

TI CrossTheme Catch Up, Summary Notes/minutes

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Date/Venue: Thursday 27th Jan, 7:30pm Brewery Tap

Version: Issue 1a

Present:

Joanne Brannan
Lucy Drake
Charles Croydon
Dave Watson
Jon Halls (facilitator)
John Taylor
Steve Marsden
Alex Loh
Helen Milne
John (Helen's partner)
Roy Adams
Dan Wheals
Richard Mudhar

Introduction

This meeting was called before the TI Local Authority Group meeting at the same venue scheduled for 8:30pm, which had its own agenda. This meeting was held to tackle some difficult issues and was fast-moving so these minutes are a summary of the topics that were raised, rather than a detailed walk-through of the agenda. The meeting was facilitated largely by John Halls who helped the group focus on the experiences and feelings about being part of Transition Ipswich. The meeting finished around 11:00pm at last orders.

Some concern was raised by Charles that someone might turn up at 8:30 expecting the LA meeting to start who would then find the meeting in full swing and on another topic, however this did not happen and the three potential attendees to the LA meeting (CC, R, AL) were informed of the change in focus and came earlier and prepared. The items from the TI LA group were discussed latter in the meeting and this is summarised in the second section.

Issues raised

The first part of the meeting was a session going round the circle of participants to get people to express what they felt the issues were.

Examples of Practical Things

There was a feeling of all talk and no action in some of the groups, such as Energy where it would have been good to see small solar projects, perhaps a guide from Transition as to how to save energy at home and likely savings. The over-formal meeting format doesn't seem to help with this, compared with ,say the Food Group with its more informal style where [trees have been planted](#), [local orchards visited](#) [group meals](#) had and a [Community Supported Agriculture](#) scheme started.

Less Detail, More Stuff

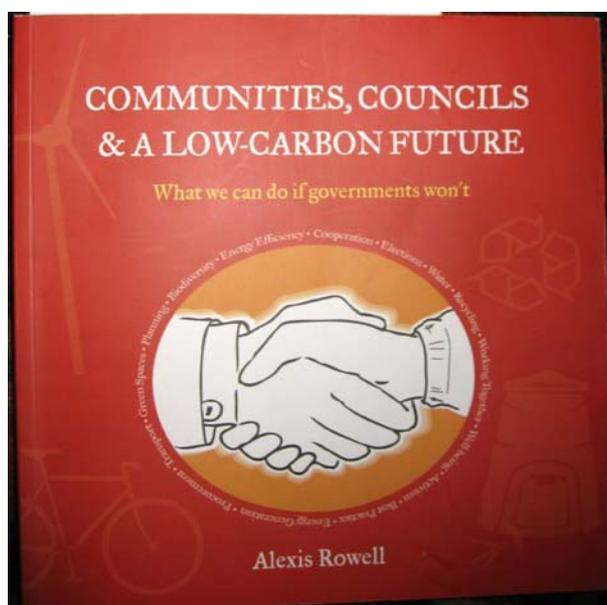
The process of formal minutes, and getting them approved at the next meeting was perceived in some quarters to focus on detail and minutiae at the expense of making things happen. The alternative of posting a photo and summary to the website gets things out faster – Richard advocated an aim of getting this sort of thing out within a week of the meeting. Charles raised the issue that the mind-map/photo option was not easy to understand for people who had not been at the original meeting.

/Postings Phone

Dano wanted to be able to post to the TI website using his iPhone. Alex [has posted how](#) and is probably the guy to speak to for the details.

Local Council Book

Charles brought along a copy of the Communities, Councils & a Low Carbon Future Transition book that had been recommended for the library to get



3 items

These had been raised by Steve Marsden last November as requiring an urgent response. Alex observed that an urgent response implies something like a week to him rather than three months. Steve M and others proposed that this be dropped as overtaken by events.

Group or No Group? Future of [Local Authority Group]

Richard Mudhar requested a show of hands for those in favour of continuing the Local Authority Group, on the basis that if fewer than 50% voted to continue it, the TI Local Authority Group be disbanded. This is not a rule but seemed sensible for this decision. This would not preclude one being started in future, preferably with enough people to be representative.

The issues as he saw it were that the LAG was too small to be representative, and that TI did not have enough active projects on the ground to be taken to the Local Authority anyway.

The result of the vote was two votes for continuing out of 12 people, so the motion to disband the LAG was carried. It was noted that Charles Croydon should not therefore approach local authorities on behalf of TI.

Maidenhall Allotments Funding/Community Orchard

Dave raised a request from Rona regarding funding for getting trees to plant in the community orchard at the Maidenhall Allotments:

“Regarding the Maidenhall Orchard, would it be possible to vote in a grant or loan so that we can buy trees this year? We could maybe pay back in a year or two when we start to develop some funds of our own.”

IPart/Mayday

Advertise Meetings & Events

Communications/Website

Widening ‘Us’ – Transition Ipswich

No notes of any discussion available on these four topics

Potential Venue

This was for a workshop of some sort, possibly some discussion with UCS. Dano observed that the Vergo site was vacant, but that the site is still owned by the Co-op, is it worth approaching them.

Catch Up Meeting/Positives

Dano meant this category to mean what future tips did we learn for how to run a “catching up meeting” when the various themes of Transition Ipswich come together. Appendix 3 related to this.

Personal Styles/Skills/Meeting Styles

This took up most of the meeting time. Note that this was from a facilitated meeting organised along the [Seeds for Change philosophy](#), where individuals speak about how they feel about a situation.

There are two styles of meetings in TI. The original format, and one that Charles Croydon advocates because of its precision and exactness, is based upon the way a meeting is held in a company, where the meeting has an agenda, at the meeting the minutes of the previous meeting are reviewed and accepted or modified and accepted, then the agenda items are processed. The result may be a series of action points, often with named individuals to the actions. Some examples of this may be observed on the TIZone files section of the website. This format tends to be used by the Energy, Transport and local Authority groups

The other style, particularly taken on by the Food Group, is in the form of a ‘mind map’ which is drafted during the meeting by a scribe, capturing the elements in a pictorial format. An example of this is in the 5 January [Shared Meal and Shared Dreams](#) item on the website at <http://www.transitionipswich.org.uk/2011/01/what-next-for-transition-ipswich-discussion-and-group-meal/>

The different styles of meetings seem to give rise to serious issues within TI, to the extent that some participants have been put off attending.

We tried to use the Seeds for Change www.seedsforchange.org.uk consensus meeting method. Unfortunately we weren’t able to reach a consensus, and it became apparent that attempting to work together was threatening the integrity of the group, and with it the very existence of Transition Ipswich.

The reluctant conclusion of the meeting was that the majority of the group felt they could not work with Charles in a Transition Ipswich context, though they like and respect him personally. He was requested to stand down from involvement in Transition Ipswich.

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