

PERSONAL RECORD RICHARD CLARE

Sheffield Organic Food Initiative is an umbrella title for several connected projects.

I myself have been pursuing the goal of developing local organic food growing for the past 10 years. Initially, I had no background in any aspect of cultivation, but felt that it could help to solve many problems, environmental, social and personal. My first aim was to simply prove that I could produce any food at all by organic methods. I contacted as many sources of advice as possible and commenced reading up on the many aspects relevant to organics, self-sufficiency, permaculture and recycling. I was disappointed to find that there were no courses or training opportunities available in this field either in Sheffield or in the region as a whole. Hence my current knowledge and experience is largely self-taught and through the arduous but highly effective means of learning from my own mistakes. In the last decade several courses have been offered, a degree in broadscale Organic Agriculture at Hallam University and a variety of amenity based NVQ courses through Sheffield College. Neither of these provides either the practical experience nor the range of skills and techniques that I have been able to learn and master simply by my own pragmatic learning.

Having obtained an allotment on the outskirts of Sheffield, the first challenge was to source what seemed the key element, namely organic matter. Since 1988, I have co-ordinated a regular, weekly collection of vegetable waste from my local greengrocer. After experimenting for a couple of years, I settled on a simple method of chopping the material and combining it with animal manure, although I was initially wary of employing any animal products, and had enough success both with composting and vegetable growing to be confident enough to take on further allotments and expand the compost collection. For two years I used an old Volvo estate and then a Sherpa van to collect waste from 6 grocers in the local area, an average of one tonne [1000Kg] per week. At this point I was so committed to the idea of composting that I researched the possibilities for large scale expansion and worked on a business plan. I also compiled a brief report, outlining the potential for composting in Sheffield, which was submitted to the council's recycling officer but never taken any further. Having been unable to gain support for this project either from the local council or other agencies concerned with recycling, I decided that my time could best be dedicated to investigating the full cropping potential in terms of yield, variety and continuity of produce possible within the context of allotment growing. I treated this exercise as an experiment or research project and believe that many of the techniques and methods I have evolved are effective in this specific urban / allotment context. I have also kept records of all activities on a month-by-month basis and maintained plans of all the sites recording crops and cultivation annually.

From this modest base, I proceeded to become involved in other practical projects where I could apply the knowledge I had gained and extend the scope of my activities past the restrictive small scale of a single allotment. I have incrementally increased the number of plots I am primarily responsible for in partnership with a variety of friends and acquaintances; including the design, installation and ongoing maintenance of an allotment specifically for disabled and special needs users in co-operation with disabled care service staff. Since 1991, I have led the Ponderosa Environmental Group, which provided the opportunity to plant an organic community orchard of 30 fruit trees and also to make recommendations for edible landscaping to the council's landscape architects. Since 1994, I have co-ordinated the reclamation and running of a larger [2 acre] kitchen garden and orchard attached to a non-profitmaking conference center at Unstone Grange, near Chesterfield. These activities illustrate the point that there are many opportunities for access to cultivable land if the right expertise and sufficient commitment can be organised.

I have also been an active local campaigner for many aspects organic food-growing. In addition to continuing to lobby the council, I have also appeared several times on local radio and in local papers, promoting composting and organics. I have delivered several lectures and talks to local gardening groups. In 1994, I participated in the HDRA's Open Days scheme and received more than 400 visitors to the allotments. In 1992, I contributed to a video promoting recycling for Sheffield Community Recycling Action Project and in 1996, I helped promote allotments for the council's allotments officer on regional TV. I even stood as an Allotment candidate in local council elections in May 1994 to publicise the complete lack of allotment provision in the inner city area in which I live. Since 1994, I have regularly attended meetings of the local Health Authority's Healthy Gardening Group and have made many contributions including the setting up of a small grants scheme for organic gardening projects in Sheffield. Each year since 1995, I have arranged a display of organic allotment produce for the city farm's autumn produce show and judged their organic produce competition. I regularly advise new allotment holders on how to begin or improve their sites and have been consulted by Sheffield Wildlife Trust, the Earth Centre [at Conisborough] and the British Trust of Conservation Volunteers on allotment and orchard projects for which they have insufficient experience.

I now have a regular pattern of activities both on a weekly basis and seasonally throughout the year. I find that these routines of physical work, such as weekly composting or annual leaf-collection, combined with opportunities to teach others, at Unstone, and through leading an allotmenters group, is most fulfilling. I would estimate that I am active in some aspect of these projects for more than 300 days per year, only limited by bad weather and illness. On average, I am occupied with these activities for more than 40 hours per week, more during the spring and early summer, limited by daylength. In addition to physical outdoor activities, I also manage support services for these projects such as the bulk-buying of organic fertilisers and seeds.

Over the years, I have achieved the transition to commercial-quality produce across a huge variety of crops, which is so vital in convincing people that organic vegetables can equal others in size and appearance as well as being superior in flavour and nutritional-value. In collaboration with various colleagues, we have progressed to quite sophisticated achievements such as the collection of our own seeds [including many heritage varieties], the steady accumulation of over 100 orchard fruit trees and a collection of plants from the Agroforestry Research Trust [fruit and nut-bearing temperate climate species from all around the world]. All these projects have been minimally [insufficiently] funded. They demonstrate that it is possible to achieve a lot within restricted means, supplementing available funds by recycling and low-cost strategies. I can provide rough estimates of the cost of investments and value of outputs, and have many points to make concerning the economics and viability of such projects.

FOOD FUTURES DATABASE / RESPONSES

NAME:

ORGANISATION:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE / FAX / e-MAIL:

BACKGROUND:

INTERESTS:

CAN YOU RECOMMEND ANY OTHER CONTACTS WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FOOD FUTURES?

HOW CAN YOU BE PART OF FOOD FUTURES IN SHEFFIELD?

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE RELEVANT SKILLS / EXPERIENCE / EXPERTISE / RESOURCES

Are you already part of, or would you like to initiate or join in with one of the food futures models ?
GROW YOUR OWN / ALLOTMENTS / COMMUNITY COMPOSTING / L.E.T.S. / CREDIT UNIONS / FOOD CO-OPS / COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE / SUBSCRIPTION FARMING / FARMERS' MARKETS / W.I. MARKETS / LOCAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION AND CONVERSION / BOX SCHEMES / LOCAL FOOD DIRECTORIES / FAIRTRADE / BUY LOCAL

Please explain if you are already involved in a **project** which is relevant or related to Food Futures issues

Would you like to become a **grower / producer**?

Could you help to develop your **local community's capacity** to grow its own food?

Could you explain the project to **your organisation / business / employer**? and find out how it can contribute and co-ordinate its activities with food futures?

Would you like to contribute **land** or other **resources**?

Could you donate or access **funds** for the project?

If you had the **resources** available, what actions and improvements do you think would be most effective in supporting the development of the locally-grown and organic food sector?

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH ANY OTHER RELEVANT MATERIAL TO **FOOD FUTURES**
C/O Rachel Wileman, Sheffield City Council Local Agenda 21 Officer, 2-10 Carbrook Road, Sheffield S9 2DB
OR Richard Clare, Sheffield Organic Food initiative, 41 b Burns Road, Sheffield S6 3GL

Section Two

Please summarise the aims and objectives of your organisation:

Sheffield Organic Food Initiative is currently applying to become a charitable trust, dedicated to 1. the promotion of health and wellbeing and 2. the alleviation of poverty for all people in the region of the City of Sheffield, by 3. developing the capacity of the locally-grown, organic industry and 4. providing educational information and resources designed to improve the provision and practice of organic gardening and food-growing (i.e. sustainable, organic, ecological, biodynamic, biological and permacultural techniques).

The Trust will fulfill these aims and objectives by:- developing relevant information; presenting and distributing information to the public in relevant media and forums (networks / meetings / press / radio / television); participating in processes designed to increase organic food-growing capacity at all levels, from individual-domestic through organised-group-community sector up to and including broadscale-commercial; delivering educational services (training / workshops / advice / consultancy); developing opportunities for relevant training and qualifications; developing infrastructure demonstrating organic practices and techniques; conducting research.

During the winter of 1997-8, members of SOFI compiled a large document, consisting of a combination of innovative practical information and descriptions of the projects and activities they were involved in. Printing and distribution costs for 200 copies was met as a one-off payment by Sheffield Community Enterprise Development Unit. The document also addressed the strategic development of the locally-grown organic sector.

On the evidence of competence and experience demonstrated in this document (on the recommendation of Professor Nick Corker), in July '98, SOFI were invited to a one day seminar organised by the Soil Association at Broomfield College, Derby. The seminar, addressing the Development of the Local Food Economy, was attended by over 50 producers and representatives of local councils, regeneration agencies and local communities. Richard Clare and Darrell Maryon of SOFI delivered a workshop on opportunities for community food-growing. (Supporting material: 1 .SOFI 1998 document recipients and responses. Soil Association Food 2. Food Futures programme profile and correspondence. 3. SOFI community-based activities.)

Please provide a brief outline of your project

DEVELOP AND SUPPORT A FOOD FUTURES PROGRAMME FOR SHEFFIELD

- **Contact and co-ordinate local partners with an interest in locally-grown food**
 - **Liase with Soil Association, prepare for initial visit & presentation**
 - Help organise one-day conference
 - Publicise Food Futures programme in and around Sheffield by articles and presentations
 - Compile network / database of potential contributors
 - Investigate and identify potential sources of additional funding
 - Initiate and participate in processes that contribute positively to the programme
 - Support individuals and community groups committed to food growing
- (Supporting material: 4. Relevant work in progress.)**

Please indicate why you require financial support from SCEDU

Current preparatory work speculative, unpaid, but necessary to secure S.A. commitment. SOFI co-ordinators not yet funded for employment or expenses. Project has potential benefits which correspond with SCEDU's aims: Sheffield area-based, community development, employment and business opportunities.

1. SOFI 1998 document recipients and responses

David Crouch: "Thank you for your excellent submission"

J.S. Byng, Head of Organic Farming Unit, MAFF: "I was impressed by the depth and range of the report and of the activities it describes."

George Monbiot, The Land Is Ours: "The document looks great. Congratulations!"

Joanne Bower, The Farm and Food Society: "This is most impressive and we hope to bring it to the attention of our members in a future edition of Farm and Food News.

"David Middlemas, Community Composting Network Co-ordinator: I'd like to congratulate you on putting together such a vast amount of knowledge and good sense."

3. SOFI COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES.

- ALLOTMENTEERING ON 20+ PLOTS ON 6 SITES IN SHEFFIELD
- UNSTONE GRANGE GARDENS -- VOLUNTEERING / TRAINING / VISITS
--HDRA OPEN DAYS 1&2 / 8 / 98 --OVER 500 VISITORS
- HEELEY HEALTH PROJECT
- PONDEROSA ENVIRONMENT GROUP
- CROOKESMOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE
- COMMUNITY COMPOSTING (PARTNERSHIP WITH BEAN BEANIES WHOLEFOODS)
- RECYC.
- BRAMBLES RESOURCE CENTRE /ADVICE TO PEASANTS COLLECTIVE / TEACHING ON N-E SHEFFIELD PERMACULTURE GROUP COURSE (AL JACK)

SOFI'S TRACK RECORD 10 YEARS PRACTICAL AND CAMPAIGNING EXPERIENCE

EXPERTISE: ATTEND AND ADVISED HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP '94-98 / N.W.I.C.A. E.T.G. (AS P.E.G.) '93-98 / S.C.C. CLEANSING RECYCLING 2000 FORUM / ALLOTMENTS FEDERATION/ INITIATED AND ATTENDING W.A.M.T.E.C. BIODEGRADABLE WASTE STRATEGY FOR S.YORKS.

DEMONSTRATIONS: MANAGE 20 ALLOTMENT SITES IN SHEFF. AS PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTION IN ACTION (INCLUDING HEELEY HEALTH PROJECT AND CROOKES SPECIAL NEEDS PLOT). SUPERVISING RESTORATION OF UNSTONE GRANGE GARDENS (1 ACRE KITCHEN GARDEN + ORCHARD FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT CHARITY U.G.TRUST)

CONSULTATION: DOZENS OF INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS HELP OVER LONG-TERM / H.C.F. COMPOSTING (8.97) / SHEFFIELD WILDLIFE TRUST WOOD LANE (3.98) / NORTHUMBRIAN W.T. COMMUNITY COMPOSTING (6.98)

PROMOTION: PRESS / MEDIA / TV / RADIO: SHEFFIELD STAR / TELEGRAPH / RADIO SHEFF. / CALENDAR TALKS / PRESENTATIONS: LOCAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES / FRIENDS OF THE EARTH etc.

