

Minutes of Board Meeting of Berks, Bucks & MK and Oxon (BBO) Food Group CIC

Monday 19th January 2009 4pm to 6pm

Buckinghamshire County Council, Friars Court, Aylesbury.

Present:

Susie Ohlenschlager	Director	Chair	OCC
Tamara Schiopu	Co Founding Director	Secretary	BBO Food Group
Geoffrey Whittle	Co Founding Director	Treasurer	Ranger Organics
Clare Marriage	Director	Doves Farm	
Mary Rumsey	Director	Rumsey's Hand-Made Chocolates	
Colin Wainwright	Director	Quince Products	
Chris Rawson	Observer	Bucks CC	
Nancy Pound	Invited	Bucks CC	
Wendy Hole	Minutes	BBO Food Group CIC	

Apologies:

Henriette Reinders	SEFGP
Elaine Cook	CCB

1. Minutes; Matters arising: – Susie Ohlenschlager

Minutes from the previous meeting Mon 13th Oct 08 agreed.

2. BBO Food Group CIC update on projects - Tamara Schiopu

Verbal update on projects since last meeting in Oct 08, current and forthcoming projects. (Report enclosed)

Discussion of the 4 options for printing the 2009 Local Flavours guide:

Nuffield Press; Folio Creative; Freeman Christie; Peartree Eynsham

There was general agreement that Nuffield Press, that printed the 2008 guide, was the best value for money, if they could guarantee the same designer and no extra hidden costs.

3. BBO Food Group CIC Membership – Wendy Hole, Mary Rumsey

Discussion of ideas to increase membership and encourage lapsed (2007/2008) members to rejoin.

- It was felt that the ability of the food group to now be able to set up standing orders/ direct payment from members into food group bank account would simplify process.
- Emphasis on updating the food group website to take advantage of all new Google marketing technologies was encouraged.

4. Local Flavours Festival 2009 – Tamara Schiopu

The food group is applying for Big Lottery Funding for the festival, which will be a compilation of events organised by individual businesses (members and non members). It will be run on a similar basis to the Hampshire Festival by Hampshire Fare, which has been very helpful to BBO Food Group CIC.

There will be a sister website www.local-flavours.net to run alongside the BBO Food Group CIC website www.local-food.net , which will include full details, maps and a calendar. A festival newsletter will start in March.

There was a discussion of the 3 options for the festival branding visuals. It was felt that the designs may need adapting to include more product areas represented by the food group. Tamara will do further work with this.

It was felt the more celebrity chefs involved in the festival the better.

Introductory Festival Dinner Wed 25th February 2009 Exeter Hall Kidlington.

This will be to introduce the festival, explain its concept and gain interest from local media, businesses, potential sponsors, food group partners and all food group members.

Tamara will make a presentation and member producers are donating or providing food for a buffet style event, to network with invited guests.

5. BBO Strategy 2010 – 2015 – Susie Ohlenschlager

Funding from SEEDA will cease in April 2010. Directors were asked to consider ways to address this matter, which is £50 000 per annum, for discussion at the next meeting.

6. Attendance of other organisations at future Board meetings – Susie Ohlenschlager

It was decided if other organisations wish to attend future meetings, they can make a request to the Chair who will consider it. Minutes of the Board meetings will be published on the website www.local-food.net, which will be publicised in the monthly newsletter.

7. AOB

MK council has decided to withdraw funding to BBO Food Group CIC, whilst still remaining very supportive of its aims and sponsoring the Local Food Marquee at the annual Bucks County Show. Bucks County Council contribution to the Food Group will remain unchanged, though..

The Food Group will have a much larger input at Bucks County Show this year on Thurs 21st Aug.

Next meeting: 23rd Mar 09 2pm Calcott Centre, Reading