

Section Two

Please summarise the aims and objectives of your organisation:

Sheffield Organic Food Initiative is currently applying to become a charitable trust, dedicated to 1. the promotion of health and wellbeing and 2. the alleviation of poverty for all people in the region of the City of Sheffield, by 3. developing the capacity of the locally-grown, organic industry and 4. providing educational information and resources designed to improve the provision and practice of organic gardening and food-growing (i.e. sustainable, organic, ecological, biodynamic, biological and permacultural techniques).

The Trust will fulfill these aims and objectives by:- developing relevant information; presenting and distributing information to the public in relevant media and forums (networks / meetings / press / radio / television); participating in processes designed to increase organic food-growing capacity at all levels, from individual-domestic through organised-group-community sector up to and including broadscale-commercial; delivering educational services (training / workshops / advice / consultancy); developing opportunities for relevant training and qualifications; developing infrastructure demonstrating organic practices and techniques; conducting research.

During the winter of 1997-8, members of SOFI compiled a large document, consisting of a combination of innovative practical information and descriptions of the projects and activities they were involved in. Printing and distribution costs for 200 copies was met as a one-off payment by Sheffield Community Enterprise Development Unit. The document also addressed the strategic development of the locally-grown organic sector.

On the evidence of competence and experience demonstrated in this document (on the recommendation of Professor Nick Corker), in July '98, SOFI were invited to a one day seminar organised by the Soil Association at Broomfield College, Derby. The seminar, addressing the Development of the Local Food Economy, was attended by over 50 producers and representatives of local councils, regeneration agencies and local communities. Richard Clare and Darrell Maryon of SOFI delivered a workshop on opportunities for community food-growing. (Supporting material: 1 .SOFI 1998 document recipients and responses. Soil Association Food 2. Food Futures programme profile and correspondence. 3. SOFI community-based activities.)

Please provide a brief outline of your project

DEVELOP AND SUPPORT A FOOD FUTURES PROGRAMME FOR SHEFFIELD

- **Contact and co-ordinate local partners with an interest in locally-grown food**
 - **Liase with Soil Association, prepare for initial visit & presentation**
 - Help organise one-day conference
 - Publicise Food Futures programme in and around Sheffield by articles and presentations
 - Compile network / database of potential contributors
 - Investigate and identify potential sources of additional funding
 - Initiate and participate in processes that contribute positively to the programme
 - Support individuals and community groups committed to food growing
- (Supporting material: 4. Relevant work in progress.)**

Please indicate why you require financial support from SCEDU

Current preparatory work speculative, unpaid, but necessary to secure S.A. commitment. SOFI co-ordinators not yet funded for employment or expenses. Project has potential benefits which correspond with SCEDU's aims: Sheffield area-based, community development, employment and business opportunities.

1. SOFI 1998 document recipients and responses

David Crouch: "Thank you for your excellent submission"

J.S. Byng, Head of Organic Farming Unit, MAFF: "I was impressed by the depth and range of the report and of the activities it describes."

George Monbiot, The Land Is Ours: "The document looks great. Congratulations!"

Joanne Bower, The Farm and Food Society: "This is most impressive and we hope to bring it to the attention of our members in a future edition of Farm and Food News.

"David Middlemas, Community Composting Network Co-ordinator: I'd like to congratulate you on putting together such a vast amount of knowledge and good sense."

3. SOFI COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES.

- ALLOTMENTEERING ON 20+ PLOTS ON 6 SITES IN SHEFFIELD
- UNSTONE GRANGE GARDENS -- VOLUNTEERING / TRAINING / VISITS
--HDRA OPEN DAYS 1&2 / 8 / 98 --OVER 500 VISITORS
- HEELEY HEALTH PROJECT
- PONDEROSA ENVIRONMENT GROUP
- CROOKESMOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE
- COMMUNITY COMPOSTING (PARTNERSHIP WITH BEAN BEANIES WHOLEFOODS)
- RECYC.
- BRAMBLES RESOURCE CENTRE /ADVICE TO PEASANTS COLLECTIVE / TEACHING ON N-E SHEFFIELD PERMACULTURE GROUP COURSE (AL JACK)

SOFI'S TRACK RECORD 10 YEARS PRACTICAL AND CAMPAIGNING EXPERIENCE

EXPERTISE: ATTEND AND ADVISED HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP '94-98 / N.W.I.C.A. E.T.G. (AS P.E.G.) '93-98 / S.C.C. CLEANSING RECYCLING 2000 FORUM / ALLOTMENTS FEDERATION/ INITIATED AND ATTENDING W.A.M.T.E.C. BIODEGRADABLE WASTE STRATEGY FOR S.YORKS.