FUNDING RECORD: SMALL ANNUAL GRANTS AND BUDGETS TO PROJECTS ABOVE HELPED SECURE £5K FOR P.E.G. AND £250K FOR N.W.I.C.A. HELPING WITH £90K NATIONAL LOTTERY BID FOR HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP (PENDING)

2. Soil Association Food Futures programme profile and correspondence.

SOIL ASSOCIATION FOOD FUTURES

JUNE '98

INTRODUCTION

What is the future of food production? Is it possible to ensure a local supply of affordable, healthy food that we can trust? How can communities best support their local farmers and growers? How can individuals get involved with working towards developing a sustainable local food economy?

There are no easy answers, but the best starting point is to find out who else is asking similar questions. FOOD FUTURES is based on the notion that if the right people are brought together in a given location for the right length of time, things can really begin to happen.

FOOD FUTURES is a project that focuses on food in local areas. Every community in the country has the ability to grow food sustainably for its own needs. The project will bring the key people together locally to jointly explore and develop appropriate ideas and practical action over a period of 18 months.

WHAT EXACTLY IS FOOD FUTURES?

It is a 3-year national project to develop the local food economy through supporting and creating community based food growing and distribution schemes alongside local networks. We will run 15 individual 18-month FOOD FUTURES programmes in various parts of the UK. Each programme is designed to help find practical solutions and initiate action for developing a sustainable local food and farming economy. Over the three years, the project aims to establish a total of 45 community based food schemes (the definition of which is very broad) throughout the UK.

One of the aims of FOOD FUTURES is to find ways of making locally-produced organic food more accessible to low-income families and to multi-cultural communities. Organic food is often perceived to be a luxury for the white, monied middle-classes and FOOD FUTURES seeks to address this issue by involving local people in deciding for themselves where local food schemes are needed and what kind of schemes they want to create.

Experience shows us that it is not easy starting new local food projects. Yet the solutions are usually straightforward and often tried and tested elsewhere. FOOD FUTURES offers the valuable lessons learnt by the Soil Association and others with guidance, support and technical input throughout the programme as required. The FOOD FUTURES programme will provide a framework within which projects can be developed, linked together and a strong local network can be built up.

There are pre-requisites to success:

1. INVOLVING THE KEY PEOPLE LOCALLY
2. SECURING COMMITMENT TO THE FOOD FUTURES PROGRAMME OVER 18 MONTHS
3. USING AND BUILDING LOCAL EXPERTISE

The 18-month FOOD FUTURES programme is designed to be adapted for a wide range of locations, from rural agricultural communities to urban inner/outer city estates. The underlying principles are of community subsidiarity and empowerment, partnerships and genuine participation where each person is valued for their own particular area of expertise and experience, and to build on what already exists in a complementary, non-competitive way.

FOOD FUTURES will give you the opportunity to:

- Learn where your food comes from: the harsh realities of agribusiness and the food industry.
- Explore practical solutions: how food can be grown and marketed sustainably.
- Find out how your role fits in with the whole and determine the process by which you can make it happen.
- Develop a new culture of collaboration and co-ordination which hopefully will be sustained far beyond FOOD FUTURES.

There will be a local network and effective management team, appropriate local projects underway and substantial expertise and experience being gained. Most importantly, there will be local self-reliance and commitment such that food projects continue to grow and multiply.

SO WHY 18 MONTHS?

A period of 18 months is important because a sustainable local food economy needs time to grow. It is a defined amount of time that funding bodies can get a grip on, that people can commit to, and that is long enough to see practical initiatives take shape. However, it is also a succinct phase of growth: lots of ground preparation is required beforehand (finding the right people, allocating resources, ensuring a political will, developing interest with local organisations and businesses): lots of sideshoots will develop and require attention after the programme is over (expectations will be raised, ongoing strategies will need to be developed, further resources may be required).

The programme is designed to dovetail with and build on what has already been achieved; it begins and ends with celebration; it can be a first phase of local action in areas where little work has been done on developing the local food economy; it can provide a framework for co-ordination and partnership building in areas where several different local food initiatives already exist. Each programme will be as unique as its physical location.

WHO DOES IT INVOLVE?

The FOOD FUTURES programme is designed for a Core Group of 20-30. It is vital to bring together

the right people - the stakeholders and decision-makers, and those with specific experience and expertise locally, both in growing and in community-based projects. Although they may come from different directions and angles, all will be looking at the benefits of local food schemes in their areas of work and interest.

The Core group needs a diverse mix, a representative cross-section of the 'food-eating community', with diverse interests including:

- Local Authority - Local Agenda 21, economic regeneration, community development, anti-poverty, capacity building
- Health Authority - nutrition and exercise, mental health care, health promotion and education
- Voluntary sector and community groups - skills development and training, job creation, local action, diversionary activities, local business support, community participation
- Environmental groups - conservation, waste management, food miles, public awareness-raising, local campaigns
- Farmers and growers - business stability and growth, customer relations, new marketing strategies, links with local communities, education
- City farms, allotment groups - training, education, social events, local action, LETS (local exchange trading schemes), small-scale food production
- Food retailers and distributors, including existing local food links schemes, business stability and growth, local food sources, strong lines of accountability, good quality produce, lower transportation costs
- Local universities / colleges - socio-economic research, opportunities for student placements

It is also important that there is continuity - that the same people stay involved throughout the 18 months. Subject experts can be brought in, and other people will become involved in specific projects through the Action Groups (see below).

How is the 18 month programme structured?

We have developed an 18-month programme, through which we facilitate and support a Core Group, and provide the framework to guide the work overall.

It is this Core Group that leads the development of a sustainable local food economy.

The programme involves 6 Core Group workshops over the 18 months, i.e. one every three months.

We will facilitate these workshops and bring in other expertise as and when required.

The Core Group participants themselves will determine and build their own training programme throughout the FOOD FUTURES process to meet whatever needs arise.

Specific projects will be undertaken by small Action Groups, which will meet between the core group workshops. Hence the Core Group creates the vision and then develops the means to bring the vision into reality, leading and integrating the work of the Action Groups which will run in parallel and feed into each workshop.

In effect the Core Group is an organisation which has a life of 18 months, identifies its mission through a process of creating a shared vision, and then works together to achieve its goals and objectives through small action groups..

A local co-ordinator will be needed, to provide administrative support for the Core Group and disseminate information and organise programme events locally. This role will grow and develop as the FOOD FUTURES progresses.

What will you gain from FOOD FUTURES?

There is an enormous opportunity to develop the local food economy. For instance, there is an insatiable demand for organic food, yet few people are growing it. Many would like to invest in sustainable agriculture, especially local projects, yet there are few opportunities for them to do so.

How can you run a local FOOD FUTURES programme in your area?

The funding from the Lottery allows us to establish a unit that will support the initiatives set up in each area. Since FOOD FUTURES is based on building the capacity of communities to create sustainable local food economies, we will only work in areas where there is a commitment from a consortium of local agencies to do their bit to support local food initiatives. We will look for evidence of that commitment in the following ways:

- Contribution of approximately 20% of programme cost (likely to be a contribution of £10,000.)
- A co-ordinated approach from key agencies including: local authority, health authority and community economic development agencies.
- A local co-ordinator to act as a contact point for local action groups over the 18 months.
- A commitment to ensure that local food initiatives are given the support and backing they need beyond the initial 18 months.

In addition we need to ensure that the 15 FOOD FUTURES programmes address equality of opportunity, Each will need to have significant pockets of social and economic deprivation. There also needs to be a strong multi-cultural element.

LOCAL FOOD LINKS 0117 9142425

SHEFFIELD ORGANIC FOOD INITIATIVE 0114 2686727

4. Relevant work in progress.

FOOD FUTURES SHEFFIELD MEETING

17/12/98

INVITED:

RICHARD CLARE &	
DARRELL MARYON	SHEFFIELD ORGANIC FOOD INITIATIVE
RACHEL WILEMAN	SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL LOCAL AGENDA 21 OFFICER
CAROL STOCKER	SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENT CONSORTIUM
ROGER BUTTERFIELD	SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING
DAVID GRAY	HEELEY CITY FARM / HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP
NIGEL DORE	SHEFFIELD WILDLIFE TRUST
ROSE TANNER	SHEFFIELD ORGANIC GARDENERS
AL JACK	NORTH-EAST SHEFFIELD PERMACULTURE GROUP
ISOBEL WRIGHT	AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY SERVICE

OTHER POTENTIAL PARTNERS / CORE GROUP MEMBERS

COMMUNITY	HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP NETWORK FEDERATION OF ALLOTMENT AND LEISURE GARDENERS STOCKSBRIDGE ENVIRONMENT PROJECT GREEN CITY ACTION NORFOLK PARK F.E.D.S.
RETAILERS	SHEFFIELD MARKETS WHOLEFOODS (BEANIES / LEMBAS / BAMFORD / NUTSHELL etc.)
PRODUCERS	NATIONAL FARMERS UNION (LOCAL BRANCH) NEWHOUSE FARM STUART ALLEN, ORGANIC EARTH, BARNESLEY BRIAN AND JANET HALL, FISHLAKE FINE FOODS, DONCASTER
COUNCIL	AREA PANELS ALLOTMENTS OFFICE / PARKS & OPEN SPACES DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT UNIT
HEALTH	HEALTHY SHEFFIELD PARTNERSHIP HEALTH ACTION ZONES DEPT' OF HUMAN NUTRITION (S. UNIV.)
EDUCATION	SHEFFIELD COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD / SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION BRITISH TRUST FOR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS WHIRLOW HALL FARM
REGENERATION	SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT SINGLE REGENERATION BUDGET EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY)
NETWORKS	SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY RECYCLING ACTION PROGRAMME COMMUNITY COMPOSTING NETWORK COMMUNITY RECYCLING NETWORK (EARTH CENTRE) VOLUNTARY ACTION SHEFFIELD
CAMPAIGN	FRIENDS OF THE EARTH / GREENPEACE / GREENS / VEGAN SOC.
OTHER NATIONAL INITIATIVES	
HDRA GROW YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN	
NATIONAL FOOD ALLIANCE	
SAFE ALLIANCE	
THE LAND IS OURS ALLOTMENTS CAMPAIGN	

APPLICATION TO SCEDU FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING GRANT

1. PROJECT DETAILS

CONTACT Richard Clare 41b Burns Rd Sheffield S6 3GL

BANK ACC: A. & L. 217-159612-80

CHARITY REG. applied for

SUMMARY

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES --

COMMUNITY --under-represented constituency sofi track record

GEOG COMM. --City of Sheffield and surrounds up to 10 km

INTEREST -- Local food growing and distribution

PROPOSAL

DEV'P'T

LOCATION

EMPT -- co-ordinators of community growing projects / trainers on organic and productive cultivation courses

-- market development for local produce suppliers and retailers

SERVICE MEET COMM DEMAND

FUNDING

ACTION PLAN -- secure interest and commitment of core group and

MILESTONES -- STEERING GROUP --FFlist

TRAINING -- NEED --7307 / dtp

--& DELIVERED -- WEA Organic Gardening at HHP & HCF / Community-supported

Organic Horticulture in NWICA / work to develop NVQ Organic Horticulture

OUTPUTS -- organisation: contact and co-ordinate local partners with an interest in FF.

