

Minutes of Board Meeting of Berks, Bucks and MK and Oxon Food Group CIC on 22 November 2010

Present

Directors

Tamara Schiopu
 Mary Rumsey
 Elaine Cook, Chair
 Clare Marriage
 Jodie Cavaye
 Henriette Reinders

Observers

Susie Ohlenschlager

Apologies

Colin Wainwright

1	Apologies	Action
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</p> <p>Tamara Schiopu thanked all Directors who helped with late payments of some members. In the future this action may be repeated. Henriette Reinders updated on Speciality and Food Fair 2010, 2011 and IFE 2011. SEFGP will not have stands at these shows, due to cuts in funding. IFE (March 2011, ExCeL) will represent the region in The English Pavilion and in the Cookery Demonstration Theatre.</p>	<p>TS to ask Sophie Grigson if willing to volunteer at IFE representing the BBO and gluten-free foods</p>
3	<p>Projects Update</p> <p>Current membership services are according to the plan: monthly e-Newsletters and e-bulletins, website maintenance, 2010 Food Guide distribution and work on 2011 Food Guide.</p> <p>Progress on Grant Applications</p> <p>NWD AONB SDF – application for 5K to produce new Food Trails rejected with suggestion to change the theme. A new attempt may be made for 2011 fin year SODC Leader Application for 5K to develop Food Trails along Thames – successful in 1st stage, now working on Full Application. Deadline – 20</p>	

	<p>the future of the Food Group on the basis that no funds would be available from the County Council from March 2011, but that a decision should be deferred until next year when the situation was made clear.</p> <p>Henriette updated the Board on various county Food Groups around the region and on regional groups. The English Food Group Alliance bring together all regional food groups and lobbies Defra and BIS (Business Innovation and Skills).</p> <p>Elaine updated Directors on new LEPs (Local Economic Partnership) development. It was noted that the LEP's had a strong focus on growth and employment. Rural SME's were unlikely to be a priority and lobbying will need to be undertaken to raise the profile of businesses such as local food producers. The LEP's were currently unfunded although they may have access to funding programmes in the future.</p> <p>Defra's Structural Reform Plan is focusing on rural broadband and its Business Plan has the key issues of animal disease and flooding resilience. It's wider rural priorities are Housing, Transport and access to services and Fuel Poverty.</p> <p>Jodie suggested to research the option to merge website with BigBarn (or similar) if costs of maintaining not covered by funds available – might also become a revenue source, if commission structure in place</p> <p>Agreed:</p> <p>Susie, Elaine and Tamara would develop more detailed proposals in particular for Option 1.</p> <p>To meet in February when the availability of a 2011 grant for the Food Group from Oxfordshire County Council should be confirmed.</p>	<p>The Board to draft a letter to LEPs in BBO, with our Success Portfolio and ask for future cooperation.</p> <p>Tamara to develop a budget for Option 1 in Susie's paperl</p>
6	<p>Date of next meeting 7 or 28 February, 2pm at Emmett's Farm in Little Marlow, Bucks, tbc</p>	<p>TS</p>