

# Notes From Meeting to Discuss Possibility of Setting Up Steering Group to Campaign for Biggleswade to Become a Fairtrade Town

8pm, Thursday 8th March 2007

In attendance: Vera Eade (representative from Pentecostal Church)  
Pam Ekiert (representative from Biggleswade Baptist Church)  
Jane Parker (representative from St. Andrew's Church)  
Neil Spencer (representative from St. Peter's Church)  
Fr Joe Williams (Parish Administrator, St. Peter's Church)

## 1. Apologies for absence

None.

## 2. Background – how we have got to this stage

Neil Spencer explained the background to the meeting, summarised in the paragraph attached to the agenda.

## 3. Discussion of feasibility of campaign for Biggleswade to become a Fairtrade Town

Neil Spencer distributed a document listing the five goals that must be realised for a town to become a Fairtrade Town.

The ensuing discussion about the possibility of Biggleswade becoming a Fairtrade Town was positive in nature.

## 4. Next steps

- It was decided that it would be a good idea to set up a steering group to campaign for Biggleswade to become a Fairtrade Town.
- It was thought that the support of the local MP would be beneficial as the Biggleswade Chronicle and others may pay more attention to the setting-up of the campaign. A letter would be written to him, asking for his support.
- In order to make membership of this group as far-ranging as possible, Neil Spencer would contact the Biggleswade Chronicle to see if they would be interested in printing an article that would advertise Fairtrade and the launch of the steering group, and also ask for interested parties to contact Neil Spencer. If a news article were not possible, an item in the "Town and Village News" section for Biggleswade would probably be possible.
- The Town Council may need some reassurances and persuasion before being able to support the campaign. The support of the local MP and ongoing progress of the campaign may help in this respect. Jane Parker offered to speak informally with Wendy Smith, the mayor, to keep the issue live with the Town Council.
- The involvement of local businesses will be sought, including via the involvement of the Chamber of Trade. Pam Ekiert offered to speak informally with a contact on the Chamber of Trade.
- Once an item in the Biggleswade Chronicle had appeared and sufficient time for interested parties to make themselves known had passed, an inaugural meeting of the steering group would be organised.