--liaise with s.a. / prepare for initial visit & presentation from s.a. / help organise one-day conference

--publicise FF programme in and around Sheff , by articles and presentations

--compile network / database of potential contributors

--investigate and identify potential sources of additional funding

-- initiate and participate in processes that contribute positively to the programme

--support to individuals and community groups committed to food growing

develop

JOBS -- 0.5 x 1 yr (part-time) from scedu + 1 full-time x 18 months when s.a. bid secured

possible working partnerships with HGG / HCF foodlinks /

FUNDING PROFILE

PLANNED EXPENDITURE + MATCH-F + IN KIND

1. wages --4000 / phone --300 / computer -- 200 / copying -- 200 / --mail --100

2. Soil association (national lottery) --20000

council / health authority / srb / erdf --10000+

match-funding --professional / consultancy in kind --5000

SUPPORTING MATERIAL / EVIDENCE

FF 17/12

WAMTEC

SOFIDOC DIRECTORY AND RESPONSES

SOFI ACTIVITIES 98

EXISTING CONTACTS / WORKING RELATIONSHIPS / TRACK RECORD / REFEREES / PARTNERS

- SOFI DOCUMENT1998 (FUNDED BY SCEDU) RECIPIENTS AND RESPONSES
- REGISTERED AT SHEFFIELD INFORMATION SERVICES / ENTRY IN E.A.S.Y. DIRECTORY
- ALLOTMENTEERING ON 20+ PLOTS ON 6 SITES IN SHEFFIELD
- UNSTONE GRANGE GARDENS VOLUNTEERING / TRAINING / VISITS / OPEN DAY
- HEELEY HEALTH PROJECT
- PONDEROSA ENVIRONMENT GROUP
- CROOKESMOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE

- BEAN BEANIES WHOLEFOODS
- RECYC.
- BRAMBLES RESOURCE CENTRE /ADVICE TO PEASANTS COLLECTIVE / TEACHING ON N-E
SHEFFIELD PERMACULTURE GROUP COURSE (AL JACK)

1.11.98

PROPOSAL TO SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT. FROM RICHARD CLARE AND DARRELL MARYON OF SHEFFIELD ORGANIC FOOD INITIATIVE

PREPARATION WORK TO SET UP A FOOD FUTURES PROJECT FOR SHEFFIELD [INCLUDING SOUTH YORKSHIRE AND NORTH-EAST DERBYSHIRE] AS OUTLINED IN THE DRAFT DESCRIPTION ATTACHED.

DEVELOPING THE LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY

RESEARCH / NETWORKING / PLANNING / STRATEGY / CONSENSUS-BUILDING / SCOPING

PARTNERSHIP, CO-OPERATION AND COLLABORATION WITH SCEDU

1. MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE / ADVICE / CONTACTS
2. SHORT-TERM EMPLOYMENT FOR R.CLARE / PART-TIME FOR D. MARYON
3. HELP WITH ADMINISTRATION COSTS [TELEPHONE / POST / INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY / PUBLICITY / MEETINGS]

AIMS / TARGETS:-

*PREPARE AND SECURE A BID TO RUN S.A. FOOD FUTURES PROJECT IN THIS AREA

*PROFILE THE SHEFFIELD REGION (UP TO 10 MILE RADIUS AROUND THE CITY) ASSESSING EXISTING ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND FUTURE POTENTIAL.

*HELP CO-ORDINATE AND ADVISE ON CURRENT INITIATIVES WITH AN ORGANIC COMPONENT
e.g. HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP LOTTERY BID / FARMERS' MARKETS BID / NEW DEAL COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME / S.T.E.P. ANAEROBIC DIGESTER RESEARCH / WAMTEC. & RECYCLING 2000 ORGANIC MATTER AUDIT etc.

*ACT AS LOCAL CONTACT FOR NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS
e.g. HDRA'S GROW YOUR OWN / THE LAND IS OURS ALLOTMENTS / WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S URBAN FOOD AND NUTRITION ACTION PLAN

*EXPLAIN RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES FROM INDIVIDUAL THROUGH COMMUNITY TO COMMERCIAL

SOFI'S TRACK RECORD 10 YEARS PRACTICAL AND CAMPAIGNING EXPERIENCE

EXPERTISE:

ATTEND AND ADVISED HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP

N.W.I.C.A. E.T.G. (AS P.E.G.)

S.C.C. CLEANSING RECYCLING 2000 FORUM

ALLOTMENTS FEDERATION

DEMONSTRATIONS:

MANAGE 20 ALLOTMENT SITES IN SHEFF. AS PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTION IN ACTION (INCLUDING HEELEY HEALTH PROJECT AND CROOKES SPECIAL NEEDS PLOT)

SUPERVISING RESTORATION OF UNSTONE GRANGE GARDENS (1 ACRE KITCHEN GARDEN + ORCHARD FOR NOT FOR PROFIT CHARITY U.G.TRUST)

CONSULTATION:

DOZENS OF INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS HELP OVER LONG-TERM

H.C.F. COMPOSTING (8.97)

SHEFF. WILDLIFE TRUST WOOD LANE (3.98)

NORTHUMBRIAN W.T. COMMUNITY COMPOSTING (6.98)

PRESS / MEDIA / TV / RADIO: SHEFFIELD STAR / TELEGRAPH / RADIO SHEFF. / CALENDAR

TALKS / PRESENTATIONS: LOCAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES / FRIENDS OF THE EARTH etc.

FUNDING RECORD: SMALL ANNUAL GRANTS AND BUDGETS TO PROJECTS ABOVE / £5K P.E.G. /

£250K N.W.I.C.A. / 90K NAT. LOTTERY BID Healthy Gardening Group (pending)

SECTION 3. OUTPUTS

CREATED JOBS

One part-time work + one half-time post for 12 months

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Support 3: Community-supported Organic Horticulture in NWICA
Heeley Health Project Allotment
Unstone Grange Organic Gardens

TRAINING

Two places on City and Guilds Training for Trainers course (C & G -7307)

CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES

Develop feasibility study for Food Futures in Sheffield within first three months of project

OUTPUTS ACHIEVABLE WHEN FOOD FUTURES BEGINS

SOURCES OF MATCHED FUNDING (OVER 18 MONTHS)

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Soil Association National Lottery (secured) | £ 20,000 |
| 2. Local contribution (Council / Health Authority / SRB / ERDF / ESF) | £ 10,000 |

CREATED JOBS

One full-time post for 18 months, dedicated Food Futures Development worker.

CREATION OF COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES, SECONDMENTS OR PLACEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF DISUSED LAND are all potential outputs as Food Futures develops.

SECTION FOUR: FUNDING PROFILE

1. EMPLOYMENT:	WAGES (SCEDU)	12 mth	£ 4120
2. OTHER:	NEW DEAL EMPLOYER SUBSIDY (TO SOFI TRUST)	6 mth	£ 1300
3. ADMINISTRATION COSTS:	SCEDU	12 mth	£ 880
4. OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS / MATCHED FUNDING			
	SOIL ASSOCIATION	18 mth	£ 20000
	CITY COUNCIL / HEALTH AUTHORITY / SRB / ERDF	18 mth	£ 10000
5. CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND		18 mth	£ 5000

Notes:

1. EMPLOY DARRELL MARYON AS PART-TIME WORKER:
AVERAGE 3 HOURS per week = £ 250 per quarter = £ 1000 per annum

EMPLOY RICHARD CLARE AS PART-TIME WORKER:
10 HOURS per week @ £ 6 per hour = £ 60 p. w. = £ 780 p.q. = £ 3120 p.a.

2. SOFI has already secured funds to employ Richard Clare for 10 hours per week to run a Community-supported Organic Horticulture course in NWICA throughout 1999. Because Richard has been unemployed for more than 2 years, SOFI Trust would qualify for the New Deal employer's subsidy, at the 16+ hours rate, for the first six months of Mr Clare's employment.

SOFI TRUST WOULD RECEIVE £ 50 per week x 26 weeks = £ 1300

3.	2 TELEPHONES	£ 200
	PHOTOCOPYING	£ 200
	POSTAGE	£ 100
	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	£ 100
	TRAVEL	£ 200
	CHILDCARE	£ 180
	TOTAL	<u>£ 980</u>

4. If SOFI is successful in securing a Food Futures programme for Sheffield, the Soil Association will contribute £ 20,000 of National Lottery money, if that can be matched to a contribution of £ 10,000 from local sources.

5. Estimated value of the contributions of time attending meetings, professional advice and volunteer time up to the end of the Food Futures programme.

Timing the time is ripe for building consensus around the issue of local food
Convert trends of public opinion / support for the idea into practical realities

Process / forum (>structure)

complimentary to geographical area-based projects
needs to be as inclusive as possible
practical / people-based / activity-based
support people who are trying to do this anyway
resources to match time dedication

Profile prioritise subject which addresses wide range of issues
reach and engage breadth of support for l. & o. Food
reflect, encourage and support individuals' and communities' ambitions
practitioners often isolated / beleaguered / un(der)-represented minority
lack / absence of existing support / infrastructure

Agenda

list of the elements / strands / models
potential action groups

Benefits / outputs

individual skills / self-respect / empowerment
community development / local food economy
preventative health diet / nutrition / exercise / lifestyle
therapeutic health

In sheffield:

potential
area of urban greenspace
existing already
revive / restore historical precedents -- neglected / abandoned facilities

Social, community-building functions benefits of l.& of. Projects
mechanisms to channel regeneration funding into environmentally- sustainable
redistribution of opportunity to access local food & resources needed to produce
social investment

Realistic about what can be achieved and over what time scale

accept limited range and volume of produce, but understand value to individuals
scales of production -- meaningful to individual = insignificant in economic /
market quantity

very different from gardening (ornamental / non-productive)
difficult for non-practitioners to understand / grasp value / significance

Need to support existing and planned local food-growing initiatives

Representation / networking / database / mapping / initiating contacts / campaigning

Organic common-sense (rare) / good practice

relative > absolute / as o. As possible /
diet -- some proportion = nutritional benefit
existing farming practice largely organic / achievable aim
most appropriate for small-scale / domestic
safer / more likely to be successful in long run

luxury? Or basic necessity?

financially-deprived have time to grow own given resources /

well-off = time-deprived

actual value of food > subsidised.

try to grow yourself and realise o. Cheap / good value

Sofi 10 years' experience and practice offer advice / consultation

S.a. bring credibility / expertise / authority

Other national organisations hdra / nfa / nfcf /

FOOD FUTURES SHEFFIELD

RICHARD CLARE &
DARRELL MARYON

RACHEL WILEMAN
CAROL STOCKER
ROGER BUTTERFIELD

DAVID GRAY
NIGEL DORE

ROSE TANNER
AL JACK

ISOBEL WRIGHT

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL LOCAL AGENDA 21 OFFICER

SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENT CONSORTIUM

SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING

HEELEY CITY FARM / HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP

SHEFFIELD WILDLIFE TRUST

SHEFFIELD ORGANIC GARDENERS

NORTH-EAST SHEFFIELD PERMACULTURE GROUP

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY SERVICE

POTENTIAL PARTNERS / CORE GROUP MEMBERS

COMMUNITY

H.G.G. NETWORK

FEDERATION OF ALLOTMENT AND LEISURE GARDENERS

STOCKSBRIDGE ENVIRONMENT PROJECT

GREEN CITY ACTION

NORFOLK PARK F.E.D.S.

HEELEY CITY FARM

HEELEY HEALTH PROJECT

PONDEROSA ENVIRONMENT GROUP

NORTH-EAST SHEFFIELD PERMACULTURE GROUP

UNSTONE GRANGE ORGANIC GARDENS

RETAILERS

SHEFFIELD MARKETS

PRODUCERS

WHOLEFOODS (BEANIES / LEMBAS / BAMFORD / NUTSHELL etc.)

SHEFFIELD ORGANIC FOOD INITIATIVE

SHEFFIELD ORGANIC GARDENERS

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION (LOCAL BRANCH)

NEWHOUSE FARM

STUART

COUNCIL

DONCASTER

AREA PANELS

RECYCLING OFFICER

ANTI-POVERTY UNIT

CITY ECOLOGIST

ALLOTMENTS OFFICE / PARKS & OPEN SPACES

DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT UNIT

HEALTH

HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP

HEALTHY SHEFFIELD PARTNERSHIP

COMPLIMENTARY HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

EDUCATION

SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING

SHEFFIELD WILDLIFE TRUST

YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

SHEFFIELD COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD / SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY

WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

BRITISH TRUST FOR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

WHIRLOW HALL FARM

REGENERATION

SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

SINGLE REGENERATION BUDGET

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

(REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY)

NETWORKS

SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENT CONSORTIUM

COMMUNITY COMPOSTING NETWORK

COMMUNITY RECYCLING NETWORK (EARTH CENTRE)

SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY RECYCLING ACTION PROGRAMME

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (S. UNIV.)

