



Transition Chichester Limited
Company number 8300739

Annual Report

2014

Contents

Legal and administrative information	Page 2
Trustees' Report	
• Structure and management	Pages 2-3
• Activities	Pages 4-8
• Facilitators	Page 8
• Volunteers and supporters	Page 8

Legal and Administrative information

Trustees

Jan Sander Treasurer
Julia Sander Secretary
Anita van Rossum
John Wilton
Ian Mitchell

Company number: 8300739

Principal address: 19, Jubilee Road, Chichester PO19 7XB

Website: www.transitionchichester.org

Bankers : The Cooperative Bank, PO Box 250 Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

Trustees' Report

Structure and management

Transition Chichester Limited is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Articles of Association and was incorporated on 20 November 2012. The liability of the Members is limited. In the event of the Company being wound up every Member of the Company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £1.00) to the Company's assets.

Board of Trustees

The key roles of the trustees are:

- To agree an annual budget and ensure that legal, financial, HR and other requirements are met, and in particular to maintain accounting records, and to produce annual accounts and an annual report.
- To monitor the match between the company's objects and the organisation's activities.
- To consider the future sustainability of the organisation actively considering options relating to diversification and income generation.
- To ensure that the funding/financing strategy is implemented effectively.

The Trustees meet quarterly.

Open Meetings

Since October 2014, Core Group meetings have been replaced by a monthly Open Meeting open to all. These meetings have proved valuable in providing new energy and bringing in a wider range of people and interests.

Objects

Objects

Transition Chichester's objects are restricted to the following:

For the benefit of the public to promote sustainable development for the benefit of Chichester and its environs by:

- (1) the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources;
- (2) the improvement of the conditions of life in socially and economically disadvantaged local communities;
- (3) the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic and social resilience;
- (4) to advance the education of the public in subjects relating to sustainable development and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment. To promote study and research in such subjects and disseminate the results of such study to the public at large.

For the avoidance of doubt, in these objects "sustainable development for the benefit of Chichester and its environs" means "development which meets the needs of the present citizens of Chichester without compromising the ability of future generations of Chichester and environs to meet their own needs."

Charitable Status

It was agreed at the EGM in November 2103 that Transition Chichester should apply for charitable status. After the first application was returned with a request for more detailed information, a second application was prepared with the assistance of Kate Scales from Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester. The revised application was also rejected on the grounds that not all of TC's activities could be considered to be for public benefit.

After considering the points made by the Charities Commission, it was decided to put the application on hold. It may be that despite the advantages of having charitable status, this might prove constricting and reduce the scope of new activities TC would be able to take on.

It might be advantageous to apply charitable status for the Grow Chichester project, as becoming a charity would make it easier to apply for funding for the group's activities. The public benefit of this project would be relatively easy to demonstrate. This matter will be considered over the next few months.

Transition Chichester Activities 2014

GROW CHICHESTER

The Grow Chichester initiative went from strength to strength in 2014 with an essential cash boost from Chichester District Council, enabling two community gardens to be set up and the development of two community orchards in Whyke and Oaklands Park. The Bishops Palace Garden Vegetable plot now runs two open sessions in the winter: a low impact gardening session on a Wednesday morning, and a regular slot every Saturday morning. In the spring/summer a Thursday evening session also runs. Raised beds have been created in the Oaklands Park Community Garden and filled thanks to a team of volunteers from Southern Electric. Planting began last autumn.

As well as providing a host of fresh fruit and vegetables for the project's volunteers, excesses in the summer months were taken to the local food bank and given away to park visitors and guests to the community gardens. The project also provided food for our little critters too, through a wildflower meadow sowing (at Oaklands Park) and seed bomb making at distributing (at Whyke). Educational events, such as two pruning workshops, have also helped provide horticulture education, either free of charge, or at an affordable price to volunteers and community growing supporters.

Thanks to the money provided by WSCC and the Seedbed Trust, Grow Chichester now has its own website and a traditional fruit press has been purchased for autumn fruit pressing.

Whyke Community Orchard

The orchard has 9 Sussex apple and 6 cherry trees, and an edible hedge along one edge. We also have two wildflower areas which flowered late in August. We've made a rain catcher and are composting on site, so the area is largely self-sufficient apart from the use of a petrol mower. The housing association who lease the land to us have fenced all the boundaries, and have asked us to apply for money to put a seat on site.