DEMONSTRATIONS: MANAGE 20 ALLOTMENT SITES IN SHEFF. AS PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTION IN ACTION (INCLUDING HEELEY HEALTH PROJECT AND CROOKES SPECIAL NEEDS PLOT). SUPERVISING RESTORATION OF UNSTONE GRANGE GARDENS (1 ACRE KITCHEN GARDEN + ORCHARD FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT CHARITY U.G.TRUST)

CONSULTATION: DOZENS OF INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS HELP OVER LONG-TERM / H.C.F. COMPOSTING (8.97) / SHEFFIELD WILDLIFE TRUST WOOD LANE (3.98) / NORTHUMBRIAN W.T. COMMUNITY COMPOSTING (6.98)

PROMOTION: PRESS / MEDIA / TV / RADIO: SHEFFIELD STAR / TELEGRAPH / RADIO SHEFF. / CALENDAR TALKS / PRESENTATIONS: LOCAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES / FRIENDS OF THE EARTH etc.

FUNDING RECORD: SMALL ANNUAL GRANTS AND BUDGETS TO PROJECTS ABOVE HELPED SECURE £5K FOR P.E.G. AND £250K FOR N.W.I.C.A. HELPING WITH £90K NATIONAL LOTTERY BID FOR HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP (PENDING)

2. Soil Association Food Futures programme profile and correspondence.

SOIL ASSOCIATION FOOD FUTURES

JUNE '98

INTRODUCTION

What is the future of food production? Is it possible to ensure a local supply of affordable, healthy food that we can trust? How can communities best support their local farmers and growers? How can individuals get involved with working towards developing a sustainable local food economy?

There are no easy answers, but the best starting point is to find out who else is asking similar questions. FOOD FUTURES is based on the notion that if the right people are brought together in a given location for the right length of time, things can really begin to happen.

FOOD FUTURES is a project that focuses on food in local areas. Every community in the country has the ability to grow food sustainably for its own needs. The project will bring the key people together locally to jointly explore and develop appropriate ideas and practical action over a period of 18 months.

WHAT EXACTLY IS FOOD FUTURES?

It is a 3-year national project to develop the local food economy through supporting and creating community based food growing and distribution schemes alongside local networks. We will run 15 individual 18-month FOOD FUTURES programmes in various parts of the UK. Each programme is designed to help find practical solutions and initiate action for developing a sustainable local food and farming economy. Over the three years, the project aims to establish a total of 45 community based food schemes (the definition of which is very broad) throughout the UK.

One of the aims of FOOD FUTURES is to find ways of making locally-produced organic food more accessible to low-income families and to multi-cultural communities. Organic food is often perceived to be a luxury for the white, monied middle-classes and FOOD FUTURES seeks to address this issue by involving local people in deciding for themselves where local food schemes are needed and what kind of schemes they want to create.

Experience shows us that it is not easy starting new local food projects. Yet the solutions are usually straightforward and often tried and tested elsewhere. FOOD FUTURES offers the valuable lessons learnt by the Soil Association and others with guidance, support and technical input throughout the programme as required. The FOOD FUTURES programme will provide a framework within which projects can be developed, linked together and a strong local network can be built up.

There are pre-requisites to success:

1. INVOLVING THE KEY PEOPLE LOCALLY
2. SECURING COMMITMENT TO THE FOOD FUTURES PROGRAMME OVER 18 MONTHS
3. USING AND BUILDING LOCAL EXPERTISE

The 18-month FOOD FUTURES programme is designed to be adapted for a wide range of locations, from rural agricultural communities to urban inner/outer city estates. The underlying principles are of community subsidiarity and empowerment, partnerships and genuine participation where each person is valued for their own particular area of expertise and experience, and to build on what already exists in a complementary, non-competitive way.

FOOD FUTURES will give you the opportunity to:

- Learn where your food comes from: the harsh realities of agribusiness and the food industry.
- Explore practical solutions: how food can be grown and marketed sustainably.
- Find out how your role fits in with the whole and determine the process by which you can make it happen.
- Develop a new culture of collaboration and co-ordination which hopefully will be sustained far beyond FOOD FUTURES.

There will be a local network and effective management team, appropriate local projects underway and substantial expertise and experience being gained. Most importantly, there will be local self-reliance and commitment such that food projects continue to grow and multiply.

SO WHY 18 MONTHS?

A period of 18 months is important because a sustainable local food economy needs time to grow. It is a defined amount of time that funding bodies can get a grip on, that people can commit to, and that is long enough to see practical initiatives take shape. However, it is also a succinct phase of growth: lots of ground preparation is required beforehand (finding the right people, allocating resources, ensuring a political will, developing interest with local organisations and businesses): lots of sideshoots will develop and require attention after the programme is over (expectations will be raised, ongoing strategies will need to be developed, further resources may be required).