VOLUNTARY ACTION SHEFFIELD

CAMPAIGNS

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH / GREENPEACE / GREENS / VEGAN SOC.

FOOD FUTURES WORKSHOPS

Joint Finance would be used to fund a series of one-day workshops, one element of a larger project, the Soil Association's Food Futures Programme.

Food Futures is a 3-year national project to develop the local food economy through supporting and creating community-based food growing and distribution schemes alongside local networks. The Soil Association will run 15 individual 18-month programmes in various parts of the UK. Each programme is designed to help find practical solutions and initiate action for developing a sustainable local food and farming culture and economy. A series of at least six workshops will provide a focus for attracting participants from all sectors, leading to the formation of a core group and action groups to address specific topics. The expertise and experience of the Soil Association will be available to support local participants.

The programme is designed to be adapted for a wide range of locations, from rural agricultural communities to urban inner/outer city estates. The underlying principles are of community subsidiarity and empowerment, partnerships and genuine participation where each person is valued for their own particular area of understanding and to build on what already exists in a complementary, non-competitive way.

This project sets a broad and inclusive agenda, addressing issues which are of concern across all sectors. The proposed process would provide a mechanism for raising the profile of the local food-growing community, which is presently under-represented and under-valued. It aims to build up the confidence of producers and potential producers and engage wider support. It will provide a forum capable of forming a consensus between consumers, individuals, communities, authorities and producers in response to widespread and increasing demand for sustainably-produced, locally-grown food.

One of the aims of Food Futures is to find ways of making locally-produced organic food more accessible to low-income families and to multi-cultural communities. Organic food is often perceived to be a luxury for the white, monied middle-classes and Food Futures seeks to address this issue by involving local people in deciding for themselves where local food schemes are needed and what kind of schemes they want to create.

Experience shows that it is not easy starting new local food projects. Yet the solutions are usually straightforward and often tried and tested elsewhere. Food Futures offers the valuable lessons learnt by the Soil Association and others with guidance, support and technical input throughout the programme as required. The Food Futures programme will provide a framework within which projects can be developed, linked together and a strong local network can be built.

We are aware of several locally-based and sector-specific projects which are at the planning and implementation stage in Sheffield. These include the Healthy Gardening group's £ 90,000 bid to the Lottery to fund a city-wide network of support workers for community-scale gardening projects, Heeley City Farm's £ 30,000 bid to the Environmental Action Fund for a Local Food Links development worker and a £ 100,000 bid by Sheffield Health for research into Food Poverty. Many other projects with food-growing components are planned across Sheffield in the near future as part of the ongoing regeneration process and initiatives such as the Health Action Zones. We consider that Food Futures would contribute positively to all these initiatives and help optimise their effectiveness.

SCOPE:

- Develop the local food culture and economy
- Stimulate production to meet the demand for organic and locally-grown food
- Improve interaction between urban and rural communities
- Promote the social benefits of food-related activities in community capacity-building and regeneration

PROCESS:

- Establish a forum to engage current and potential contributors to and beneficiaries of the local food sector
- Core group and local development worker to co-ordinate local network
- Action groups to focus on specific areas of interest
- Training workshops to provide national organisation's expertise to local representatives

OUTPUTS:

- Establish at least 3 sustainable local food initiatives.
- Improve inter-agency co-operation and collaboration.
- Increase access to local and organically-grown food for people on low incomes and in multi-cultural communities.
- Establish relevant training and education opportunities.
- Develop and support projects which contribute positively to the local food sector.

The **workshops** will produce several positive outcomes. They will provide an opportunity to network and develop contacts amongst the local food-growing community. They will act as a means of distributing useful information, including funding opportunities. They will help people to access general advice and detailed consultation to help develop local food projects.

The **programme** aims to improve direct access to local food and food-growing opportunities. This will generate several benefits relevant to health. Positive improvements to general health and wellbeing, through increased exercise and outdoor activity. Increased component of fresh, seasonal vegetables, herbs, fruits and nuts in diet. Improved nutrition related to increasing consumption of organic produce, containing higher levels of vitamins, trace elements and nutrients than in chemically-grown and processed foods.

Milestones developing from the programme as a whole would include the setting up of the following local food initiatives:

Grow Your Own / Community Composting / L.E.T.S. / Credit Unions / Food Co-ops / Community-Supported Agriculture / Subscription Farming / Farmers' Markets / W.I. Markets / Local Organic Certification and Conversion / Local Food Directories / Buy Local Campaign / Fair-trade

We have successfully applied for £ 5,000 to fund initial development work from Sheffield Community Enterprise Development Unit. We are applying to Sheffield Training and Enterprise Council to fund the Soil Association's extra costs, £ 10,000 . We hope to combine these contributions with the Soil Association's expenditure, £ 17,000 to secure match-funding from the city-wide round of S.R.B. to meet the costs of a local development worker and administrative expenses.

We would anticipate that further applications for funding specific initiatives arising out of the activities of the action groups is likely over the lifetime of the project.

Food Futures will engage and work co-operatively with all communities, acknowledging the value of every food culture. The central theme of the project, local food, is a subject which can appeal equally to all communities. We will try to ensure that black and ethnic minorities are represented by involving an inclusive social cross-section in the Core group. The proposed budget for the conferences includes a figure for translating publicity into other languages.

Food Futures will specifically promote the interests of a range of deprived, socially-excluded and often isolated communities. It will aim to raise the profile of the local food-producing sector which is currently under-represented and under-resourced. We hope to investigate mechanisms to make resources and opportunities available to help these groups and individuals.

At workshops, childcare facilities will be provided.

We anticipate that projects aided by Food Futures will create new opportunities to join in with food-growing activities for those such as carers who find it difficult to achieve as much on their own.

Local Authority - Local Agenda 21, Economic Regeneration, Community Development, Anti-Poverty, Capacity Building

Health - Nutrition and Exercise, Mental Health Care, Health Promotion and Education
Voluntary Sector And Community Groups - Skills Development and Training,

Job Creation, Local Action, Diversionary Activities, Local Business Support,
Environmental Groups - Conservation, Waste Management, Food Miles, Campaigns

Farmers and Growers - Business Stability and Growth, Customer Relations,
New Marketing Strategies, Links with Local Communities, Education

City Farms, Allotment Groups - Training, Education, Social Events, Small Producers

Food Retailers and Distributors, existing Local Food Links Schemes, Business Stability
and Growth, Local Food Sources, Lower Transportation Costs

Local Universities / Colleges - Socio-economic Research, Opportunities for Placements

National organisations -- National Food Alliance, Henry Doubleday Research Assoc.

Ongoing project evaluation will be a responsibility of the Core group.

The proceedings of the workshops will be recorded. Positive outcomes of the process will be publicised through a newsletter.

Within the next 3 - 6 months, we hope to:

1. Secure contribution to S.A.'s costs (£ 10,000 over 18 months) and
2. Secure commitment of Soil Association
3. Approach S.R.B. to gain match-funding for local development worker
4. Proceed to organise workshops, core and action groups

Project finance will be managed by the Healthy Gardening Group in co-operation with other sponsoring organisations, S.O.F.I. and Food Futures once it is legally constituted. The sponsoring organisations will handle the details of day-to-day spending.

Support work for the project is currently provided on a part-time basis by Sheffield Organic Food Initiative Trust, supplemented by secondments of worker time from the Council (Rachel Wileman, L.A. 21 Co-ordinator) and Sheffield Health (Jo Ly, H.G.G. support worker) and volunteers (Rose Tanner). We anticipate that this team will be sufficient to organise the workshops. We hope that this will be supplemented by other committed core group members and partnerships with other organisations. We plan to appoint a dedicated local development worker as soon as practicable.

There is a specific requirement of the Food Futures project, under National Lottery criteria, to target deprived and minority communities. This commitment includes favourable consideration of employment opportunities for economically-deprived and unemployed people.

NOTE:--

The Healthy Gardening Group is currently in the process of adopting a constitution and setting up a management committee, in preparation for implementing its bid to the National Lottery. The Group has existed as a partnership between voluntary and statutory sectors since 1994. In 1997, the Group funded research into community gardening and compiled a directory of individuals and projects. Over the past three

years, the Group has administered five rounds of small grants to community gardening projects, GROW grants, funded by Sheffield Health.

**SHEFFIELD ORGANIC FOOD INITIATIVE FOR SOIL ASSOCIATION'S FOOD FUTURES PROJECT
EXISTING CONTACTS / WORKING RELATIONSHIPS / TRACK RECORD / REFEREES / PARTNERS
SOFI**

- SOFI DOCUMENT 1998 (FUNDED BY SCEDU) RECIPIENTS AND RESPONSES
- REGISTERED AT SHEFFIELD INFORMATION SERVICES / ENTRY IN E.A.S.Y. DIRECTORY
- ALLOTMENTEERING ON 20+ PLOTS ON 6 SITES IN SHEFFIELD (W.E.A.)
- UNSTONE GRANGE GARDENS VOLUNTEERING / TRAINING / VISITS / OPEN DAY
- HEELEY HEALTH PROJECT
- PONDEROSA ENVIRONMENT GROUP
- CROOKESMOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE
- BEAN BEANIES WHOLEFOODS MATTHEW WEST / JAN SYMMINGTON
- RECYC. BARRY NEW / GREEN PARTY
- BRAMBLES RESOURCE CENTRE / N-E SHEFFIELD PERMACULTURE GROUP AL JACK

ESTABLISHED NETWORK / CONNECTIONS / LINKS

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

ALLOTMENTS OFFICER	JOHN MARTIN
RECYCLING OFFICER	LOUISE PELLET
LA 21 OFFICER	STEVE BYERS
ANTI-POVERTY UNIT	VALERIE COTTER
CITY ECOLOGIST	JEAN GLASSCOCK

NORTH-EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL L.A. 21 OFFICER JULIAN BRANDRAM

HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP HEALTHY SHEFFIELD PARTNERSHIP

LOTTERY BID (90K) CO-ORDINATOR + SESSIONAL WORKERS
GROW GRANTS / DIRECTORY / NEWSLETTER

HEELEY CITY FARM DAVID GREY
COMMUNITY COMPOSTING NETWORK DAVID MIDDLEMASS

SHEFFIELD WILDLIFE TRUST ROB STONEMAN
NWICA GORDON SCAIFE / MIM KNIGHT
FUTURES FUND WENDY HUGHES
YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST CATHERINE KIBBLER

SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING ROGER BUTTERFIELD

SHEFFIELD ORGANIC GARDENERS LYNN ROWLEY / MARTIN BAXTER
HDRA MEMBERS 10 YEARS / OPEN DAYS '94/98 / HERITAGE SEED PROGRAMME

COMPLIMENTARY HEALTH PRACTITIONERS ABBEYDALE

CASE FOR SHEFFIELD

DEPRIVATION EUROPEAN CATEGORY ONE STATUS (DEC '98)
LACK OF PRODUCERS / UNDERUSED CAPACITY (e.g. ALLOTMENTS)

POST-INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY

CONTAMINATED LAND

'CITY OF SPORT'

POTENTIAL e.g. 3600 HECTARES OF GREENSPACE WITHIN CITY BOUNDARY

NEED SOIL ASSOCIATION'S AUTHORITY / REPUTATION TO BACK UP MESSAGE

HELP / ADVICE AVAILABLE?