The fruit trees were given their first pruning earlier this year, and that lead us to also practise pruning at a local school orchard. We aim to return to the school in the summer to prune the plums too. The lease on the land needs to be secured, as it was held by the Community Association which has since disbanded. TC trustees are investigating this.

Edible Verge (New Project)

With the agreement of West Sussex County Council a section of the grass verge close to a bus stop in Donnington has become TC's first edible verge. Planting began in the spring and a sizeable harvest was ready by late summer. The plot is managed by a group of local residents.

Grow Your Own

We had an interesting programme last year but had disappointingly few active participants. With Grow Chichester taking more of people's time and efforts, and some people also belonging to COGS and other groups, we have decided to have a pause to re-evaluate the format of GYO and decide whether it is still viable as a separate group.

Biodiversity and pollinators (New Project)

This group was formed in February after viewing the film 'More Than Honey' which raised concerns about pollination. Members of the group approached the parks and Leisure Department of CDC about mowing and planting regimes which would encourage biodiversity and pollination. Subsequently the group was invited to take over a neglected area at the back of the New Park Centre and create a biodiverse habitat with native plants. The results of this will start to be apparent this year.

FOOD

Food Mapping

We wrote report on our three years of interviewing local food producers, & presented it to councillors and foodies in May 14. We made the report available on the web. Follow up included interviews of local hoteliers who provide meals, by the county council. TC follow up will be to expand the food map into a **Chichester Green Directory**.

Within the remit of the group we are also seeking to encourage pop-up food markets at a time of the day accessible to the working person (evenings?). A future excursion will be to visit the ethical supermarket HisBe in Brighton to see how they function.

Food Outreach (New project)

The Food Outreach project is nearly a year old! In that time, surplus vegetables have been delivered to the Chichester Foodbank twice or three times a week and, most weeks, to Stonepillow's Night Refuge in Hunston. Links with Stonepillow are strong and it's likely that we'll soon be taking surplus to its drop-in Day Centre, in the centre of the city. Surplus has also been distributed to the People's Kitchen hosted by the Whipped and Baked Café in Chichester and, with the help of a TC colleague, to a community outreach project in Bognor.

Huge thanks are due to Debbie and Howard at Veg Out in Sidlesham for their continuing support for the project by supplying it with a wide variety of fresh, organic vegetables each week. Thanks, too, to staff and volunteers at the Food Bank and Stonepillow. Their warm welcomes and enthusiasm for what we do and for possible collaborative work is much appreciated.

ENERGY

Transition Chichester has spawned a new company, Solesco Co-operative Ltd, to pursue the development of community energy projects. Solesco is wholly independent of TC and formally registered with its own constitution (rules), set of directors and finances.

The aim of Solesco is to install and run green, ethical, renewable energy, electric power supply systems within the Chichester and Arun districts. It has been helped by Ovesco and other groups which have successfully implemented similar schemes, notably in Lewes and elsewhere in southern England.

Solesco is currently negotiating a deal with a widely respected Chichester and Bognor based

organisation for a solar powered (PV) system. To finance the deal Solesco will issue shares to the public to cover the cost of the installation and its operation. The organisation will receive clean, green electricity at a lower price than from their existing suppliers; shareholders' investment will be repaid with a handsome interest.

ECONOMICS

The Economics group received funding from WSCC to create the new electronic platform which has been top of their wish-list for some time. The platform is up and running, and will enable Tchi users to enter their own details. It is hoped that this more user-friendly method will lead to increased trade in Tchi's over the next year.

EDUCATION

ECO CINEMA

Films with an environmental theme have been shown monthly throughout the year and have attracted audiences of 40-50 people. The film 'Chasing Ice' was shown as part of the Chichester Festival. For the past year, films have been followed by a discussion and on a couple of occasions, the World Café model has been adopted. The film *Local Food* was followed by presentations from 3 people involved with growing and selling local produce. *2020 Vision* was followed by short presentations from a number of local environmental organisations encouraging people to get involved. The Eco cinema has proved an excellent way of attracting new people to TC.

YOUNG TRANSITION

Events have been held monthly throughout the year on Saturday mornings for primary and pre-school children. These have included bread-making, craft activities, bird watching and a host of outdoor activities such as den-building and pond dipping. TC has also had a stand at events such as Get Active, Oving Scarecrow Festival and Aldingboom, where free eco-activities were provided for children. Number have dwindled recently so we are re-assessing what we provide for the younger generation.

