

## Minutes from Transition Liverpool meeting – 07.10.09 at Domino Gallery

Present: Mark Shooter, Ed Gommon, Neil Chadborn, Peter North, Mark Jackson, Malachy O'Neill, Laura Wiles, Felicity Wren

MS began the meeting with a brief introduction to the TT movement and TSL for the people new to the group. He then outlined the development of the idea - apparently there are approximately 500 groups worldwide? Liverpool was started nearly two years ago and some discussion took place as to whether a 2nd Birthday celebration should take place in November.

PN said Liverpool was the 47th TT movement.

MS: Last meeting: We discussed where we are and where we want to be and the idea of producing a business plan for raising some money. Also Heather Gott and the Energy Saving Trust. He said he has also spoken with some community groups to see if they'd like to join us.

NC introduced the Green Entrepreneur Park - an idea for a community garden with eco-buildings.

EG spoke about the Granby area and his plans for his housing co-operative and FW explained her discomfort with the Government's HMRI system which penalises developers who restore Victorian and/or Edwardian terraces by charging VAT which is not charged from those who knock these properties down and build new.

MJ: A small group met to discuss visiting other projects in the North West. The first is a planned trip to Homes for Change in Hulme in Manchester and the Manchester Environmental Resource Centre Initiative in Ancoats.

PN spoke about the Radical Roots network in Hull, and also Gyroscope which was the first organisation to do what EG is doing.

EG is going to a Co-operative Sector meeting in Manchester.

A discussion ensued about the possibility of inviting someone from the Unicorn Co-operative to come and talk to us about how they started up - EG will try and get in touch with them.

PN: "Local Food" is the third of a series of Transition books, written by Rob Hopkins and Tamsin ??(sorry, didn't catch her surname??) - PN's book "Local Money" is the fourth in the series and is to be published in March. He showed us examples of the Brixton, Lewes and Totnes(?) pounds and explained how they work.

He also thinks the local council is now more open to ideas such as TT but don't know what to do.

NC said there is a Council meeting this Friday to discuss whether to take on two documents from Liverpool First, one looking at climate change mitigation and the second looking at adaptation. He feels the city will go for the second option, and that it will become policy very soon. He explained that mitigation is about reducing the city's carbon footprint - eg 1. the council getting its' house in order, then 2. community leadership effecting change - whereas adaptation is essentially preparing the city to cope with, for example, higher temperatures.

PN does feel the council is listening, at last!

MJ outlined the work he is involved in and described a workshop/training day, again on Friday, entitled "Women and the Environment", at the Liverpool World Centre at Toxteth TV on Windsor Street in Dingle. This is under his organisation called Training for Transformation, which is a training co-operative. He then very kindly offered TL a series of three workshops in October, November and December on one Saturday a month, but needs a minimum of 15-20 people for each workshop to make it worthwhile. There is no venue as yet.

He then suggested people might like to meet informally, for example over a drink in a pub, and

things like Walk and Talk (possibly starting with the Festival Gardens?), and a day out organised by Red Rope.

NC mentioned the Fresh Debate at 6pm on Wednesday 14th October but this clashes with MS's next film night at the Friends Meeting House.

A discussion ensued re the Core Group, who/what it is, and if it is working, and also re non-attendance at the meetings and the level of commitment, and the question was asked "how do we develop/extend/move forward??"

MJ is planning to go to Nicaragua next year for 6 months but on his return wants to be involved in making things happen in the city. This feeling was echoed by most present.

PN mentioned information exchange - quite critical to the success of TL.

Although the 7th of each month was agreed as being good for knowing when they happen, it was acknowledged that as next month it falls on a Saturday and a significant number of people cannot attend, including MS, who is in charge, we decided to meet on Monday 9th November instead, 7pm at Domino Gallery, 11 Upper Newington, off Renshaw Street.