LOCAL VERSION OF / CONTACT FOR NATIONAL BODIES

LINKS WITH RELATED INITIATIVES W.H.O. / HDRA / CAMPAIGNS & NETWORKS (e.g. TLIO)

CERTIFICATION LOCAL

DISTRIBUTION BOX SCHEMES

CONTACTS LISTS

1. LOCALLY GROWN ORGANIC FOOD PETITION

@ UNSTONE H.D.R.A. OPEN DAYS 1/2.8.98

JENNY HENRY	3 BRIARDENE CLOSE LINACRE WOODS CHESTERFIELD	S40 4XX
MR.J FLANAGAN	12 CORONATION RD STOCKSBRIDGE	S36 1AX
JEAN WALKER	124 HADFIELD ST WALKLEY	S6 3RS
C. OJARI	58 BIRKENDALE	S6 3NJ
JEAN PARKIN	65 LINGFOOT AVENUE	S8 8DE
TIM PARKIN	40 TOTLEY BROOK RD	S17 3QS
POLLY BENTLEY	35 HOLYMOOR RD HOLYMOORSIDE CHESTERFIELD	S42 7EB
MRS B. TANNER	10 THE CRESCENT HOLYMOORSIDE CHESTERFIELD	S42 7EE
M. PARRY	9 HOLYMOOR RD CHESTERFIELD	
M RICHARDS	242 SHEFFIELD RD KILLAMARSH	
PATRICK RALPH	26 RHODESIA RD CHESTERFIELD	
MARCUS SCOTT	75 ROCK ST	S3 9JB
J & D PRICE	23 EDGEHILL RD	S7 1SP
G. & D. WILKIE	MONEGA GRISEDALE DR GREAT LONGSTONE DERBYS.	
PAUL BENTLEY	87 LANGDON ST.	S11 8BH
DR. GWYNN-JONES	(01142345300)	
BARRY MILLER	15 MOORPARK AVE WALTON CHESTERFIELD	(01246 294212)
SALLY LANG	178 STANNINGTON VIEW RD (0114 268306)	S10 1ST
IAN SEYMOUR	16 CARSINGTON RD (0114 2686027)	S11 7AS
JANET LOWE	24 WARMINSTER CRES (0114 2553532)	S8 9NW
JEAN BAMFORD	24 WHEATCROFT CLOSE WINGERWORTH	S42 6PE
ROS PARKYN	83 DERBY RD CHESTERFIELD	S40 2EP
R.M. HALL	BARRACK RD APPERKNOWLE DRONFIELD	S18 4AU
KEITH HAVENHAND	15 CHEADLE ST HILLSBOROUGH SHEFFIELD	
ANNE GRIFFITHS	70 LEES HALL AVENUE	S8 9JF
JO ASHLEY	14 HOLMESDALE RD DRONFIELD	S18 2FB
BRUCE NICHOLSON	2 DOWNING RD	S8 7SH
LESLEY & MIKE MATTHEWS	43 COBDEN RD CHESTERFIELD	
CLAIRE SMYTH	63 PINNER RD SHEFFIELD	
LYNN ROWLEY	690 GLEADLESS RD (0114 2655284)	S14
MIKE & LESLEY MATTHEWS	43 COBDEN RD CHESTERFIELD	S40 4TD
ANNETTE PETCH	27 COBNAR RD	S8 8QA
LINDA MARSHALL	46 ALBERT RD (0114 2507240)	S8 9QW
LANCE OLDHAM	110 GREEN LANE DRONFIELD	
DAVE HULLEY	18 CHESTER HOUSE CHESTER ST CHESTERFIELD	(01246 275999)
K.H.&P.C. JACKSON	202HIGHFIELD LANE CHESTERFIELD	(01246 275941)
M. JOHNSON & L. McLAUGHLIN	44 WHITEHOUSE RD WALKLEY	S6 2WB
IRIS STEWART	4 DEBEN CLOSE WALTON CHESTERFIELD	
E. ROBINSON	12 SMITHFIELD AVE CHESTERFIELD	
JANE SWANN	WALTON CHESTERFIELD	
FIONA FIRTH	48 CHESTERFIELD RD ECKINGTON	S21 4BD
SUE & DAVE BARRASS	11 MEETINGHOUSE LANE WOODHOUSE	S13 7PJ
JUNE BURKE	19 QUEEN ST MOSBOROUGH	S20 5BP
JACK CHURCHILL	56 BROCKWELL LANE CHESTERFIELD	S40 4EE
RICHARD TORR	234 WARMINSTER RD (0114 2552425)	
MEG ENGLISH	12 STEVEN CLOSE SHEFFIELD	(0114 2459716)
CARRIE LEYLAND	113 WALKLEY CRESCENT RD SHEFFIELD	
SUZANNE & MARTIN HANNAY	177 SPITAL LANE SHEFFIELD	
ANNE GREENGRASS	136 STANNINGTON VIEW RD CROOKES	S10
JANE WODIN	461 SPRINGVALE RD SHEFFIELD	S10 1LQ
NIKKY WILSON	31 STORRS HALL RD	S6 5AW
JOE CLEARY	28 SPOTSWOOD CLOSE (0114 2207498)	S14 1LF
REBECCA HIGMAN (FoE)	220 MANSFIELD RD INTAKE (1004 2651453)	S12 2AR

**2. INDIVIDUALS FROM SOIL ASSOCIATION PETITION AT BEANIES 10.98
'GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR ORGANIC FARMING'**

N. KISDON	47 WESTBOURNE RD	S102QT
ZOE BROWNLIE	35 WITHENS AVE	S6 1WE
G.R.PICKUP	SUNDRUM CHATSWORTH PARK ROAD	S12 2UF
B.H. FREESTON	35 HARCOURT ROAD	S10 1DH
P. McCORMICK	4 MEADWAY DRIVE	S17 3ED
E. LAMERTON	111A HARCOURT RD	S10 1DH
LUCY NORGATE	111 HARCOURT RD	S10 1DH
D. PAVEY	42 SALISBURY RD CROOKES	S10 1WB
J.ALEXANDER	701A ABBEYDALE RD	S7 2BE
J. RUSSELL	46 GRENNHOW ST	S6 3TP
IAN HARMAN	107 SUMMER ST	S3 7NS
J. ALLAKER	6 RANGELEY RD	
ANDY FAIRBAIRN	70 BURGOYNE RD	S6 3QB
BILL BEVAN	35 FULTON RD WALKLEY	S6 3JL
T BYROM	2 COOMBE RD	S10
S. RICHARDS	38 SPRING HILL	S10
JONATHAN COOK	79 ROBIN LANE	S20 1BB
D. MAGREX	86 SYDNEY RD	
N. FREEMAN	12 LONGFIELD RD	S10 1QX
JAN SYMMINGTON	43 RODNEY HILL	S6 6SG
A. BABER	39 MELROSE RD	
E.W.PARKER	1 RAVEN RD	S7 1SB
CLARE JEFFRIES	78 CROMWELL ST	
J. PATE	264 BEAVERHILL RD	S13 9QB
D. GORRINGE	93 MAIN ST ANSTON	S25
AL CHURCHER	49 ROCHESTER DR	S10 4JP
S J COOKE	32 PARSONAGE CRES WALKLEY	S6
E.S. POOLE	4 STACES LANE LOXLEY	
STEVE MARSHALL	334 CLAYWOOD DRIVE	S2 2TX
S. VARMA	91 MULEHOUSE RD	S10 1TB
T. NORTH	37 BLAKE ST	S6 3JQ
P. LEMAN / A. DAIRN	4 RESERVOIR RD	S10 1EY
V. RICHARDS	51 ASHLEY LANE KILLAMARSH	S21 1AB
J.M. FRY	242 SHEFFIELD RD KILLAMARSH	S21 1ED
SUE ANDREWS	38 WESTBOURNE RD	S10
H. FAIRHEAD	55 MATLOCK RD WALKLEY	

Richard Clare
Sheffield Organic Food Initiative
41 b Burns Road
Sheffield S6 3GL

2nd February 1999

Dear Joy, Jade and Paul,

In response to Jade's call Tuesday p.m. Station to venue time less than ten minutes: Walk to Old Town Hall as before, but head right across new paving to Orchard Square, between Dixons and Virgin. Go straight through and out of Orchard Square, then cross the road with tram tracks, Quaker Meeting House down side road.

As a closing on the day, we'd like to announce the date of a follow up meeting on March 2nd at 3 p.m. at the Old Town Hall. Flipchart, O.H.P. and video are okay. Tables and display boards ok.

For the morning, we plan to give each speaker five minutes followed by ten on questions and discussion on the topic that they've introduced: Rachel -- sustainability / Sue -- diet & health / David -- overview & city farms / Isobel -- agriculture & conversion / Richard & Darrell -- community food, allotments. Time after speakers will be for general discussion. We want to use the morning to help everyone who attends get to know each other and start to see each others' perspectives of the local food issue.

The venue booked is for 50-100 people, if we get more, we can squeeze in anything up to 200 (!?) and still be okay with fire and insurance. Realistically, we've distributed about 100 invites and had about 30 confirmations by phone. We think we've anticipated most of the logistics for the event: catering, signing in, name-labels, displays, running order, welcome, introductions and announcements.

I enclose copies of: Contacts list of everyone invited and the database response form : Application to Sheffield Health / City Council Joint Finance to cover the cost of the workshops, for which the deadline was Monday 1st Feb : and the letter we've sent to the T.E.C. asking for their assistance, which had all the documentation listed attached to it. We hope someone from the T.E.C. can attend the conference and grasp the potential of Food Futures. I tried to customise the project for each receiver, stressing health benefits to the Joint Finance and the training and economic potential to the T.E.C.

However, we have found the contribution of £ 10,000 the most difficult part of the project to convince people that this represents value for money. It feels like we are fund-raising for the Soil Association, which is okay by me, but not everyone is convinced. I think we will need a more detailed breakdown of S.A. expenditure to re-assure partners and fund-donors that this will be good value for money for Sheffield. Rachel suggested this could take the form of a service agreement, listing more precisely what the S.A. will deliver over the 18 months. As it stands, many people have commented that all the contribution is buying six workshops (which Sheffield is paying for anyway). You need to mention all the support services which will be accessible and convince partners and funders that this will contribute positively to the whole range of sectors involved. I hope you understand this as a constructive suggestion which may help in future negotiations with other areas.

Subsequent to my conversation with Paul last week, I also enclose a copy of a letter confirming that SOFI Trust has already raised funds specifically for Food Futures. We have made a commitment to develop and support the project for throughout 1999. Also, Rachel has said that she will be able to dedicate some of her time and the Council's resources when the project is confirmed.

Presuming that all goes well at the conference and the financial arrangements are satisfactory, I would like to propose a timetable for Food Futures in Sheffield: commencing in June, midsummer, which would give us time to develop the core group and arrange matched and other funding for development worker(s). It would also allow us to launch and publicise at harvest time. This would mean that the programme would run through to January 2001, covering two winters, when practitioners would be more likely to be able to spare time. Fingers crossed.

Yours Sincerely,

Richard Clare

6th November 1998

TO : Joy Carey, Soil Association Local Food Links
From : Richard Clare, Sheffield Organic Food Initiative

I am writing to bring you up to date with the progress we are making in preparing the ground for a Food Futures project here.

Myself and my associate, Darrell Maryon, have approached Sheffield Community Economic Development Unit, who funded the printing costs for our document at the start of this year. We have submitted a request for a small amount of funding and resources to allow us to begin preparing for Food Futures. They were very co-operative and should be able to help in the very near future, since the winter is much the best time for us to do these kinds of mental and administrative tasks.

Before we can receive funds from SCEDU, we will have to become a constituted legal entity. We have been advised by Voluntary Action Sheffield that the most suitable structure for us would be a charitable educational trust, which should be in place and allow us to progress by the end of this month.

We have started to contact a variety of our existing connections and inform them about Food Futures: members of the Healthy Gardening Group, the council's Recycling 2000 group and Environment Forum, L.A.21 Officer, Rachel Wildman, allotments officer, John Martin, David Gray of Heeley City Farm, David Middlemas Community Composting Network, , Lembas and Beans Wholefoods. Everyone we have explained the idea to has responded very positively and suggested that the time is right for such an initiative.

On a smaller, personal level, we have also been legitimising and strengthening the voluntary projects which we have been co-ordinating. Richard has applied to a local area fund (SRB / ERDF in the north-west inner-city of Sheffield) to upgrade his allotmenting into a community supported agriculture project, providing advice and a year-long introductory course for beginners who are just starting plots and who are motivated to grow organically. Darrell's Heeley Health project, linked to the local G.P., is in the process of improving its profile, access and resourcing. We hope to improve the standing of the kitchen garden restoration at Unstone Grange to the point where it could serve as a demonstration centre for organic techniques. We are both planning to attend a City & Guilds course (Training Trainers -- 730/7) in the new year, which would give us a qualification accepted by South Yorkshire Open College and at Further Education / NVQ level.

