

Banbury Community Action Group



**Notes for the meeting held on
Tuesday 7th April 2015, 7pm at The Globe Room inside The Reindeer
Public House, Parsons Street, Banbury**

**Next meeting on
Tuesday 5th May 2015, 7pm at The Globe Room inside The Reindeer
Public House, Parsons Street, Banbury**

Present:

Tony, Lynda, Simon, Jake, Andrew, Emma, Jan, Nathan, Sarah, Indya, John, Hilary, Chris, Tim, Ian, Jane, John.

Apologies:

Lorraine, Harry, Charlie, Lynne, Sandra, Naomi, Helen, Sue.

Chair Person, Nathan.

Minutes, Nathan.

The meeting was introduced by Simon explaining the new meeting format that was adapted by the group last month.

Project Updates

a) Give or Take (March 2015)

Please see Appendix 1 to the minutes, for a report from Lorraine, project leader.

Future Give or Take event dates are to be discussed at the next meeting, including the possibility of exploring the opportunity of working with Sketts Market for an outdoor Town Centre event.

b) Browning Road Orchard

It was noted that most of the trees remain in good condition, with the odd one having been broken and a couple having been pruned, which the group was unaware of. The trees did not need pruning. The remaining plum trees have been planted on public land in Grimsbury by Banbury Town Council. Those that have taken are expected to blossom in the coming months so a visit to the site is always worthwhile. No significant maintenance of the site is expected to be needed this year.

Information has been sent to Mike Hall at Banbury Town Council, with the view to having produced, along with the installation of, an information board.

c) Big Lunch (September 2015)

A meeting of the project leaders (Tim & Nathan) and BYHP is being held on 15th April 2015 to further plan the event.

d) Bridge Street Community Garden

A meeting of the project leaders (Jake & Harry) and Cherwell District Council is being held on 14th April 2015 to finalise any outstanding legal paperwork.

A contractor of Kingerlee has kindly offered to donate some scaffolding planks.
Travis Perkins have kindly offered to donate some railway sleepers.
We have also purchased some wood from Abingdon Wood Recycle.

The next working party meeting is being held on 14th April 2015 at 6pm at Naomi's Café, Bridge Street.

e) Dinnertime

A trial event is being held on Thursday 30th April at 6pm at Naomi's Café, Bridge Street. Anyone on the CAG mailing list is welcome. Please let Jake know if you wish to attend and further details will be provided nearer the time.

f) Press Committee

The website has really taken shape and our thanks go to Charlie for all her efforts in developing this. It was agreed meeting minutes will now be published on the website.

A procedure has been put in place whereby project leaders will proof and approve press releases which will be created pre-event. A monthly column produced by Helen will shortly begin in the Banbury Guardian.

We also have an article within The Four Shires Magazine, and opportunities in The Letterbox are to be explored.

Other Matters

a) Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015

Nathan presented the accounts to the group. These were welcomed with the news that Sanctuary Housing are to provide £1,000 of funding for partnership projects with themselves and Banbury CAG.

The accounts will be available to view on the website shortly.

b) Barracks Lane Community Garden – 12th April 2015

Emma and Jake will be attending this, further details to follow. Please contact Simon Kenton if you would like to go.

c) CAG Funding Meeting – 18th March 2015

Minutes of this meeting are attached as Appendix 2.

d) CAG Social in Oxford – 16th April 2015

Several members are attending this from Banbury CAG, if you would like to go please email Peter Lefort.

e) Sanctuary Housing Community Awards

Several nominations have already been entered. The group was encouraged to make nominations before the closing deadline of 10th April 2015.

f) Upcoming Local Events

Banbury Compost Giveaway – 26th April 2015 – Banbury CAG will be attending doing a Seed Swap.

To be considered:

Old Town Party – 2nd May 2015.

Banbury Town Council Volunteers Reception – 5th June 2015.

Banbury & District Show – 14th June 2015.

Town Mayor's Sunday & Hobby Horse Festival – 5th July 2015.

Banbury Canal Day – 4th October 2015.

APPENDIX 1 - Give or Take & More – Saturday, 7th March 2015 (Lorraine)

Note for new guests:

Give or Take & More events are a great way to promote reuse and clear out your unwanted items from your home or garden and re-home them with someone else. Everyone is welcome to come along and take anything they need - All for FREE! We invite local guest stalls who offer activities and information on living sustainably for all our visitors to enjoy.