The programme is designed to dovetail with and build on what has already been achieved; it begins and ends with celebration; it can be a first phase of local action in areas where little work has been done on developing the local food economy; it can provide a framework for co-ordination and partnership building in areas where several different local food initiatives already exist. Each programme will be as unique as its physical location.

WHO DOES IT INVOLVE?

The FOOD FUTURES programme is designed for a Core Group of 20-30. It is vital to bring together

the right people - the stakeholders and decision-makers, and those with specific experience and expertise locally, both in growing and in community-based projects. Although they may come from different directions and angles, all will be looking at the benefits of local food schemes in their areas of work and interest.

The Core group needs a diverse mix, a representative cross-section of the 'food-eating community', with diverse interests including:

- Local Authority - Local Agenda 21, economic regeneration, community development, anti-poverty, capacity building
- Health Authority - nutrition and exercise, mental health care, health promotion and education
- Voluntary sector and community groups - skills development and training, job creation, local action, diversionary activities, local business support, community participation
- Environmental groups - conservation, waste management, food miles, public awareness-raising, local campaigns
- Farmers and growers - business stability and growth, customer relations, new marketing strategies, links with local communities, education
- City farms, allotment groups - training, education, social events, local action, LETS (local exchange trading schemes), small-scale food production
- Food retailers and distributors, including existing local food links schemes, business stability and growth, local food sources, strong lines of accountability, good quality produce, lower transportation costs
- Local universities / colleges - socio-economic research, opportunities for student placements

It is also important that there is continuity - that the same people stay involved throughout the 18 months. Subject experts can be brought in, and other people will become involved in specific projects through the Action Groups (see below).

How is the 18 month programme structured?

We have developed an 18-month programme, through which we facilitate and support a Core Group, and provide the framework to guide the work overall.

It is this Core Group that leads the development of a sustainable local food economy.

The programme involves 6 Core Group workshops over the 18 months, i.e. one every three months.

We will facilitate these workshops and bring in other expertise as and when required.

The Core Group participants themselves will determine and build their own training programme throughout the FOOD FUTURES process to meet whatever needs arise.

Specific projects will be undertaken by small Action Groups, which will meet between the core group workshops. Hence the Core Group creates the vision and then develops the means to bring the vision into reality, leading and integrating the work of the Action Groups which will run in parallel and feed into each workshop.

In effect the Core Group is an organisation which has a life of 18 months, identifies its mission through a process of creating a shared vision, and then works together to achieve its goals and objectives through small action groups..

A local co-ordinator will be needed, to provide administrative support for the Core Group and disseminate information and organise programme events locally. This role will grow and develop as the FOOD FUTURES progresses.

What will you gain from FOOD FUTURES?

There is an enormous opportunity to develop the local food economy. For instance, there is an insatiable demand for organic food, yet few people are growing it. Many would like to invest in sustainable agriculture, especially local projects, yet there are few opportunities for them to do so.

How can you run a local FOOD FUTURES programme in your area?

The funding from the Lottery allows us to establish a unit that will support the initiatives set up in each area. Since FOOD FUTURES is based on building the capacity of communities to create sustainable local food economies, we will only work in areas where there is a commitment from a consortium of local agencies to do their bit to support local food initiatives. We will look for evidence of that commitment in the following ways:

- Contribution of approximately 20% of programme cost (likely to be a contribution of £10,000.)
- A co-ordinated approach from key agencies including: local authority, health authority and community economic development agencies.
- A local co-ordinator to act as a contact point for local action groups over the 18 months.
- A commitment to ensure that local food initiatives are given the support and backing they need beyond the initial 18 months.

In addition we need to ensure that the 15 FOOD FUTURES programmes address equality of opportunity, Each will need to have significant pockets of social and economic deprivation. There also needs to be a strong multi-cultural element.

LOCAL FOOD LINKS 0117 9142425

SHEFFIELD ORGANIC FOOD INITIATIVE 0114 2686727

4. Relevant work in progress.

FOOD FUTURES SHEFFIELD MEETING

17/12/98

INVITED:

RICHARD CLARE &	
DARRELL MARYON	SHEFFIELD ORGANIC FOOD INITIATIVE
RACHEL WILEMAN	SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL LOCAL AGENDA 21 OFFICER
CAROL STOCKER	SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENT CONSORTIUM
ROGER BUTTERFIELD	SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING
DAVID GRAY	HEELEY CITY FARM / HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP
NIGEL DORE	SHEFFIELD WILDLIFE TRUST
ROSE TANNER	SHEFFIELD ORGANIC GARDENERS
AL JACK	NORTH-EAST SHEFFIELD PERMACULTURE GROUP
ISOBEL WRIGHT	AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY SERVICE

OTHER POTENTIAL PARTNERS / CORE GROUP MEMBERS

COMMUNITY	HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP NETWORK FEDERATION OF ALLOTMENT AND LEISURE GARDENERS STOCKSBRIDGE ENVIRONMENT PROJECT GREEN CITY ACTION NORFOLK PARK F.E.D.S.
RETAILERS	SHEFFIELD MARKETS WHOLEFOODS (BEANIES / LEMBAS / BAMFORD / NUTSHELL etc.)
PRODUCERS	NATIONAL FARMERS UNION (LOCAL BRANCH) NEWHOUSE FARM STUART ALLEN, ORGANIC EARTH, BARNESLEY BRIAN AND JANET HALL, FISHLAKE FINE FOODS, DONCASTER
COUNCIL	AREA PANELS ALLOTMENTS OFFICE / PARKS & OPEN SPACES DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COUNTRYSIDE MANAGMENT UNIT
HEALTH	HEALTHY SHEFFIELD PARTNERSHIP HEALTH ACTION ZONES DEPT' OF HUMAN NUTRITION (S. UNIV.)
EDUCATION	SHEFFIELD COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD / SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION BRITISH TRUST FOR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS WHIRLOW HALL FARM
REGENERATION	SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT SINGLE REGENERATION BUDGET EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY)
NETWORKS	SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY RECYCLING ACTION PROGRAMME COMMUNITY COMPOSTING NETWORK COMMUNITY RECYCLING NETWORK (EARTH CENTRE) VOLUNTARY ACTION SHEFFIELD
CAMPAIGN	FRIENDS OF THE EARTH / GREENPEACE / GREENS / VEGAN SOC.
OTHER NATIONAL INITIATIVES	
HDRA GROW YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN	
NATIONAL FOOD ALLIANCE	
SAFE ALLIANCE	
THE LAND IS OURS ALLOTMENTS CAMPAIGN	

APPLICATION TO SCEDU FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING GRANT

1. PROJECT DETAILS

CONTACT Richard Clare 41b Burns Rd Sheffield S6 3GL

BANK ACC: A. & L. 217-159612-80

CHARITY REG. applied for

SUMMARY

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES --

COMMUNITY --under-represented constituency sofi track record

GEOG COMM. --City of Sheffield and surrounds up to 10 km

INTEREST -- Local food growing and distribution

PROPOSAL

DEV'P'T

LOCATION

EMPT -- co-ordinators of community growing projects / trainers on organic and productive cultivation courses

-- market development for local produce suppliers and retailers

SERVICE MEET COMM DEMAND

FUNDING

ACTION PLAN -- secure interest and commitment of core group and

MILESTONES -- STEERING GROUP --FFlist

TRAINING -- NEED --7307 / dtp

--& DELIVERED -- WEA Organic Gardening at HHP & HCF / Community-supported

Organic Horticulture in NWICA / work to develop NVQ Organic Horticulture

OUTPUTS -- organisation: contact and co-ordinate local partners with an interest in FF.

--liaise with s.a. / prepare for initial visit & presentation from s.a. / help organise one-day conference

--publicise FF programme in and around Sheff , by articles and presentations

--compile network / database of potential contributors

--investigate and identify potential sources of additional funding

-- initiate and participate in processes that contribute positively to the programme

--support to individuals and community groups committed to food growing

develop

JOBS -- 0.5 x 1 yr (part-time) from scedu + 1 full-time x 18 months when s.a. bid secured

possible working partnerships with HGG / HCF foodlinks /

FUNDING PROFILE

PLANNED EXPENDITURE + MATCH-F + IN KIND

1. wages --4000 / phone --300 / computer -- 200 / copying -- 200 / --mail --100

2. Soil association (national lottery) --20000

council / health authority / srb / erdf --10000+

match-funding --professional / consultancy in kind --5000

SUPPORTING MATERIAL / EVIDENCE

FF 17/12

WAMTEC

SOFIDOC DIRECTORY AND RESPONSES

SOFI ACTIVITIES 98

EXISTING CONTACTS / WORKING RELATIONSHIPS / TRACK RECORD / REFEREES / PARTNERS

- SOFI DOCUMENT1998 (FUNDED BY SCEDU) RECIPIENTS AND RESPONSES
- REGISTERED AT SHEFFIELD INFORMATION SERVICES / ENTRY IN E.A.S.Y. DIRECTORY
- ALLOTMENTEERING ON 20+ PLOTS ON 6 SITES IN SHEFFIELD
- UNSTONE GRANGE GARDENS VOLUNTEERING / TRAINING / VISITS / OPEN DAY
- HEELEY HEALTH PROJECT
- PONDEROSA ENVIRONMENT GROUP
- CROOKESMOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE

- BEAN BEANIES WHOLEFOODS
- RECYC.
- BRAMBLES RESOURCE CENTRE /ADVICE TO PEASANTS COLLECTIVE / TEACHING ON N-E
SHEFFIELD PERMACULTURE GROUP COURSE (AL JACK)