We have a question about match funding, whether there are any restrictions on its source? Could we use any of the sources mentioned above? We have been involved in two other bids for funding, which would be complimentary to Food Futures if they are successful. The Healthy Gardening Group has submitted a bid to the Lottery for £90K, which would deliver support at a community level and promote healthy gardening over a period of three years. Heeley City Farm have applied to the Environmental Action Fund for a local food development worker, including contacting producers and trying to set up a farmers' market. Also, the Community Composting Network are bidding for funds to extend the number of local composting projects in Sheffield. These projects could be interlinked and co-ordinated with the aims of Food Futures. This confirms our impression that there are many different groups and sectors interested in various elements and that it will be vital for them all to be linked and understand the bigger picture they are part of. We are convinced that it will be possible to develop a broad and deep consensus about the benefits of local and organic food., which would be effective both in lobbying for and actually delivering more organic supply than is available at present.

Is it okay to continue to circulate the draft Food Futures description (June 98)? I've re-typed it so it fits on just two sides of paper and have it stored on disk.. It has been very useful in explaining the idea and provides a solid base. Is there any more information yet?

I've been asked to contribute an article to Permaculture News. Is it okay to mention Food Futures, since the editor I talked to hadn't heard about it yet? (they hadn't heard about the HDRA'S Grow Your Own Campaign or the DETR Future of Allotments report or The Land Is Ours' allotments campaign, which I will also mention). Is there anything you would like me to include?

We will continue to expand our contacts with potential participants in Food Futures, building up as comprehensive a picture as possible of what potential capacity exists in and around Sheffield. If you need more information, either about SOFI or about the profile of the area (S Yorks./ N. E.Derbys.) and the case for Food Futures here, please let us know.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Clare and Darrell Maryon

Richard Clare
Sheffield Organic Food Initiative
41 b Burns Road
Sheffield S6 3GL

23rd February 1999

Dear John,

In response to your phonecall this morning.

First I must thank you for the work you've put into your discussion document. This initial phase of activity around the local food issue has been speculative, trying to build an alliance which can create a strong enough platform to have some influence. Contributions like your paper and Rachel Wileman's commitment to put time into the project help give the process credibility and are much appreciated. I've been deliberately holding back from defining the project too strictly so far, so that the views of as many of the partners as possible have a chance to consider the issue from their own perspective.

In some ways you could say that this is one of the good points about what the S.A. are proposing, although it does seem rather airy-fairy to me too. Our original understanding of Food Futures was that it would just be the bare bones to hang other projects on, an umbrella to represent what is undoubtedly an under-represented and undervalued sector. To some extent, me and Darrell just wanted the S.A. name to put on a letterhead to add weight and credibility to the project.

Can I also say that your comment that SOFI should concentrate on doing what it's good at was very helpful to me personally as I've been allowing myself to get a bit distracted by Food Futures and could easily lose sight of the actual issue. I still think it will be vital to set a broad and inclusive agenda to link together all the disparate sectors with an interest in sustainable and local food.

As far as the content of your paper is concerned, I just wondered if you could update it to add in some of the notes which are hand-written on the copy that I received. What you've compiled is very similar to what I originally set down as the basis for Food Futures in Sheffield when we approached the S.A. in November, piecing together bits of the jigsaw that are already in existence or imminent.

There are a couple of points that you could add. First, if the Healthy Gardening Group are successful in securing funding from the Lottery, there will be a network of development workers citywide to support healthy gardening and growing activities. I helped draft the bid and I'd say it's got a 50-50 chance of being accepted. If this network were in place, other initiatives could be added on, such as one of my pet projects, distributing fertilisers to anyone who is a committed and practising food grower and improving allotment usage.

Second, I think it will be vital in the long run to engage representatives of the statutory sector such as Council, Health and Education. They are aware of the importance of the issue and can see that they can fulfill their own job requirements by being involved. I believe that there is now more chance than ever before that government and decision-makers may be able to support long-term objectives which fits many of their criteria. Also, the involvement of people like Rachel could be really useful in convincing important bodies and institutions that the project is for real, such as getting ADAS on board. Again, personally, I feel like I've been actively discriminated against by the powers that be in the past, partly because of the way I look etc. but also because there's so much ignorance (wilful) of the basic facts of subsistence growing on the part of bureaucrats, but I'm sure you're well aware of that yourself.

Can I take this opportunity to advertise our own services. You mentioned that you would be looking for trainers / teachers and that the link with Whirlow would help. Myself and Darrell now feel confident enough to offer our services in respect to organic education, training, advice and consultation. Helping community groups is one of the things I've committed myself to as part of my work for SCEDU. The other strand of my work is running a one-day a week course, details enclosed. I'm also just coming to the end of getting a qualification, Training for Trainers (City and Guilds 7307), which has given me a lot more confidence to build on my practical experience and informal teaching record. I also enclose a copy of some information I put together for David M, which illustrates that we are building on from the educational material we compiled in the Sofidocument last year.

I'm hoping to arrange a meeting with Roger Butterfield and Carole Stocker in the next couple of weeks to discuss the prospects for setting up specific Organic training. Paper included.

CHEERS,

To : Joy Carey, Jade Bashford and Paul Knuckle: Soil Association Local Food Links
From : Richard Clare, Sheffield Organic Food Initiative, 41b Burns Road, S6 3GL
Monday, 11th January 1999

Dear All, Congratulations on getting the royal seal of approval !

Hope you are still okay for travelling up to Sheffield for the Food Futures meeting on Thursday the 14th, at 4 p.m. I think it shows real dedication that you're prepared to come all this way. The meeting will be held in the Planning Department in the New Town Hall, because Rachel couldn't book a room in the older, more formal building. The Old Town Hall is easier to find and we'll make sure someone is there to meet you before four o'clock. If you want to go direct to the Planning Department, its at the far end of the New Town Hall on the second floor.

Rachel has invited the Council's Allotment Officer, John Martin, and Joanna Ly, co-ordinator of the Healthy Gardening Group. Sue Grieg from Sheffield Health is fully aware of Food Futures and should be able to attend. I've been in contact with Mike Paines and Paul Kelleman, and noted their areas of interest.

Please bring any more recent or detailed explanations of the programme and copies of any other relevant publicity or findings from the pilot. If you could let me have anything in digital form, could you try to make it compatible with Windows 3.1 for Word 2.

Likely topics for the meeting are; the conference, the process (or structure), compiling a contacts network and, of course, funding.

I've sent details of the project to South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau and the LGMB Regional Food Innovations Strategy. I should be able to follow these leads up more when I'm actually signed off the dole and legitimately working, which will hopefully be very soon. As a function of Food Futures, providing information about funding and encouraging local projects to apply or referring them to organisations dedicated to helping with funding would be a very valuable. There is quite a superstructure of organisations working in the funding sector. I'll be contacting another regional organisation, VONEF, Voluntary Organisations Network for European Funding.

I've booked a great venue for the one-day event on the 8th of February, at the Friends' Meeting House in the city centre, which is big enough to take over fifty people. I've also booked the use of overhead projector, flipcharts and a video if you need them. I'll do some handouts for the morning and we can invite local speakers. I'll explain on the publicity that you'll be there in the afternoon. I've arranged for a light cold lunch of locally-made and as much locally-grown and organic produce as possible. Although it will be short notice, I think we'll get a good turnout.

I'm presently a bit daunted about the possible scale of interest in the project, but I'm keen to involve as many people as possible, to ensure the project will go ahead and to try to engage representatives from all sectors. We're working to build up a list of possible contributors and beneficiaries. I've drafted some ideas on how to log, assess and access enquiries, responses and details of all the contacts we get.

I've also been thinking about how the process of action groups might work in practice: trying to identify each strand (or model), what actions are likely to be associated with each and who might take responsibility for each. As I've mentioned before, several elements of the project are already happening, or are being planned, which is re-assuring.

I don't know whether Jade and Paul have had a chance to read the document I gave Joy, *Sheffield Organic Food Initiative 1998* ; perhaps it would make good reading on the train. The first section, directly addressing the development of the local organic sector, has a lot of relevant ideas and the document as a whole would give you some background information on the specific context here in Sheffield.

If you are likely to arrive in Sheffield earlier than 4, we could meet up before the meeting.

If you want to phone me, I'll be in after three today or tomorrow morning.

Yours sincerely,

Richard

FOOD FUTURES CONTACTS LIST

POTENTIAL PARTNERS / CORE GROUP MEMBERS / CONTRIBUTORS / BENEFICIARIES

COMMUNITY

RICHARD CLARE &
DARRELL MARYON SHEFFIELD ORGANIC FOOD INITIATIVE c/o 41 B BURNS ROAD S6 3GL
ROSE TANNER SHEFFIELD ORGANIC GARDENERS, 243 THE WHEEL, ECCLESFIELD S35
9ZA
AL JACK NORTH-EAST SHEFFIELD PERMACULTURE GROUP, PEASANTS'
COLLECTIVE
BRAMBLES RESOURCE CENTRE, 82 ANDOVER STREET, BURNGREAVE, S3
9EH
DAVID GRAY HEELEY CITY FARM, RICHARDS ROAD, HEELEY S2 3DT
HEELEY DEVELOPMENT TRUST
LEE FURNESS GREEN CITY ACTION, 43 GIFFORD ROAD, ABBEYFIELD PARK
CHRIS PRESCOTT STOCKSBRIDGE ENVIRONMENT PROJECT (S.T.E.P.)
154 OAKBROOK ROAD NETHERGREEN S11 7ED
CHRIS GARDINER NORFOLK PARK F.E.D.S. (FOOD ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME)
ARBOURTHORNE LODGE, GUILDFORD ROAD S2 2PL
IAN DRAYTON &
ANGELA HOLT NORTH-EAST SHEFFIELD TRUST, COMMUNITY ROOMS,
SOUTHEY LIBRARY, MOONSHINE LANE, SHEFFIELD S5 8RD
JACKIE HALL HEALTHY CROSS C/O THE SURGERY,
72 BUCHANAN ROAD, SHEFFIELD S5 8AL
DR. JACK CZAUDERNA DARNALL WELL-BEING PROJECT
C'LLOR ANDREW JACKSON BEIGHTON TIP PROJECT
ALICE CASTILEGO FOX HILL
DAVE CLARKSON &
PETER KENYON MANOR & CASTLE DEVELOPMENT TRUST
TIM SHORTLAND ROOTS AND SHOOTS
NELSON KAGGWA BLACK COMMUNITY FORUM
JANE WALKER MAYFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE
AL AHMED SANDERSON KEYSER STEELWORKS PROJECT
CHRIS MILEGO ECCLESFIELD COMMUNITY ORCHARD
C/O SHEFFIELD WILDLIFE TRUST, WOOD LANE HOUSE,
52 WOOD LANE, SHEFFIELD S6 5HE
HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST HILLSBOROUGH PARK,
150 MIDDLEWOOD ROAD, SHEFFIELD
KIM ALLEN & CAROL WHORMESLEY COLLEY YOUTH CENTRE, REMINGTON RD S5
BARRY NEW RECYC, 54 UPPERTHORPE ROAD S6 3EB
UNSTONE GRANGE TRUST CROW LANE, UNSTONE S42
WENDY BUSSEY / NEIL MAYA SHEFFIELD L.E.T.S.
FEDERATION OF ALLOTMENT AND LEISURE GARDENERS
CREDIT UNIONS
COMMUNITY FOOD COOPERATIVES

NETWORKS

HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP NETWORK
LONGLEY FARM TENANTS' ASSOCIATION
HEELEY HEALTH PROJECT
HALFWAY ALLOTMENT GROUP
"GROW IT, COOK IT"
DENBY STREET DIGGERS
HAVEN HOUSE WOMEN'S GARDENING GROUP

LYNN ROWLEY SHEFFIELD ORGANIC GARDENERS, 690 GLEADLESS ROADS 14
DAVE MIDDLEMAS COMMUNITY COMPOSTING NETWORK c/o HEELEY CITY FARM
TERRY QUINN SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY RECYCLING ACTION PROGRAMME
COMMUNITY RECYCLING NETWORK C/O THE EARTH CENTRE CONISBOROUGH
CHRIS WARD SELF-HELP &
NICK WARREN VOLUNTARY ACTION SHEFFIELD
JANE BAILEY AGE CONCERN CARVER STREET, SHEFFIELD S1 4FS
AGEWELL BESSEMER HOUSE, 59 CARLISLE STREET EAST, SHEFFIELD S4 7QN
ALAN INGRAM L.O.C.A.L. 100 EVERINGHAM ROAD, SHEFFIELD S5 7LG
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MARKETS
MRS GROSNEY WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD, ST GILES' SQUARE, CHAPELTOWN S35
1WT

