

Minutes from Meeting of FAB (Fairtrade Association Biggleswade)

Date/time and location: 8pm, Wednesday 31st October 2007,
Sainsbury's Coffee Shop, Biggleswade

Present: Pam Ekiert (Biggleswade Baptist Church), Sheila Grayston (Biggleswade Town Councillor), Jane Parker (St. Andrew's Church), Sharon Pattison (Sainsbury's Supermarket), Neil Spencer (St. Peter's Church/Churches Together in Biggleswade), Cathrine Ward (Bedfordshire County Council Youth Service) Abi Reynolds, Peter Ball Bedfordshire County Council Youth Service

1. Welcome and introductions

Neil Spencer welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone present introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Steve Luff Alan Dansey and Catriona McIntyre

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 12th September 2007 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

- Much discussion was held regarding the Town Council's decision not to pass the resolution supporting Fairtrade. It was felt that the main problem was the lack of understanding and awareness of what Fairtrade was.
- Sheila has told the Town Council that we will be back and resubmitting the motion under the six month rule. This will bring us to March when we will have had Fairtrade Fortnight behind us.
- Sheila has had several conversations with Alistair Burt, who is supportive of us. He has spoken with some of the Councillors involved and will be setting up a meeting with them before the resubmission of the motion. It was felt by the meeting that the best time for this would be in Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Peter Vickers has requested that the meeting be in a neutral venue such as St. Andrews. Jane Parker raised that this will need to be arranged soon. Sheila will contact Peter Vickers to discuss possible dates.
- Neil mentioned that he posted information about the decision on a Fairtrade website and people from around the UK had expressed dismay. The Fairtrade Foundation responded and Barbara Crowther has offered to come and talk at the meeting. Sheila feels that this might give us extra credibility. Jane mentioned that a Traidcraft speaker might be available to talk if it wasn't possible to get a speaker from Fairtrade Foundation for the meeting
- All agreed that the publicity provoked by the Town Council's decision was very positive, with the majority of the responses to the letters page being supportive and against the decision of the Councillors.

Action: Sheila will talk to Peter Vickers to find out if he or Alistair Burt is booking the meeting. The date will need to fit in with Alistair Burt's diary.

Action: Neil will contact Fairtrade Foundation Barbara Crowther when a date is known to try to get her availability.

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

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

- In the last meeting we discussed a flyer for organisations and shops. Neil has based this on the information he wrote for Aragon. One side is aimed at shops stocking the products and one for organisations. Neil welcomed comments and will email this to everyone in the group for their input.
- Sheila suggested that information should be punchy one liners, rather than too much detail. This is especially the case for anything to be produced for the market stall.
- Any materials produced in a figure of 500 or less, Fairtrade Foundation are happy for us to write the copy ourselves. However any print run over 500 needs to have input from them. Neil has therefore been in contact with them over the Aragon print run
- Cathrine Ward has sent Neil information produced from students previously in Sandy and Neil is collecting a library of resources.
- Pam Ekiert talked to Catriona McIntyre at Stratton School and passed on previous action points to her. Unfortunately Catriona was having difficulty getting people to give time as they were very busy. It had been hoped to use them as part of the audit of how to find out how many organisations use Fairtrade.
- Sharon Pattison suggested contacting the scouts. Pam wondered if it worth going directly to 6th formers. Sharon has also has contacts with 6th formers. Cathrine has offered to do an assembly presentation for Stratton School. Neil will contact Catriona and let her know.
- Neil asked if anyone knew which organisations stocked Fairtrade. No-one had been able to identify this so far. Neil suggested that we look at this again at the next meeting. It was noted that Surfin café has reopened with coffee which is ethically traded but does not have a Fairtrade mark. A question arose as to whether it mattered to Fairtrade Foundation if products were Fairtrade marked. Neil felt that it would.

Action: Neil to email flyer to all in the group for feedback.

Action: Neil to contact Catriona re: Cathrine's offer of assembly

Action: Pam to talk to 6th formers. Sharon to talk to those she has contact with at Sainsbury's

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

- It was felt that the Town Council decision generated us a lot of media coverage. Especially the percentage on the online vote which was over 90%. This was much higher than votes normally get.
- Aragon Housing. Neil has sent them information for their newsletter. Aragon have edited it for space. As their print run is in excess of 500 it has to be cleared by the Fairtrade Foundation. There are only minor changes.
- Carnival float. Cathrine was going to talk to Nicola King from Aragon regarding the carnival float. This hasn't happened yet, but Cathrine feels this won't be a problem.
- Competition to design a logo. Sharon is waiting for Sainsbury's to come back with a prize suitable for children.

Action: Cathrine to talk to Nicola King.

Action: Sharon to chase up Sainsbury's.

5.5. Goal 5: convene steering group to ensure continued commitment to Fairtrade.

6. Web site www.fabweb.org.uk
- Alan Dansey has set this up. It is basic information, and there are links to the Chronicle articles and explaining our aims. Alan sent his apologies but asked for feedback on what people would like to see on the site.
 - Cathrine suggested inviting people to come and join the group, or to encourage people to get involved in the carnival float.
 - Highlighted bullet points of meeting minutes were also suggested.
 - Another suggestion was that people could email where they have bought Fairtrade.
 - We could also advertise shops which stock Fairtrade products.
 - Jane suggested including surrounding villages as well
 - Cathrine suggested putting a word search game

Action: Neil will liaise with Alan about what he is able to do and what he feels are good ideas.

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

- Sheila has booked a stall for 1st March as this falls in the middle of the fortnight.
- An idea is to bring Fairtrade stock from St Andrews for people to buy.
- Sharon has suggested that Sainsbury's could supply free samples
- There are issues regarding selling perishable goods on market stalls, which need to be addressed.
- Catherine suggested games and quizzes
- Jane suggested having a banner and Catherine has a bananas banner. Neil said that FTF may have banners. It was felt the brighter the better. Catherine will try to get young people involved on the stand.
- The meeting for Councillors will be held during this fortnight and hopefully the Chronicle will cover this as well

Action: Jane will check about selling of perishable goods

Action: Catherine will bring banana banner and games

Action: Sharon will talk to Sainsbury's regarding samples and banners

Action: Neil will contact Fairtrade Foundation re: banners

8. Any other business

Jane brought information on a production of Cargo at St Andrew's Church. This is aimed at adults and young people who are over 12 due to the content of the production. Further information can be found at: <http://www.biggleswadeparishchurch.co.uk/mission/mission-cargo.htm>

9. Date and location of next meeting

- Neil has been contacted by ASDA asking if we could have the meeting more centrally. Pam suggested we could use the Baptist church meeting rooms. However it was thought that for consistency, we should stick with the same venue and on a similar day and time.
- The group expressed thanks to Sainsbury's for their continuing provision of the venue
- Date: Wednesday 12th December 8pm Sainsbury's Café.