie reported that work was needed at Stratford Court and that a work session was planned for 28th July. Before then, there was the possibility of meeting up to clear weeds during week days. Josie agreed to send out a proposal and anybody interested should contact her.

Clyro House - Dilly and Daves' smallholding in Ebley would value volunteers and anyone interested in helping to develop this project should contact them.

Land Opportunities

Some possibilities were coming forward (Sid had been alerted to some potential sites). It was agreed that any information should be passed to the group if appropriate so that further contact could be arranged.

Group Naming

Debate had been ongoing for some sessions and the wider group had been informed that a decision would be reached at this meeting, if at all possible.

Going round the group and including names that had been submitted by people unable to attend, the following list was suggested:-

Survive and Thrive, Grow Together, Community Grow, Community Grow Network, Together we Grow, Sustain Stroud, Future Community Abundance, The Horticulture Belt, Abundance, Future Food Security, Natural Security, Grow Wise, Landwise.

After some lively discussion, in which it was agreed that the name should;-

- Be easy to say
- Not need to be fully descriptive of the groups purpose
- Not contain words that were too open to alternative understanding or liable to be off putting.

Those present were given 3 votes to use as they wished on the names proposed. At the end of this round the following names were short listed;- Survive and Thrive, Grow Wise, Landwise.

In a final vote, with two abstentions, Landwise was selected. It was then suggested that in order to convey the “umbrella” nature of the organisation, this could be extended to The Landwise Network.

It was agreed that a week would be allowed for the group to sit with this selection and that if no pressing contra indications were received, the name would be adopted.

AOB

There was no other business.

Date of Next Meeting

Friday 5th July