

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE INITIAL FAIRTRADE KIRKLEES STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2009

1 PRESENT

Cllr. Julie Stewart-Turner, Mayor (Chair)
Cllr. Mehboob Khan, Council Leader
Bob Kilcoyne, Kirklees Council (Corporate Procurement)
Carol Gilchrist, Kirklees Council (Safer Stronger Communities)
Dick Palfrey, Kirklees Council (Learning Service) and Batley and Spen Constituency Fairtrade Steering Group
Peter McDonagh, Kirklees Council (Economic Development Service)
Christina Longden, Lorna Young Foundation (working in conjunction with Pakistan Youth Forum)
Pat Thorpe, Huddersfield Co-operative Party Group
David Thorpe, Huddersfield Co-operative Party Group
Emily Rye, University of Huddersfield
Jeff Cocker, University of Huddersfield
Peter Beetlestone, Holme Valley Fairtrade Support Group
Tina Walker, Batley and Spen Constituency Fairtrade Steering Group

APOLOGIES

John Drewery, Huddersfield Co-operative Party Group
Stephen Butler, Mirfield Fairtrade Steering Group
Michael Yarwood, Kirklees Council (Public Relations)

2 INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor explained that this was the initial meeting of a prospective steering group for achieving Fairtrade Town status for Huddersfield and Kirklees.

Everyone present was asked to introduce themselves and the organisation or interest(s) that they were representing.

The University of Huddersfield was awarded Fairtrade University status earlier this year and will be working in conjunction with the Council to help achieve Fairtrade status for Huddersfield and Kirklees. The Mayor had visited the University to present their award and the current initiative work to achieve Fairtrade status for Huddersfield and Kirklees has arisen as a result of the University's example.

Tina Walker explained that she represents the Batley and Spen Constituency Fairtrade Steering Group and also maintains the 'Yorkshire Fairtrade' website (www.yorkshirefairtrade.org.uk/)

Peter Beetlestone advised that a Steering Group has been also established in Meltham. Group members also referred to the existing Fairtrade work undertaken in schools, Holme Valley, faith and community groups etc and the Fairtrade motion previously adopted by the Council in 2005.

3 THE 'FIVE GOALS' – POSITION TO DATE AND FUTURE ACTIONS

Goal 1 – Gaining Council support

A motion on Fairtrade will be on the Council meeting agenda on 21 October along with an explanatory note.

Goal 2 – Getting Fairtrade products into shops and cafes, *and*

Goal 3 – Making Fairtrade a part of the community (i.e. local work places and community organisations, including a ‘flagship employer’)

Initial work needs to be undertaken to identify current ‘baseline’ position on Fairtrade products in shops, cafes, workplaces and community groups. Christina Longden said that LYF is working with Pakistan Youth Forum and would be able to assist with visiting shops etc to collate information on Fairtrade usage. Fairtrade Foundation have publicity information which can be utilised. Suggested competition for shops, cafes etc using fair trade products.

Agreed that Carol Gilchrist, Peter McDonagh, Christina Longden and Bob Kilcoyne will form a sub-group to plan and pursue this work.

Goal 4 – Engaging and informing the general public

A section of the Council’s website is to be developed to cover Fairtrade (www.kirklees.gov.uk/fairtrade). Suggested that shops, cafes etc using fair trade products could be listed on the website.

Goal 5 - Working together to keep things moving

4 LAUNCH EVENT PLANNING

Event booked for 24 October at University - suggested time 11-1
Venues: Emily has reserved three possible locations at the University:
CAD Building – Central Atrium and adjoining room (preferred location)
Castle Hill Suite
Commercial Street Lecture Theatre

Attendees/prospective speakers:

- Barry Sheerman MP
- Cllr Julie Stewart-Turner
- Cllr Mehboob Khan
- Professor Bob Cryer (Vice-Chancellor)
- Fairtrade Foundation – have indicated that either a representative from Garstang, Lancashire (the first Fairtrade Town in England) or FF head office will attend.
- It has been suggested that a business which has already adopted Fairtrade might be invited to speak.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS