

NHTT Local Food Action Group Meeting
16th June 2009
7.30pm Main House, Monimail Tower Project

Present: Hayley Mills, Laura Palmer, Jean Palmer, Hamid Van Koten, Andy McKie, Becky Little, Adam Day, Peter Holt, Karen Dawson (Elmwood College) Barbara Holden, Elly Kinross, Dan Connelly, Kerstin Fricke, Louise Barron, Louise Durrant, James Chapman, Steve.

Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduce Louise Barron, NHTT Support Worker and Peter Holt, Project Manager
- Karen Dawson, Development Executive, Elmwood College:
 - Engagement with re-skilling workshops / classes, e.g. butchery, game keeping, food preservation, cookery, etc. (Elmwood can come out to the community provided we have the facilities and can meet the Health and Safety legislation or community goes to Elmwood).
 - Elmwood College arm would like to make a representation at the NHTT Local Food Festival around College Farm Community Supported Agriculture Veg. Meat; 'Be local, buy local' scheme, etc.
 - Possible placements for Elmwood horticultural students with the Monimail Tower Project.
- PC Laing – Local Food Festival (TBC)
- General discussion/tasting re locally grown or made food.
- Apple Press:
 - Group to decide what to buy – James/Elly presenting options
 - Confirm where will they be kept?
 - How will the scheme be managed?
 - Timescale – to be in place for fruit season
- Newburgh Orchard group coming to July meeting to do presentation
- Local Food festival Updates/Decisions
- Festival Banner
- Garden Supplies Project Update:
 - Review and agree quote/drawings for bays – James presenting drawings for bays
 - Contract between NHT & MTP
 - Next steps
 - Timeline
- Bartering Network – ways forward
- Pittenweem Fish Buying Scheme Update
- NHTT Food Group Webpage
- Bakehouse Feasibility:
 - Any update?
 - Next steps
- August meeting – Small Holders Talk

Next Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday 21 July, 7:30pm – Giffordtown Hall
- Tuesday 18 August, 7:30pm – Letham Hall
- Tuesday 8 September, 7:30pm – Collessie Hall

Minute

The meeting opened with introductions as there were a few new faces at the group including new Project Manager Peter Holt and Support Worker Louise Barron.

Kerstin asked if anyone had objections to photos being taken during meeting. None were raised.

Matters Arising

1. **Karen Dawson, Development Executive, Elmwood College.**

Discussion around what Elmwood could offer NHTT.

- a. Elmwood are keen to become involved. It would be next Academic year as Students are now finished. Possibly help from horticultural students that would come out. They will need clarification as to type of training, would it be by group or individual. Student involvement would be subject to H&S issues and time table requirements. Also discussion around where these workshops might be carried out. We would prefer locally but the facilities may be better at Elmwood. Karen pointed out that they do workshop out in the community in Village Halls.
 - b. Karen confirmed that Elmwood will take a stand at the NHTT Local Food Festival on 19th Sept
 - c. Karen looking to find out more about us and what NHTT requirements would be, following on from this a number of ideas were raised by the group. It was suggested that NHTT was keen for Elmwood to help re a programme of re-skilling workshops. NHTT plans to consult with North Howe communities at the Local Food Festival to ascertain what sort of re-skilling workshops they would be keen to participate in so as a seasonal workshop calendar could be developed. Ideas raised at meeting included the following
 - i. Butchering- this would not be possible as currently Elmwood get meat in already butchered although possibly something for the future
 - ii. Meat Preservation such as smoking, curing and salami making
 - iii. Vegetable Preservation, local people possibly have the skills to do this
 - iv. Home brewing- James, Monimail Tower Project happy to help with this.
 - v. Slow Food Cooking Day, suggested that this may happen after the Local Food Festival in line with Apple Harvest in October this may be more of a member's event than for wider community.
 - vi. Fish preparation
 - vii. Seasonal produce cooking workshop – 100 things to do with courgettes!
 - d. It was suggested that we would have a better idea of how Elmwood could help after the Food Festival.
 - e. Could Elmwood showcase at the Local Food Festival as we have no chefs coming. We could have a cooking demo using only local produce. Karen suggested that Willie Balfour could help with this as he currently does demos in the community.
 - f. Bringing horticultural student here would be a Monimail Tower project and would probably be dependent on what the student's interest would be. If they had an interest in permaculture for example it would be worth looking into. Elmwood College to liaise directly with MTP re this.
2. **Newburgh Orchard Group**- they are attending next meeting to do a presentation on their work..
 3. **PC Lang**- Hayley has set up a meeting on 25th June with community police officer to discuss the NHTT Local Food Festival.
 4. **Local Food Fest Updates**- Issues discussed at meeting:
 - a. Tent- it will be £500 to hire the Marquee from Pillars. It was decided that this is still a good idea but we should continue to source other smaller tents for things such as workshops, Transition Tavern etc. Stall holders will be asked to provide their own cover..
 - b. Children's Entertainment- Discussion around Puppet show and whether it is worth the money. It was generally agreed that it would be good to have some focal point for children

that was about local food. We could possibly ask Clydebuilt Puppet to put something together. It was confirmed that there is money in the budget. We have also applied to Community Events Fund from Fife Council to help with up to 50% of the costs but will not know until 15th July.

- c. Mike Farrell, Letham Nights is organising music. He is currently looking into the possibility of a DJ and The Moonzie Allstars.
 - d. It was decided that a separate meeting would be arranged specifically about the Food Festival. Date TBC. Hayley to coordinate.
5. **Apple Press-** James provided an update on research. Discussion followed
- a. Steve has some recent experience of working with them and offered some advice as to which models to purchase.
 - b. It was agreed that we just start moving ahead with looking at machines or building them. It was agreed that we should look into purchasing the smaller model while looking into the possibility of building something larger.
 - c. The smaller model should be mobile and fit easily in a car.
 - d. It will be stored in a shed. Dan will look into sourcing a second hand shed.
 - e. We should try and keep things mechanical rather than electronic. Keep it human powered.
 - f. We should have smaller one ready for Local Food Festival for demonstrations. Also to raise awareness that it will be available.
 - g. Bookings could be made on line and members of community can either bring their apples to the press or take the smaller press away and return.
 - h. Larger press would need to be completed by March 2010 as monies would be forfeited, ideally we should aim to stick to the Gant chart and have both presses ready for September 09.
 - i. Need to establish how many apples we are dealing with. What we need now may be different in future. Demand will grow. It was agreed to future proof it.
 - j. Question re payment for press and materials for building second larger one. Getting bids to comply with funding not foreseen as a problem.
6. **Garden Supplies Update-** We now have 2 quotes for the research and design, it was agreed that the Group would progress with James' quote as this was more affordable. Becky provided an overview of the project highlighting that this is a pilot project and if it works it may be rolled out to all NHTT area communities. James highlighted the issues that he has been looking at which led to discussion around the following:
- a. Easy payment possibly via an honesty box. Cash goes into upkeep and the manure.
 - b. Protection of TPO trees and ground water. The bays cannot be sited within certain distance of trees with TPO on them so he is working with plan to establish potential site.
 - c. Who would be able to access the supplies and are they open to all in NHTT area. It was decided that though this is a small scale pilot they would have to be open to all in NHTT area but MTP need to have a guaranteed supply so if stocks were becoming diminished they could close bays. Agreed leaflet should be circulated explaining the pilot.
 - d. A monitoring system should be put in place for the pilot to help establish where users are coming from and gauging where to go next, something simple like a visitor's book to sign in.
 - e. Discussion around whether would all be wheel barrowed or if we could provide portable boxes.
 - f. James has contacted SEPA to establish if we require a Waste Management Licence, if so this would be free at MTP is a charity. Priority here has to be the protection of the trees from 'run off' and soil impaction.
 - g. Next step is to carry out design and James will have a concept/sketch so that we will be in a position to go to tender at July meeting.

7. **Bartering Network-** *North Howe Barter*. Louise to look into setting up a Google Group that could be used for Swaps.
8. **Pittenweem Fish Buying Scheme-** Dan provided an update. The idea will be to set up network like a food box scheme. Any interested individuals become a member of the group for £10 month. We would take what the boat has brought in and each member would get £10 worth of fish. It would not be a set type of fish but dependant on the catch. The catch will not be processed in any way. Each member will be responsible for taking their turn to go and pick up the catch. Dan is now working on establishing a relationship with some of the fishermen. You have to take your turn of going to pick up catch. A 6 month trial with 10 members was suggested. There were 6 takers at the meeting. Bulletin to be circulated to food group to get another 4 interested parties for pilot scheme. Hayley to circulate to Food Group.
9. **Food Group web page-** Hayley talked about developing how the Food Group could use the NHTT Food Group webpage, suggesting that we develop the page to provide information on our projects, make it useful, interesting and interlink with partners such as MTP, Elmwood College & Fife Diet. Hayley also asked if everyone is happy for minutes to go on webpage. No objections. Hayley to email out plan for contents and get feedback.
10. **Communities Consultation Questions-** Hayley has emailed out proposed questions for this and is looking for feedback before 3rd July deadline. She has tried to focus questions around the projects to help raise awareness. Hayley emphasised the importance of the information that would be gathered from the questions.
11. **Bake house Feasibility-** NHTT to come in for building clay bread oven. (MTP Building one) Come along see how to build. Project is long term vision. If people are interested in coming along the NHTT would fund it. Need to establish what interest from NHTT would be. Possibly put in Bulletin or round food group asking people to register interest. Baking workshop will come later. Looking to have it up running for harvest day.
12. **August Meeting-** Small Holders Talk- Kerstin has been in touch with small holders. Will be able to provide more info at next meeting.

AOB

- Hamid enquired as to whether Mike Small, Fife Diet would be attending another meeting after he was unable to attend the May meeting? It was explained that Mike had been invited to attend another meeting so an open invite was there. It was agreed that the Group would wait for him to get in contact. He is keen to get involved but is very busy at the moment
- Hamid- Transition Training- one place available for active member so if anyone is interested please contact Hamid.
- Becky- Food growing in pots instead of flowers. Hayley also mentioned sowing native wild flowers into grass verges. Possibly for next year's Village in Bloom competition. Becky to talk to Pat.