A big thank you to everyone who came along to help run our event last month. This was the very first type of community event that was suggested to us when we first formed as a local CAG, and is now becoming popular and better known as an enjoyable way to discover hints and tips on living sustainably in our local town.

It's great that we had 134 visitors, saved 227kg from landfill and 827kg of CO₂, but that's not what was so impressive on the day. The buzz in the room from the very start was the best yet, with all types of reusable items flowing in and out of the room quickly with happy new owners. Visitors were cutting short our chats as they wanted to make sure they got round it all, which was great to hear.

The additional guest stalls were popular; there was interest in expanding the crafts and upcycling section for the future.

A special thank you to Robert who stepped in to do the PAT Testing at the last minute together with Maria from the Duns Tew CAG.

We had several people asking about when we would be holding another one, even suggesting that it could be monthly! Some of us chatted during some quiet periods and could see the benefit of picking some regular dates in spring and autumn together with the possibility of doing an outdoor one in the town centre during the summer.

The good news with the leftovers was that nothing was wasted. The British Heart Foundation took everything and even the unusual bags of aquarium sand were re-homed on Freegle.

Although there was a little mix-up on the prices for the café, we still managed to cover the cost of the room hire and we were able to claim an additional £87 from the county council reuse workshop fund for providing upcycling activities.

The aim of the funding is to build a CAG presence during the next Recycle Week: June 22-28, 2015 by running a similar activity again.

The feedback from our visitors on how they heard about the event was once again a mixed one, so continuing all the various promotional methods seems to be the way to go. Although Jane did another brilliant job of handing out leaflets in the high street on the day, we're still unsure of whether we are getting many additional visitors from this approach. The Banbury Guardian photographer turned up but the group photo that was taken wasn't the one used when it went to press. We were mentioned in the community section with a photo, but it's still good that we were included.

The whole event was very positive, the one improvement that would be useful for the future would be to have more volunteers at the meet and greet table, plus people promoting Banbury CAG.

APPENDIX 2 - CAG Strategy Meeting – 18 March 2015

Present: Richard (Oxford Community Markets, Monday Shop), Lea (The Student Consultancy), Becky (DinnerTime, Rose Hill & Iffley Low Carbon, Bicester Green), Sam (Broken Spoke Bike Co-op), Rachel (Oxfordshire County Council), Fiona (Abingdon Carbon Cutters), Jake (Banbury CAG), Nathan (Banbury CAG), Dale (Sustainable Witney, National Energy Foundation), Hannah (Good Food Oxford, East Oxford Farmers and Community Market, Barracks Lane Community Garden), Anthony (Sustainable Didcot, Low Carbon Hub), Dot (Abundance Oxford), Simon (CAG), Peter (CAG)



Summary of discussions

Key features of CAG support:

- The most valuable aspect of the CAG Project to groups is the **personal support** which offers inspiration, troubleshooting, energy, ideas and signposting.
- Other important aspects are **insurance**, access to the **wider network** and the **Community Impact Modelling Tool**.

Potential funding strategies:

- CAGs could fundraise for their own **Annual Maintenance Grants** and/or **Special Projects Grants** (potential annual saving to CAG Project: £8,000)
- CAG could apply for **joint bids** with other organisations
- **Sponsorship** would totally depend on which organisation it was
Sponsors might not require publicity or branding in return
- CAGs paying a **membership fee** could put off new groups joining
- CAGs could pay a **percentage of their income** to CAG
- CAG members could **fundraise** for the network
- A voluntary inclusion of a **CAG fee** (for monitoring and evaluation, for example) into funding bids written by CAGs could be implemented
- CAG could deliver **community benefit services** on behalf of other organisations (e.g. Low Carbon Hub, developers)
- **Regular giving** or **crowd-funding** could be looked at

CAG as a legal entity

- Being a **separate organisation** (e.g. a charity) could open up new funding opportunities
- The network would gain **accountability**, requiring voting, AGMs etc.
- Some CAG staff work could be **outsourced to groups**

Next steps

- **Another meeting** in 3-6 months, when more information is available
- Simon and Peter to assess feasibility of ideas and make **proposals to network**