

Minutes from Transition Liverpool meeting – 07.07.09 at Domino Gallery

Present: Mark Shooter, Peter North, Neil Chadborne, Michael Jones, Val Philp, Alan Cunningham, Mark Jackson, Steve Philp (?), Carrie, FW and others – Mark think you have the complete list of names?

Mark S. welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked each person to introduce themselves as there were quite a few new faces.

A discussion commenced around so-called “recycling” mainly from the point of view of the city council – is it done or not? Are the items that people take the time to separate actually recycled or, as is reported, does the council just dump everything in one place?

PN: Looking at problems – climate change, new technologies, green new deals, getting people to do stuff. Focus on what we can do locally. The first meeting was very positive with @ 70 people attending. Firstly it is happening just in S. Liverpool. It will move out to engage more of the city. Practical work is going on. The agenda at the monthly meetings are set by the meeting. They are looking to set up an organic allotment.

MS: As an information point it has done a lot already.

NC: (Neil is from Totnes in Devon which is a sustainable town.)The core group is leading the way through the changes – people are leading on each group – energy, housing, health and well-being etc – with Government for office staff, with the office in centre of Totnes. There is a “management group” The office staff feel they are often left to make decisions – problems re distribution of workload/responsibilities – sense of putting a lot in, not getting much out. It is an ongoing process. They formed a not for profit company to address the legal/financial side of the organisation, salaries/rent etc. He suggested an idea for alternative therapy becoming part of mainstream NHS treatment.

AC: He suggested using statistics as a basis for going forward. There are two papers, one on the TL website. Everton is one of the worst areas in the country – WHO Healthy Cities website. He suggested Urban Health topics as a theme.

PN: Feels Liverpool is very political but needs to engage with bigger players. It is still isolated. Suggested we show the films again: such as: Inconvenient Truth, Power of community and End of suburbia.

MJa: We should show the films at FACT. Outreach to communities – he suggested showing the films all over the city, starting in Kensington.

MS: There will be films shown at the Friends’ Meeting House from September.

MJa: There is a real need for community involvement/connection. If you reach 20-25% of the population you are reaching the right number to begin to raise awareness. This would make a real difference with local/working class people in the city.

VP: The Liverpool Daily Post event was about a sustainable business network – probably be amenable to promoting the films etc. She mentioned “Green Drinks” – 1st Thursday of the month in Dr. Duncan’s from 5.30pm.

SP: It would be good to have a database of activities and people. He is setting up a business consultancy – JOOMLA – may do website plus links??

VP: Register of companies?

PN: “A Green Business Guide.”

VP: A Green Business website?

PN: Thinks it is time we got sustainability on the schools curriculum!

FW: Mentioned the CHP scheme which powers all of Liverpool University's buildings – over 20 years old and still economically sound and sustainable and sells electricity back to the National Grid.

PN: Said there were four ideas coming out of the meeting and suggested we broke up into four discussion groups;

- Health and well-being
- Energy
- Outreach
- Local economy

He suggested an open space idea where we could move around “the table” - after which each group fed back to the whole meeting.

Outreach.

MJa: Process to go through – first a series of workshops – 3 DVDs – followed by discussions/open forum style for people to learn about core group and TL etc. Links to websites etc. TO LEAD PEOPLE TO ACTION!! 25-30 people at a meeting will lead to 5 or so from each to do visualisation/auditing process/getting involved in groups/making progress. Potential for 3 facilitators – MS, MJa, KL Start in Kensington and move out from there. SP: Often the language can be misleading – eg “Peak Oil”, “Sustainability” – the terms need redefining. MJa: Philosophy in Schools workshops could be a good way to begin getting messages out.

Somebody mentioned the CAT in Machynlleth and it was agreed we should make a trip there maybe September? Approximately 11 people were interested!

Health

AC: Health and sustainability are linked – any initiative needs to be rooted in the WHO. Inequalities, indecisions – no accountability. Need to avoid a 2% increase in temperature – it is a downward slope that limits resources for healthcare etc.

Energy

SP and MJo: Health care is about one's own sustainability Human energy helps the energy crisis Why aren't gyms feeding into energy?!! Each car's impact could be absorbed into the National Grid! VP: It costs £100 per day to advertise on a rickshaw so they remain free!