

Minutes from Meeting of FAB (Fairtrade Association Biggleswade)

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

Present: Alan Dansey (Pentecostal Church/Churches Together in Biggleswade), Jane Parker (St. Andrew's Church), John Robertson (Biggleswade Baptist Church), Neil Spencer (St Peter's Church/Churches Together in Biggleswade).

1. Welcome and introductions
Neil Spencer welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence
Pam Ekiert, Sheila Grayston, Steve Luff.
3. Minutes of last meeting
The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 3rd June 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
 - 5.1.1. Contacting other Fairtrade groups
 - *Neil Spencer had made contact with a number of other Fairtrade groups, concentrating on towns that were a similar size to Biggleswade. He had heard back from a number of them, notably from Fareham. They had encountered difficulties with getting their town council to pass a pro-Fairtrade motion. They had proceeded by writing to councillors and making deputations at executive meetings of their council. It was thought that this would be a good model for us to pursue. As a first step, Neil Spencer was to forward the e-mail from the Fareham group to all associated with FAB, and for FAB to then adapt the letter to councillors and deputation notes for use in Biggleswade.*
Action: Neil Spencer to forward e-mail from Fareham and attachments.
 - 5.1.2. Window stickers
 - *As Sharon Pattison was unable to be at the meeting, this item was postponed to the next meeting.*
Action: Sharon Pattison to obtain Fairtrade window stickers from Sainsbury's.
 - 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
 - *As Pam Ekiert was unable to be at the meeting, this item was postponed to the next meeting.*
Action: Pam Ekiert.
 - 5.3.2. Organisations registering via website
 - *Alan Dansey produced drafts of an e-mail and web form that companies/organisations would be encouraged to use to show their use/support of Fairtrade. A few minor amendments were suggested.*
Action: Alan Dansey to make amendments and proceed to e-mail businesses in Biggleswade and produce online web form.

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

5.4.1. St. Andrews' Fete, Saturday 20th September

- *The form of the FAB contribution will be a display. As well as Fairtrade posters, it was thought to be a good idea to have the five goals outlined as well. Cathrine Ward had previously volunteered to produce some displays. As she was unable to be at the meeting, Jane Parker agreed to contact Cathrine to let her know the details of the dimensions, etc. of the display. The stall would have to be erected on Friday 19th September from 2pm onwards.*

Action: Neil Spencer to give Fairtrade posters to Cathrine Ward.

Action: Sharon Pattison to see what Sainsbury's might be able to provide.

Action: Jane Parker to inform Cathrine Ward of dimensions, etc. of display.

5.4.2. BigglesFM

- *Neil Spencer reported that he had been a guest on BigglesFM on both Friday 27th June and Monday 7th July, and that both occasions had gone well.*

5.4.3. Library display

- *Cathrine Ward had previously agreed to look into who at Bedfordshire County Council was responsible for booking the display. It was agreed that should she find out, she should book a slot in Fairtrade Fortnight if available (23rd February – 8th March 2009).*

Action: Cathrine Ward to find out who in Bedfordshire County Council would be best to approach about a library display and book for Fairtrade Fortnight if possible.

5.4.4. BBC Three Counties Radio

- *Neil Spencer reported that he had not yet phoned BBC Three Counties Radio.*

Action: Neil Spencer to phone BBC Three Counties Radio.

- *Neil Spencer had found details of how one could make a Video Nation film via BBC Three Counties. Previously Sharon Pattison had reported that she had a member of staff who knew about making videos and might be willing to help, so she would be asked to ask if they would be interested in taking this forward.*

Action: Sharon Pattison to talk to her member of staff about helping.

5.4.5. Logo competition

- *Neil Spencer reported that when he had appeared on the BigglesFM show hosted by the editor of the Biggleswade Chronicle, he had asked if this was a good thing to approach him about. He was very positive about the idea.*

Action: Sharon Pattison to contact Biggleswade Chronicle about this.

5.4.6. Fairtrade DVD for Ivel Flix

- *Neil Spencer reported that the Fairtrade Foundation's DVD of short Fairtrade films was not yet available.*

Action: Neil Spencer to obtain copy of DVD when available.

5.4.7. News release from Bedfordshire County Council Youth Service

- *As Cathrine Ward was unable to be at the meeting, this item was postponed to the next meeting.*

5.4.8. Local News TV

- *It was decided to link further investigation of this possible publicity avenue with the BBC Three Counties Radio Video Nation film.*

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

- *It was considered a good idea to have stories about Fairtrade in action around the world on the website*

Action: All to forward stories to Alan Dansey for inclusion on website.

7. Fairtrade Fortnight: 23rd February – 8th March 2009

7.1. Fairtrade trail idea

- *Discussion to take place at future meetings.*

8. Any other business

- *It was noted that the Somerfield chain was being taken over by the pro-Fairtrade Co-op.*
- *The possibility of organising a public meeting was discussed. It was decided to hold a meeting that linked international fair trade issues with UK fair trade issues, linking with local farmers and relevant organisations. A first step to organising this would be for all FAB members to try and find contacts that would be relevant to this meeting. Although a date for the meeting was not fixed, it was recognised that the logistics of organising the event might be coincided with Fairtrade Fortnight.*
Action: All to find links with individuals/organisations that might be interested in a public meeting concerning fair trade in a UK setting.

9. Date and location of next meeting(s)

- *Tuesday 9th September, 8pm, Sainsbury's Coffee Shop, subject to the agreement of Sharon Pattison.*
- *At this next meeting, ways of encouraging new people to attend meetings would be discussed, including the possibility of approaching Café Mocha to see if a meeting could be held there.*