RETAILERS

SHEFFIELD MARKETS CASTLE MARKET BUILDING, EXCHANGE STREET, S1 2AH
MATTHEW WEST BEANIES WHOLEFOOD CO-OPERATIVE
205-7 CROOKES VALLEY ROAD S10 1BA
PAUL GRASSICK LEMBAS WHOLEFOODS WHOLESALERS, VALLEY ROAD, HEELEY
BLUE MOON CAFE NORFOLK ROW
BAMFORD QUAKER COMMUNITY c/o ANDREW GREAVES, 23 VICTORIA ROAD, BAMFORD, S33
0DS
THE REAL MEAT COMPANY ECCLESALL ROAD
LOCAL CONVENTIONAL PRODUCERS
SMALL RETAILERS REP.
SUPERMARKETS ASDA
TRIODOS BANK
PEAK PARK
LANDOWNERS

PRODUCERS

ISOBEL WRIGHT &
JACKIE EVANS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY SERVICE
MANOR FARM, NORTON DISNEY, LINCOLN LN6 9JV
NEWHOUSE FARM, ASHBOURNE, DERBSHIRE
STUART ALLEN ORGANIC EARTH, 33 DEVONSHIRE DRIVE, HALLBALK, BARNESLEY
S75 1EE
BRIAN & JANET HALL FISHLAKE FINE FOODS, FIELDGATE, MILL FIELD ROAD, DONCASTER
DN7 5LF
PAUL CARNELL WHIRLOW HALL FARM TRUST, WHIRLOW LANE S11
DAVID MARSDEN NATIONAL FARMERS UNION (LOCAL BRANCH)
5 STATION ROAD
CHAPELTOWN S35 2XE
JULIAN BRANDRAM 16 GALLERY LANE, HOLYMOORSIDE, CHESTERFIELD S42 7CS
BUSINESS SUPPORT AGENCIES T.E.C. / SHEFFIELD FIRST / BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY /
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HEALTH

MARK GAMSU NEW OPPORTUNITIES FUND, HEALTHY SHEFFIELD
SUE GRIEG AREA HEALTH CO-ORDINATOR
LEE ADAMS HEALTHY SHEFFIELD PARTNERSHIP, 5 OLD FULWOOD ROAD S10
3TG
JOANNA LY HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP CO-ORDINATOR
ROOM 226, OLD TOWN HALL S1 2HH
JANET BEYLEVELD SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL
WALSH COURT, 10 BELLS SQUARE

HEALTH ACTION ZONE REPS
DEPT OF HUMAN NUTRITION (S. UNIV.)

COUNCIL

RACHEL WILEMAN SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL LOCAL AGENDA 21 OFFICER
2-10 CARBROOK HALL ROAD S9 2DB

JOHN MARTIN ALLOTMENTS OFFICER
P.O. BOX 151 MEERSBROOK ROAD, BROOK ROAD S8 0PG
EQUALITY OFFICER, (ANTI-POVERTY UNIT)

VAL COTTER ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER (FOOD)

DOT LAYCOCK RECYCLING OFFICER, CLEANSING, BERNARD ROAD

LOUISE PELLET PARKS & OPEN SPACES

LUCY HEATH COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

SALLY PERREIRA PARKS AND OPEN SPACES DEVELOPMENT TEAM

LIZ NIELD-BANKS CNLR CHRIS ROSLING-JOSEPHS LEISURE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

JEAN GLASSCOCK CITY ECOLOGIST WESTON PARK MUSEUM, WESTERN BANK S10

AREA PANELS
DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

EDUCATION

CAROLE STOCKER SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENT CONSORTIUM
LANGSETT FOUNDATION, 57 BURTON STREET S6 2HH

ROGER BUTTERFIELD SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING
16 A GOODWIN ROAD S8 9TJ

JOHN PITTS SHEFFIELD COLLEGE (PARSON CROSS)

JOL MISKIN / CHRIS WARD WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

ROLAND STRUBE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD, MAPPIN STREET

BOB GREGORY EDUCATION ACTION ZONE LEOPOLD STREET

NICK CORKER & CHRIS HIGGINS DERBYSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND
HORTICULTURE
BROOMFIELD COLLEGE, ILKESTON DERBYSHIRE DE7 6DN

NIGEL DUNNET & ANDY CLAYDEN LANDSCAPE, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD, WESTERN
BANK

TIM COOPER LEISURE AND FOOD MANAGEMENT, S. HALLAM UNIV. POND
ST S1 1WB

& JACKIE SOLFIELD FOOD AND NUTRITION, SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY

MIKE PAINES ALLOTMENTS RESEARCH S. HALLAM, 36 HADFIELD ST
WALKLEY S6 3RR

BRITISH TRUST FOR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

REGENERATION

ROB STONEMAN &
NIGEL DOAR SHEFFIELD WILDLIFE TRUST

CATH KIBBLER YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

MARGE MCKECHNIE SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

RUTH MIDGELEY VOLUNTARY ACTION SHEFFIELD

SHEENA CAMPBELL SINGLE REGENERATION BUDGET

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
(REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY)

CAMPAIGNS

REBECCA HIGMAN FRIENDS OF THE EARTH c/o 220 MANSFIELD ROAD, INTAKE S12
2AR

NICK PARK (PERMACULTURE ASSOCIATION)

11 ST LAWRENCE ROAD, NORTH WINGFIELD CHESTERFIELD

GREENPEACE / GREEN PARTY / VEGAN SOC.

MEDIA

DAVE BOCKING (PHOTO-JOURNALIST)

OTHER NATIONAL INITIATIVES

HDRA GROW YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN

NATIONAL FOOD ALLIANCE

SAFE ALLIANCE

THE LAND IS OURS ALLOTMENTS CAMPAIGN

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CITY FARMS

COMMUNITY GARDENS NETWORK

ORGANIC FARMS NETWORK

VOHAN

SINGLE REGENERATION BUDGET AREA REPS.

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENT FUND

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

FOOD FUTURES: DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY AND CULTURE IN SHEFFIELD. 2 / 3 / 99.

Pass round attendance list. Hand out Conference summary and attendance. Set regular meeting times. Suggest first Tuesday of month at O.T.H. Brief round: Who we are and what we want from the process.

SOIL ASSOCIATION. Presentation to conference weak / unconvincing. Sense that we could do as well or better on our own. Core group's position that we can negotiate with S.A. from a position of strength. S.A. backing / endorsement / credibility / profile / trust could be invaluable in the long run. Continue to try to identify source of funding for S.A. Any suggestions for what sources would be appropriate / suitable and help securing them? (Current possibilities T.E.C. / S.R.B.)

Part of the work of Food Futures will be speculative based on current trends. This will be valuable preparation if and when statutory support or commercial funding become more available.

STRATEGY

- 1. We will need to formally constitute the STRUCTURE of the partnership process.**
- 2. For each element or strand of Food Futures we need to answer the following questions:**
 - What already exists?**
 - Who is (or should be) responsible?**
 - Who are the beneficiaries / stakeholders?**
 - What are the targets / aims / objectives for each strand? How to achieve them?**

Offer to compile a SCOPING DOCUMENT, including each participant's contribution and commitment, representing the full agenda as a spray diagram and proposing a process of development as a flow diagram. MEETING TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE STRATEGY

- 3. Meeting to consider funding profile for the process.**

Current commitment to process: SOFI one day per week / Rachel Wileman one day per week.

Potential support: Heeley City Farm Local Food Links worker / Healthy Gardening Group Community Gardening network of support workers.

SOFI can contribute consultation and practical advice for organic growing / market gardening.

Site assessment and mapping / recommendations / project design.

Demonstrations / workshops / displays / articles / networking / lobbying

Subjects: Health and Safety / Precautions / Dangers / First-Aid / Risk Assessment / Diet / Nutrition / Genetics / Preventative Health / Occupational Therapy / Rehabilitation / Herbs and Medicinal Herbalism / Psychoactive Plants

Allotments: Starting / Cultivation Sequence / Tenancy Agreement / Urban Context / Land / Vandalism

Site Assessments and Consultations / Mapping / Planning / Recording

Soil-Health-Care / Soil-Care And Reclamation / Soil Abuse / Soil Sculpture / Soil Fertility: Organic Fertilisers (Seaweed / Calcified Seaweed / Volcanic Rock Dust / Organic Blood, Fish and Bonemeal / Hoof and Horn / Nettle and Comfrey Liquid Feeds) / Raised Beds / Companion Planting / Rotations / Green Manures / Mulching
Recycling for Organic Food-Growing / Recyclodynamic Gardening / Horticultural Recycling / Resource Cycles / Guerilla Gardening

Compost / Composting/Organic Matter / Leafmould / Composting of Leaves / Loam / Vermiculture / Vermicomposting /

Composting by Worms / Potting Composts / Propagation / Cuttings / Seed Sowing

Fruit and Nuts / Orchard Maintenance / Planting Fruiting Perennials / Pruning

Weather / The Year / Season / Timing / Planting Calendar / Cycles and Synchronicity / Observations / Season Extension / Succession / Continuity / Greenhouses & Polytunnels / Construction and Maintenance

Cropping / Harvesting / Produce / Processing / Marketing

Seed Collection and Selection / Heritage Seedbank / Local Biodiversity: An Organic Perspective

Permaculture / Agroforestry / Biodynamics / Veganics / Self-Sufficiency / Subsistence / Grow Your Own / Sustainable, Ethical and Ecological Agriculture / Appropriate Technology

Market Gardening / Smallholding / Unstone Grange

Organic Food / Organic Food Initiative / Locally-Grown Organic Food / Community Gardens & Orchards / Community

Composting / City Farms / L.E.T.S. / Credit Unions / Food Co-ops / Community-Supported Agriculture /

Subscription Farming / Farmers' Markets / W.I. Markets / Local Food Directories / Local Organic Certification and Conversion / Buy Local! / Ethical & Fair Trade

FOOD FUTURES:

DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY AND CULTURE IN SHEFFIELD.

21st February 1999

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to confirm the time, date and venue of the next Food Futures meeting:

3 p.m. on Tuesday March the 2nd at the Old Town Hall.

Please confirm whether you can attend by phoning Richard Clare (2686727) or Rachel Wileman (2734645).

AGENDA

1. Mapping existing contacts.
2. Report on links made so far.
3. Formation of Core Group. Timetable future meetings.
4. Structure, aims and objectives.

The purpose of this meeting will be to agree a working model for the process, based on the existing and imminent activities identified so far. Please could you consider your own interests, activities, expectations and how to achieve them so that we can take them into account. It would be very helpful if you could summarise your views in writing for consideration and circulation at this meeting. What do you think should be the functions of Food Futures?

To help bring everyone up to date with the progress we have made so far, we can make copies of relevant information available at the meeting:--

1. Soil Association's Food Futures Programme: project outline / partnerships / budgets.
2. Minutes of previous meetings (17/12/98 & 14/1/99).
3. Correspondence with the Soil Association (6/11/98, 11/1/99 & 2/2/99).
4. Texts of conference presentations (8/2/99).
5. John LeCorney's draft discussion document, "Developing the Sheffield Sustainable Food Economy".
6. Sheffield Organic Food Initiative: "Recommendations for the Development of Locally-grown Organic Food Capacity".

If you require copies of any of the above, please inform us before the meeting.

Please note that the project is not dependant on the involvement of the Soil Association. Several partners have expressed doubts about whether it is worth giving them £10,000 in return for the workshops, expertise and strategy and whether this represents value for money for Sheffield. We believe that the gain in credibility available if the project is endorsed by the Soil Association would be invaluable and that this sum could be relatively small in proportion to the fund-raising potential of the project in the long run. We have made an approach to the Training and Enterprise Council with a view to obtaining these funds and may alternatively be able to source this sum from S.R.B.

We have applied to Sheffield Health / Sheffield Council Joint Finance for funds to cover the costs of workshops. In the event of Sheffield Food Futures progressing without the Soil Association, this funding for workshops would be used to organise further conferences, covering areas of interest, such as producers, retailers, consumers, education and training, health and food poverty, community growing, statutory provision etc.

