

Minutes from Meeting of FAB (Fairtrade Association Biggleswade)

Date/time and location: 8pm, Tuesday, 15th April 2008, Sainsbury's Coffee Shop, Biggleswade

Present: Alan Dansey (Pentecostal Church/Churches Together in Biggleswade), Neil Spencer (St Peter's Church/Churches Together in Biggleswade), Peter Ball (Bedfordshire County Council Youth Service), Sharon Pattison (Sainsbury's), Pam Ekiert (Biggleswade Baptist Church), John Robertson (Biggleswade Baptist Church), Jane Parker (St. Andrew's Church), Sheila Grayston (Biggleswade Town Councillor), Steve Luff (SWL Supplies).

1. Welcome and introductions

Neil Spencer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Abi Reynolds, Cathrine Ward.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 5th February 2008 were agreed.

4. Matters arising from minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

None.

5. Proceeding towards the Five Goals

5.1. Goal 1: local council to pass resolution supporting Fairtrade

A discussion took place about the Town Council's latest refusal to pass a pro-Fairtrade motion and what FAB's next steps should be. It was decided:

- *FAB should make contact with other Fairtrade groups who had encountered similar difficulties, with a view to hearing what approach succeeded for them in the end and possibly inviting someone to a future FAB meeting.*

Action: Neil Spencer to contact other Fairtrade groups.

- *We should continue to make progress on the other goals and, when we next bring a motion to the council, explain that as well as wanting them to pass a motion in their role as the public voice of Biggleswade, it is also standard practice for Fairtrade Towns to have a pro-Fairtrade motion passed by their local council.*

- *We should endeavour to have Fairtrade signs put up in shops, businesses and organisations in Biggleswade so that the town councillors are reminded of the Fairtrade issue whilst they are about the town (see also 5.3.1, below).*

Action: Neil Spencer to see what signs are available from the Fairtrade Foundation.

5.2. Goal 2: Fairtrade products available in local shops, cafés, etc.

5.3. Goal 3: Fairtrade products used in local workplaces/community organisations

5.3.1. Planning the audit of shops/cafés

- *The letter to shops discussed at previous meetings should be sent out and personalised with the shop manager's name where possible and a letterhead.*

Action: Pam Ekiert.

- *FAB's website to have a section where companies/organisations can record the fact that they have Fairtrade refreshments, etc. available for their personnel.*

Action: Alan Dansey.

- *We should investigate the possibility of having car window-style stickers produced for shops/businesses/organisations to display (see also 5.1, above).*

Action: Neil Spencer to investigate what is possible.

Action: Sharon Pattison to see if Sainsbury's have anything like this.

5.4. Goal 4: attract media coverage and popular support for campaign

- *Jane Parker has arranged for FAB to have a stall at St. Andrew's Fete on Saturday 21st September.*
Action: To discuss details of this at next meeting.
- *It was suggested that FAB might be able to have a display at the library.*
Action: Jane Parker and Alan Dansey to ask their contacts about the feasibility of this.
- *Neil Spencer reported that FAB have been invited to appear on "Tea at Three" on BigglesFM on 27th June. It was suggested that listeners might be encouraged to text in to say if they are using Fairtrade products at their work/organisation.*
- *Neil Spencer reported that he had not heard back from BBC Three Counties Radio after contacting them. It was mentioned that Cathrine Ward might have a contact at the radio station who could be approached. It was also mentioned that Fairtrade might be a suitable topic for their afternoon show with Roberto Peroni and lunchtime show with Vernon Smith.*
Action: Cathrine Ward to talk to her contact.
Action: Neil Spencer to try and contact the station again, in a more targeted way.
- *It was decided that FAB needed a logo as soon as possible for use on a letterhead and also the website.*
Action: Sharon Pattison to contact Biggleswade Chronicle to take this forward.
- *It was suggested that a Fairtrade DVD might be shown before the main show at the Biggleswade Film Club.*
Action: Neil Spencer to see what DVDs might be available.
- *Although the idea of having a float at the Biggleswade Carnival was thought to be a good idea, it was also thought that the organisation required was perhaps too much. It was decided not to have a float unless someone came forward who was able to do all the organising.*

5.5. Goal 5: convene steering group to ensure continued commitment to Fairtrade
Continued operation of group noted.

6. Web site: www.fabweb.org.uk

Alan asked for materials for the website. It was decided that the minutes of past FAB meetings should be available on the website and that it would be good to have some photos (e.g. of the Fairtrade Fortnight market stall).

Action: Neil Spencer to send past minutes to Alan Dansey

Action: Neil Spencer to ask Biggleswade Chronicle if they had photos we could use on the website.

Action: Alan Dansey to include materials on website when available and further develop "history" part of site.

7. Fairtrade Fortnight: 25th February – 9th March 2008

7.1. Review of market stall event

Thanks to Jane Parker and her family were recorded for their efforts in organising the market stall and to Sharon Pattison for supplying the free Fairtrade teabags. It was noted that the location of the stall was fortunate but the cold and windy weather was not.

7.2. Initial ideas for 2009

It was decided that doing a market stall again in 2009 sounded like a good idea. It was also suggested that a "Fairtrade Trail" around Biggleswade might be developed.

8. Any other business

None.

9. Date and location of next meeting(s)
Tuesday 3rd June, 8pm, Sainsbury's Coffee Shop.