

To : Joy Carey, Jade Bashford and Paul Knuckle: Soil Association Local Food Links  
From : Richard Clare, Sheffield Organic Food Initiative, 41b Burns Road, S6 3GL  
Monday, 11th January 1999

Dear All,            Congratulations on getting the royal seal of approval !

Hope you are still okay for travelling up to Sheffield for the Food Futures meeting on Thursday the 14th, at 4 p.m. I think it shows real dedication that you're prepared to come all this way. The meeting will be held in the Planning Department in the New Town Hall, because Rachel couldn't book a room in the older, more formal building. The Old Town Hall is easier to find and we'll make sure someone is there to meet you before four o'clock. If you want to go direct to the Planning Department, its at the far end of the New Town Hall on the second floor.

Rachel has invited the Council's Allotment Officer, John Martin, and Joanna Ly, co-ordinator of the Healthy Gardening Group. Sue Grieg from Sheffield Health is fully aware of Food Futures and should be able to attend. I've been in contact with Mike Paines and Paul Kelleman, and noted their areas of interest.

Please bring any more recent or detailed explanations of the programme and copies of any other relevant publicity or findings from the pilot. If you could let me have anything in digital form, could you try to make it compatible with Windows 3.1 for Word 2.

Likely topics for the meeting are; the conference, the process (or structure), compiling a contacts network and, of course, funding.

I've sent details of the project to South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau and the LGMB Regional Food Innovations Strategy. I should be able to follow these leads up more when I'm actually signed off the dole and legitimately working, which will hopefully be very soon. As a function of Food Futures, providing information about funding and encouraging local projects to apply or referring them to organisations dedicated to helping with funding would be a very valuable. There is quite a superstructure of organisations working in the funding sector. I'll be contacting another regional organisation, VONEF, Voluntary Organisations Network for European Funding.

I've booked a great venue for the one-day event on the 8th of February, at the Friends' Meeting House in the city centre, which is big enough to take over fifty people. I've also booked the use of overhead projector, flipcharts and a video if you need them. I'll do some handouts for the morning and we can invite local speakers. I'll explain on the publicity that you'll be there in the afternoon. I've arranged for a light cold lunch of locally-made and as much locally-grown and organic produce as possible. Although it will be short notice, I think we'll get a good turnout.

I'm presently a bit daunted about the possible scale of interest in the project, but I'm keen to involve as many people as possible, to ensure the project will go ahead and to try to engage representatives from all sectors. We're working to build up a list of possible contributors and beneficiaries. I've drafted some ideas on how to log, assess and access enquiries, responses and details of all the contacts we get.

I've also been thinking about how the process of action groups might work in practice: trying to identify each strand (or model), what actions are likely to be associated with each and who might take responsibility for each. As I've mentioned before, several elements of the project are already happening, or are being planned, which is re-assuring.

I don't know whether Jade and Paul have had a chance to read the document I gave Joy, *Sheffield Organic Food Initiative 1998* ; perhaps it would make good reading on the train. The first section, directly addressing the development of the local organic sector, has a lot of relevant ideas and the document as a whole would give you some background information on the specific context here in Sheffield.

If you are likely to arrive in Sheffield earlier than 4, we could meet up before the meeting.

If you want to phone me, I'll be in after three today or tomorrow morning.

Yours sincerely,

**Richard**