

HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP AND SHEFFIELD SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FOOD PROJECT (FOOD FUTURES)

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 7th SEPTEMBER 1999 4 P.M. VENUE: OLD TOWN HALL
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AGENDA

Reports of members' activities.

GROW grants: applications / selection panel.

Membership of national organisations: HDRA, NFA, Soil Association etc.

Invitations / presentations by special guests at future HGG meetings.

Plans for using Joint Finance funding

Funding HGG.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

ATTENDANCE.

Richard Clare & Darrell Maryon	Sheffield Organic Food Initiative
John Martin	SCC Allotments Officer
Rose Tanner	North East Sheffield Trust
Mary Holmes	Sharrow
Kevan Hall	Handsworth Community Gardens
Peter Drummond	Healthy Sheffield support

APOLOGIES: Rachel Wileman, Pam Robinson, Lee Furness.

ALLOTMENTS

As part of the review of Allotments policy, there is a suggestion that management should be transferred from Leisure to Environment.

John confirmed that allotment holders are permitted to sell their excess produce, so long as this takes place away from their site. This is one of several measures introduced recently to help promote usage of under-used sites. There is now more flexibility in how allotments can be let to encourage shared plots, larger projects renting blocks of plots and recycling projects.

Mike Bower, former leader of Sheffield City Council, is currently applying to take on an allotment!

HANDSWORTH COMMUNITY GARDENS

Kevan described the process of developing this project, which is a model which could encourage other similar projects. A GROW grant provided initial funding which led on to securing £2000 of Single Regeneration Budget. The Community Gardens are now being set up as a Charitable Trust. They have been able to engage support from several organisations, SCC Allotments and Cleansing, Sheffield Community Enterprise Development Unit, Voluntary Action Sheffield, Sheffield Wildlife Trust, Park Rangers and local schools.

SANDERSON KEYSER ASIAN MARKET GARDEN PROJECT.

Rick Bingham from Planning has been working to re-start this long-standing project. This will follow the model of the Springfield project in Bradford.

NORTON NURSERIES

It has been confirmed that this site cannot be sold off. Vaughan Purcell runs a special needs project (Greenfingers) with the Disabled Service, which now has a guaranteed future. There are considerable facilities on this site, including state-of-the-art greenhouses.

NORTH-EAST SHEFFIELD TRUST

The local community want to use some land at Parson Cross College, near the Montenevy Centre, as a Community Enterprise Zone for horticulture, a nursery and community composting. The site is currently being considered by the Housing Committee and it is hoped that some kind of compromise can be arrived at which would permit horticultural as well as housing use of the site.

PARK USERS' FORUM

Allotments are currently under-represented on this panel. Richard will contact Rob Stoneman, who chairs this forum, to try to include allotments and community gardens on their agenda.

GROW PANEL

Richard, Rose, John, Kevan, Lee and Darrell volunteered to serve as panel members to distribute GROW grants. The panel will meet on 1st October.

FOOD FORUM

In June, Mark Gamsu convened a meeting to discuss setting up a Food Forum to attempt to develop an overview on food policies citywide. Minutes available from Healthy Sheffield.

OTHER NEWS.

Pam Robinson has invited local allotment societies to a meeting at Heeley City Farm on the 17th August to discuss Food Futures issues and encourage produce / displays etc. at Heeley's Autumn Fair on 26th September.

Richard had a meeting with Peter to clarify the administration of HGG. Peter will summarise the aims and activities of the group so that members have a clear understanding of what's involved. They have also reviewed and updated the mailing list. Please inform us about anyone else you think should be included on this list. Copies of both will be available at the next meeting.

SOFI has received and completed a questionnaire enquiring about the role of composting as a means of disposal of biodegradable waste from Ian Smith of Sheffield Hallam University, which is part of his research for a dissertation.

David Middlemas of the Community Composting Network has arranged a meeting between local composters to review what more could be done to stimulate this sector in Sheffield. This will be held at the CCN conference at Unstone Grange on Saturday, 4th September.

Richard has reviewed and suggested amendments to the CCN's Strategy Document, which includes references to the importance of composting to gardening and food-growing projects. (Copies available from Dave M.)

Richard has submitted a written request for the council's Direct Services to review its policy on disposal of street leaves collected during the autumn. Significant resources are currently devoted to this task, but the leaves are currently landfilled, thus incurring extra costs (landfill tax). Saving this valuable organic matter could provide a useful material for the use of community gardens and allotments. This provides one example of how certain activities are best organised on a citywide basis and how city authorities can do more to support local healthy gardening initiatives, with mutual benefits for both parties.