

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

Monday 26th October 2009 2 pm to 4 pm. The Cocoa Pod, Stone, Bucks.

Present:

Chris Rawson	Director Chair	Bucks CC
Tamara Schiopu	Founding Director	BBO Food Group CIC
Clare Marriage	Director	Doves Farm
Jane Bowler	Director	Dews Meadow Farm
Jodie Cavaye	Director	Copas Traditional Turkeys
Phillip Emmett	Director	Emmett's Farm
Mary Rumsey	Director	Rumsey's Handmade Chocolates
Susie Ohlenschlager	Observer	OCC
Elaine Cook	Observer	CCB
Wendy Hole	Minutes	BBO Food Group CIC

1. Welcome and Introductions – Chris Rawson

Introduction to new Chair Chris Rawson. Thanks given to Mary Rumsey for provision of the facilities for the meeting.

2. Minutes; Matters arising; – Chris Rawson

(3) (i) Food Group successfully moved into OCC offices at Speedwell House.

(ii) The Board had already been notified of the unsuccessful application for the Lottery bid. There has been no contact from the Lottery board since the bid was reapplied for.

(5) The Local Flavours Festival will be reviewed at the next Board meeting when all the feedback has been returned and assessed.

(6) The Bucks and The Thame Show will be reviewed at the next Board meeting. The Thame Show will be a 2 day event in 2010.

Minutes from the previous meeting Mon 22nd June 09 agreed.

3. CIC Financial report – Tamara Schiopu

Written report distributed at meeting and discussed. Board approved report.

To be signed off by TS and CM

4. 2010 – 2015 BBO Food Group Strategy Future Options & Scenario Planning - all

Necessitated by the SEEDA grant ending in March 2010.

Other factors that will influence the Boards options and future planning:

- Bucks CC will no longer provide funding from April 2010
- OCC may provide enough funding for 0.5 Food Group manager, but this has not been guaranteed at this stage.
- CCB will not provide funding and there is no funding available from the 6 unitary authorities in Berks.

It was decided that the most important services that the Food Group provided and should continue to do so were:

- BBO Food Group CIC website www.local-food.net
- Local Flavours annual Food Directory
- Discounts for members at trade shows/ consumer exhibitions
- Information stands for the general public to access local food info at events, shows and markets
- Monthly newsletters providing members info on events, training etc.

It was felt that the minimum these services could be provided with was a 0.5 time Food Group employee. This would also allow for other funds and sources of income to be searched for, which includes a new fund for training available from SEEDA via food groups.

It was decided that membership fees were essential and should be paid by standing order only.

Discussion ensued and the following decided:

- A working group (TS, SO, CR, EC, CW) will form to draft a letter to the 3 county councils which will highlight the importance of the BBO Food Group CIC to each county and try to secure funding.

- Producer and council Food Group Board directors from each of the 3 counties will approach a supportive county council member/ influential supporter for support to meet the CEO of each council with the directors' letter.
- JB will forward a copy of the letter sent by TVFM to board directors as an example of their highlighting FM in the BBO area and requests for funding.

5. Proposed Membership Package - Hospitality – Wendy Hole

Written draft package discussed.

New category of membership to increase members open specifically to hospitality sector, which use local produce to which full membership would not be appropriate. The package will be marketed via the BBO TSE newsletter (500 members), BBO Food Group newsletter and joint networking events with BBO TSE.

Agreed with the following amendments:

- Hospitality members must prove their use of local produce and give % of their local sourcing policy
- Will only be open to small hospitality businesses (as agreed with TSE)
- 100 free copies of food guide will be given to new members for distribution in their premises, they can then buy as many as the need for future promotion
- Membership to be paid by standing order

6. AOB

- (i) LEADER has funding available (it has previously funded farmers markets in the area) for projects with full details on its website. Directors are asked to promote this to producers.
- (ii) Production of the Local Flavours Food Guide 2010 will begin shortly.
- (iii) There is a member BBO Food Group CIC Christmas Networking Event at County Hall Oxford on 13th Dec to which all directors are invited.

Next meeting: Monday 25th January 2010 3pm Newbury Racecourse, Berks