RE-SKILLING

A number of workshops have been held, including bread baking, gardening skills and making natural products to support health and well-being. It would be good to develop these activities in the forthcoming year as there are a lot of talented people in our number.

SEW DON'T THROW

A small nucleus of sewers have been joined by a series of would be stitchers. Last year was particularly successful for attracting teenaged sewers who wanted to repair garments, both for themselves and their family. The SdT group also lent support to a sale of work raising money to buy an acre of rainforest, with lavender and rose stuffed hearts, leaf printed place settings and jewellery kits being made up in little bags for sale. (See pictures on website).

As for the future of the group, we have been told that there is a space in Bosham that would welcome the Sew don't Throw group, with lots of good lighting and large table, and plentiful power sockets.

HEART AND SOUL

The summer painting that we made and now hangs in St Richards Hospital was the highlight perhaps for the small group involved in that. A winter painting was also made in January by four of us though no plans have been made so far to find a home for it.

The two workshops centred around health and well-being, specifically the making of safe, organic chemical free products, from tooth powder and lip balm, to body creams and healing balms from home grown herbs. Also how to use essential oils to enhance the benefits of these, and to support winter wellness for all, and to create a healthy environment in the home.

Input and ideas are welcome from others. We have postponed a workshop on making natural cleaning products for the home.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

GREEN FAIR

The 4th Annual Green Fair was held in the Assembly Room on North Street in October 2014. Over 80 volunteers took part in planning and preparations for the event as well as manning a variety of stands on the day. Thus all Transition Chichester's activities were represented as well as a Transition Chichester Fair Trade café which served tea, coffee, home-made food and cakes, much appreciated by the visitors.

In addition to Transition Chichester many other local organisations were again present. These included several small local traders who enjoy the chance to demonstrate and sell their products such as organic vegetables. Local wildlife, conservation organisations and similar groups also took part.

Over 1000 visitors enjoyed the 2014 Green Fair, its lively atmosphere and the mixture of education and entertainments for young visitors.

SWAP SHOPS

Three Swap Shops were held this year, and attracted between 100 and 200 swappers at each event. IN the coming year Swap Shops will be held quarterly. This is one of our most popular events and plans are afoot to hold Swap Shops in schools and to spread the Swap Shop concept around the city.

GREEN MONDAYS

Since the beginning of February TC volunteers have been manning Whipped and Baked in Guildhall Street on a trial basis. Mark Beardmore has learnt how to operate the coffee machine. Tom Broughton has been holding an energy clinic and the Green Library has been rehoused. If plans work out this will provide the long awaited TC base in town. Our thanks go to Aida and John, proprietors of the café for their generosity in giving us the run of the premises.

OTHER EVENTS

TC has had a stand at numerous local events:

- Oving Scarecrow Festival
 - Taste Festival
 - Graylingwell Garden Party
 - Aldingboom Festival
 - Annual Food Fare
 - Get Active
-

Volunteers have given many hours of their time to support these events. New recruits are always welcome to join the team.

Social events: Supporters meet informally once a month at Green Tea. Other events have been organised throughout the year such as a Family Ceilidh, Newcomers' Evening and a Christmas party

PEOPLE

FACILITATORS

TC has contracted work to several different facilitators during the past year. After her outstanding work in developing the new role of TC project worker, Ellie Garwood moved on in June 2013 to focus on launching the Grow Chichester project. She was replaced by Jo Lodge and Steve Hill as Communications and Volunteer Facilitators respectively. Due to pressure of other commitments, Steve decided to leave TC, and his role in volunteer development has been taken on by Jo. We have also been very fortunate to have Kate Brickell, founder of the successful Petworth Community Garden, to lead the Low-Impact gardening sessions in the Bishop's Palace Garden on Wednesdays.

TC is grateful to the donors who provided funding for paid hours for the facilitators, notably the Roddick Foundation, Chichester District Council and the Seedbed Trust.

VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

Transition Chichester relies on the significant time given freely by volunteers without which the progress made over the last year would not have been possible. The number of subscribers to the mailing list has grown from around 550 in November 2013 to its current total of around 800. TC now offers the option of a weekly or monthly mail-out. Volunteers are recruited through personal contacts, via the website and at events. Volunteers have also been recruited via the website if the VAAC (Voluntary action Arun and Chichester) and through the social network Meet Up.

TC was selected to participate in the Local Giving scheme and receives some funding through regular donations to this scheme. Further donations would be very welcome.