

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

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 5th OCTOBER 1999 4 P.M. VENUE: OLD TOWN HALL, COMMITTEE ROOM TWO
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Message from the new Chair of the Healthy Gardening Group:

"Please attend the next meeting, things are starting to happen. We need your help."

ATTENDANCE

Richard Clare & Darrell Maryon Sheffield Organic Food Initiative

Rose Tanner North East Sheffield Trust

Kevan Hall Handsworth Community Gardens

Pam Robinson Heeley City Farm

Peter Drummond Healthy Sheffield

APOLOGIES: Rachel Wileman, Mary Holmes, Lee Furness, John Martin, Saleema Imam.

AGENDA

Special Guest: Annette Setterfield, Chair of the Allotments Federation, will be able to attend to discuss what can be done to promote allotments.

Mark Gamsu has suggested we send out a questionnaire to all allotment holders to get some facts and figures about what people want to see happening. Any suggestions for what questions we should ask would be welcome.

Report on the National Federation of City Farms and Gardens conference in London.

REPORT OF LAST MEETING--7TH SEPTEMBER

MEMBERS' NEWS

Sheffield Organic Food Initiative had a stall at the Sheffield Show, next to John M's allotment stall, which was visited by more than 200 people. Growbags and Why Community Gardening leaflets were distributed and many people tried samples of succulent organic tomatoes, sweet corn and apples.

The annual Conference of the Community Composting Conference was held at Unstone Grange, attended by more than 70 delegates from composting projects across the country. Richard and Darrell presented a workshop on potting media and led an informative tour of the gardens, illustrating the uses of compost in food-growing projects.

The Groundswell homelessness charity held their national conference on the Ponderosa Open space in Netherthorpe, attended by 300 people from around the country. Richard put on a workshop and tour of local allotments.

Heeley Health Project Community allotment had an open day to encourage more people to join in and explain what's been achieved this year.

HANDSWORTH COMMUNITY GARDENS

There are now only two allotments left to be let. 18 plots are now tenanted. Sheffield Wildlife Trust have obtained funding to develop a wildlife / butterfly garden. John Martin has agreed to provide fencing for the site. The group has been awarded free paint as part of the Dulux Community Projects scheme.

HEELEY CITY FARM

Pam and Rachel attended the Local Food Links conference organised by the Soil Association. A representative cross-section of people interested in the food chain attended. Workshops on growing food in cities and Farmers' Markets were attended. Sheffield Markets are interested in using the Canal basin as a venue. Whirlow Hall Farm have confirmed a date for their first, pilot Farmers' Market, on the 11th of December.

The groundrules for setting up Food Futures projects have now changed and it may now be possible to run the project in Sheffield without donating £10,000 to the Soil Association.

Pam is also working on workshops for schools, based around recycling, energy and food. She also plans to hold cooking classes to promote healthy eating and compile a monthly menu planner to address the issues of food poverty and offer advice on healthy diets. Pam will be writing an article for the food page of the Healthy Sheffield newsletter.

Date for your diary: Heeley City Farm are holding their Autumn produce show on Sunday, 26th September, which will be bigger than in previous years, featuring the produce competition, composting workshop and organic gardeners' question time. Please try to come along, with contributions if possible. For more details, contact Pam on 2580482.

ALLOTMENTS PERFORMANCE

The proposed Allotments performance has unfortunately been cancelled by the theatre group. There is a chance that a local performance group may put together their own piece about allotments. This is one of many ways in which the wider community can support and participate in allotments culture.

JOINT FINANCE

Richard circulated copies of the Joint Finance Memorandum of Agreement, detailing plans for how this money, £7,800, should be spent over the next 18 months. Pam would like to use some of it to promote community cafes and healthy eating. Rachel may use some of it to promote Sustainability and Food, targeted at local government administrators and decision-makers.

HEALTHY EATING AND HEALTHY GARDENING

Richard also distributed copies of a discussion document written by John Mortimer of Netherthorpe and Upperthorpe Community Alliance, outlining the links between healthy eating and healthy gardening. John and Nikky Wilson will be attending the National Federation of City Farms and Gardens conference in London. Nikky has been invited to report back to this group at the next meeting.

GROW GRANTS PANEL

Date, time, venue: 9 a.m. 1st October at the Old Town Hall.

Members; Richard, Darrell, Rose, Kevan, Pam. To be confirmed.

MEMBERSHIP OF NATIONAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS.

Richard proposed that the Healthy Gardening Group should join the following organisations:

- SUSTAIN (formerly National Food Alliance)
- Henry Doubleday Research Association (the Organic Gardeners)
- Soil Association
- THRIVE (gardening for training, health and therapy)

The group agreed to release funds to pay membership fees and asked Peter to compile information explaining the work of the Healthy Gardening Group to send out with applications for membership, so that these national organisations can refer people in our area to HGG. Pam will give us feedback on information about the National Federation of City Farms and Gardens.

FUNDING.

Rose, Richard and Peter will meet on the 14th to discuss administrative support for HGG and the possibility of raising further funds for GROW grants if there are more applications than we have money to pay.

LEAVES FOR LEAFMOULD

Richard and David Middlemas have arranged a meeting to discuss recycling the street leaves which the council collects in the autumn. They hope to set up a pilot project, dropping loads of leaves at allotment sites around the city. The Council currently pay £28 per Metric Tonne to landfill this valuable resource. Any other projects interested in receiving loads should contact Richard or Dave as soon as possible.

PARK USERS' FORUM

Richard will attend the next meeting on the 21st to put the case for productive (edible) uses of Open Spaces, as is planned for the Manor.