Many thanks, Richard, Rachel, Rose and Darrell (the Food Futures team)

FOOD FUTURES FOR SHEFFIELD AND SOUTH YORKSHIRE
MEETING 14 / 1 / 99 AT THE NEW TOWN HALL

JADE BASHFORD AND
PAUL KNUCKLE
RICHARD CLARE AND
DARRELL MARYON
RACHEL WILEMAN
JOHN MARTIN
CAROLE STOCKER
DAVID MIDDLEMAS
JOANNA LY
SUE GRIEG
MARK GAMSU
ROSE TANNER
AL JACK
SHEENA CAMPBELL
MATTHEW WEST

SOIL ASSOCIATION LOCAL FOOD LINKS

SHEFFIELD ORGANIC FOOD INITIATIVE
SHEFFIELD COUNCIL LOCAL AGENDA 21 OFFICER
S.C.C. ALLOTMENTS OFFICER
SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENT CONSORTIUM
COMMUNITY COMPOSTING NETWORK
HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP
SHEFFIELD HEALTH AREA CO-ORDINATOR
HEALTHY SHEFFIELD NEW OPPORTUNITIES FUND
SHEFFIELD ORGANIC GARDENERS
NORTH-EAST SHEFFIELD PERMACULTURE GROUP
SINGLE REGENERATION BUDGET
BEANIES WHOLEFOOD CO-OPERATIVE

APOLOGIES

ROGER BUTTERFIELD
DAVID GREY
ROB STONEMAN AND/OR
NIGEL DOAR
ISOBEL WRIGHT AND
JACKIE EVANS
TIM COOPER
MIKE PAINES

SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING
HEELEY CITY FARM

SHEFFIELD WILDLIFE TRUST

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY SERVICE
SUSTAINABLE CONSUMER COURSE (S.HALLAM)
ALLOTMENTS RESEARCH (S.HALLAM)

MINUTES OF FOOD FUTURES FOR SHEFFIELD AND SOUTH YORKSHIRE 14 / 1 / 99

Paul explained the history and current work of the Soil Association, which is now the certification body for 70% of organic produce grown in Britain. Their Projects Department provide strategic consultation to Local Authorities and commerce, and work to support local food-growing initiatives.

Jade outlined Food Futures as a programme of 15 area-based projects to develop sustainable local food economies over eighteen months each, funded by the National Lottery. The presentation restated the information already provided in the written project outline. Jade stressed that the aim is to build on initiatives that already exist and focus on practical actions that have tangible outputs.

The pilot programme that has been running for the last six months in Leicestershire was described. This has already begun to generate benefits by bringing together participants with shared interests and improving understanding between urban and rural communities.

Jade then asked whether the meeting wanted the project to run in Sheffield.

Richard explained that several elements which would contribute to and benefit from Food Futures are already in place or are being planned. Jade and Paul acknowledged that there were positive indicators, as represented by those present.

Jade went into more detail about the Soil Association's requirements should the project go ahead. Paul stressed the commitment they have made in their Lottery bid to benefit deprived and ethnic communities. Other areas with an interest in running a Food Futures include Powys and London, though none has yet been selected. Jade said that as a candidate for Food Futures, Sheffield seems to have a lot going for it.

Rachel mentioned that £10,000 was a lot of money. Paul detailed the support and development expenditure that the S.A. would deliver over the 18 months. Paul then explained that the contribution required from local sources would not be required to be paid before the project could begin and that, in fact, this contribution could be paid over the whole period of the project, which could be spread over three accounting years.

Mark Gamsu commented that this level of funding seemed quite achievable, if the process can successfully engage and represent the wide range of sectors which could contribute to and benefit from the process.

Sheena explained the Single Regeneration Budget in Sheffield. She explained the geographical areas covered and the themes, currently young people and community economic development. S.R.B. is trying to have as holistic an approach as possible. Sheena said that Food Futures contained several elements which would qualify for SRB funding, either for area-based projects or for citywide co-ordination. Mark said that he thought we would be more likely to be successful if we aimed to raise more than the initial £10,000.

Richard asked whether the S.A. were prepared if the scope of the process expanded beyond the workshops and advisory role. Paul said that S.A. would be happy if the process took off and that this was the role of the action groups within the proposed structure. Richard pointed out that if the partnership model proved successful, much of the work involved could be adopted by those who have a special interest in certain strands and that it would be possible to arrange for specific elements within the overall project to be fulfilled by secondments by the most appropriate bodies to take responsibility for specific strands, such as research for example.

Richard pointed out that many allotment sites are near to or within regeneration areas and that investment in allotments would be a desirable output from regeneration spending. John explained that he is working on several projects that are complimentary to and would benefit from the process. He also noted that there has recently been an upsurge in awareness of and interest about allotments on the part of elected council members.

Sue informed the meeting about a bid she is working on as part of the Health Action Zone, which would research food poverty. She was worried that at present there was a danger of similar projects overlapping or even competing against each other. Mark explained that he was aware of many initiatives which could combine in a synergistic way and that he understood the need for a process which would co-ordinate and network between these disparate but interlinked initiatives. It would be valuable if we could arrange a visit from the L.A. 21 officer who is co-ordinating Food Futures in Leicestershire. Would it be possible to invite her to the conference?

Richard explained that he has booked the Quaker Meeting House for the one-day conference on the 8th of February. This can function as a means of engaging as many participants in the project as possible from the very start. Mark confirmed that this would be a sensible way to proceed to ensure that the process is inclusive.

Richard presented drafts of an invitation advertising the conference and an updated list of contacts, which will be used to distribute invites, and asked if there were any additions to the list. John said he would copy this draft advert and distribute them to all the allotment societies in Sheffield.

Paul asked Rachel what commitment S.C.C. could make to Food Futures. Rachel explained that she was keen to support the process by providing venues and contributing her own time because it could meet many of her objectives in terms of sustainability, but that the Council was not presently in a position to make any financial commitment.

Richard, Darrell and Rose will meet next week to discuss funding and to arrange administration for the conference.

FOOD FUTURES SHEFFIELD MEETING

4 pm 14 /1 / 99

INVITED

JADE BASHFORD AND PAUL KNUCKLE	SOIL ASSOCIATION LOCAL FOOD LINKS
RICHARD CLARE AND DARRELL MARYON	SHEFFIELD ORGANIC FOOD INITIATIVE
RACHEL WILEMAN JOHN MARTIN	SHEFFIELD COUNCIL LOCAL AGENDA 21 OFFICER S.C.C. ALLOTMENTS OFFICER
CAROLE STOCKER DAVID GRAY	SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENT CONSORTIUM HEELEY CITY FARM
DAVID MIDDLEMAS JOANNA LY	COMMUNITY COMPOSTING NETWORK HEALTHY GARDENING GROUP
SUE GRIEG ROB STONEMAN AND/OR NIGEL DOAR	SHEFFIELD HEALTH SHEFFIELD WILDLIFE TRUST
ROSE TANNER AL JACK	SHEFFIELD ORGANIC GARDENERS NORTH-EAST SHEFFIELD PERMACULTURE GROUP
ISOBEL WRIGHT SHEENA CAMPBELL	AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY SERVICE SINGLE REGENERATION BUDGET
MATTHEW WEST TIM COOPER	BEANIES WHOLEFOOD CO-OPERATIVE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMER COURSE (S.HALLAM)
MIKE PAINES	ALLOTMENTS RESEARCH (S.HALLAM)

(APOLOGY -- ROGER BUTTERFIELD SHEFFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING)

AGENDA

CONFERENCE 10 AM - 4 PM MONDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

AT QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

-- SPEAKERS -- MORNING / AFTERNOON

-- DRAFT ADVERT / FLYER

CONTACTS LIST / NETWORK

DEVELOPING THE LOCAL FOOD CULTURE AND ECONOMY IN SHEFFIELD

- HOW MUCH FOOD IS GROWN IN AND AROUND SHEFFIELD?
- ORGANIC PRODUCE IS PRESENTLY TRANSPORTED GREAT DISTANCES TO SUPPLY THE MARKET DEMAND IN SHEFFIELD. HOW MUCH OF THIS COULD BE SUPPLIED FROM LOCAL SOURCES?
- HOW CAN WE DEVELOP MORE LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION?
- THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS FRESH, NUTRITIOUS, UNCONTAMINATED FOOD SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT NOT A LUXURY
- LOCAL FOOD GROWN IN A HUMANE AND HUMANISING WAY
- POSITIVE EFFECTS ON GENERAL HEALTH, DIET AND NUTRITION
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WITH A FOOD-GROWING COMPONENT CAN CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REGENERATION

- EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES
- LONG-TERM / FAR-SIGHTED INVESTMENT FOR ENDURING / PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS
- THERE IS ALREADY A NETWORK OF ACTIVE PROJECTS AND THERE ARE PLANS TO INITIATE MANY MORE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO MEET DEMANDS FROM GRASSROOTS COMMUNITIES
- SUSTAINABLE FORMS OF HORTICULTURE AND AGRICULTURE CAN ALSO PROVIDE RELATED BENEFITS TO OTHER SOCIAL PROBLEMS, SUCH AS WASTE MANAGEMENT

There is a strong case for a project dedicated to developing the local food economy in Sheffield.

The extent of the area's social and economic deprivation means that we will soon qualify for European Objective One status. Locally-grown and organic foods should have a big part to play in social and economic regeneration. This sector can deliver long-lasting benefits that would be ecologically sustainable.

Although Sheffield seems to be especially disadvantaged, as a post-industrial city with a lack of access to local produce, it also has many potential advantages, such as the 3,600 hectares of green space within the city boundary.

The time is ripe for a process which could co-ordinate and support the large number of existing and planned activities with a food-growing component.

Food Futures can provide a forum for the diverse range of interests in local food to work together to form a consensus which is capable of helping local food culture and initiatives to grow.

SOIL ASSOCIATION'S FOOD FUTURES PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SCOPE

- DEVELOP THE LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY
- STIMULATE PRODUCTION TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR ORGANIC AND LOCALLY GROWN FOOD
- IMPROVE INTERACTION BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL COMMUNITIES
- PROMOTE THE SOCIAL BENEFITS OF FOOD-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN COMMUNITY CAPACITY-BUILDING AND REGENERATION

PROCESS

- ESTABLISH A FORUM TO ENGAGE CURRENT AND POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE LOCAL FOOD SECTOR
- CORE GROUP TO CO-ORDINATE LOCAL NETWORK
- ACTION GROUPS TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC AREAS OF INTEREST
- TRAINING WORKSHOPS TO PROVIDE NATIONAL ORGANISATION'S EXPERTISE TO RELEVANT LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

PARTNERSHIPS

- LOCAL AUTHORITY
- HEALTH AUTHORITY
- VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR
- ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS
- FARMERS AND GROWERS
- FOOD PROCESSING AND MARKETING BUSINESSES
- ALLOTMENTS, CITY FARMS AND COMMUNITY GARDENING PROJECTS
- EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECTOR

OUTPUTS

- ESTABLISH AT LEAST 3 SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVES
- IMPROVE INTER-AGENCY CO-OPERATION AND COLLABORATION
- INCREASE ACCESS TO LOCAL AND ORGANICALLY-GROWN FOOD FOR PEOPLE ON LOW INCOMES AND IN MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITIES
- ESTABLISH RELEVANT TRAINING AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
- DEVELOP AND SUPPORT:- GROW YOUR OWN / COMMUNITY COMPOSTING / L.E.T.S. / CREDIT UNIONS / FOOD CO-OPS / COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE / SUBSCRIPTION FARMING / FARMERS' MARKETS / W.I. MARKETS / LOCAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION AND CONVERSION / LOCAL FOOD DIRECTORIES / BUY LOCAL CAMPAIGN / FAIRTRADE

CONTACT: RICHARD CLARE SHEFFIELD ORGANIC FOOD INITIATIVE
C/O 41B BURNS ROAD SHEFFIELD S6 3GL TEL: 0114 2686727
THE NEED FOR A QUALIFICATION IN ORGANIC HORTICULTURE / MARKET GARDENING

There is currently a lack of formal qualification opportunities for anyone wishing to develop a career based on specifically organic cultivation. It is possible to take conventional courses in horticulture (NVQ) and gardening (C&G) and concentrate on course elements which are relevant or specific to organics. The educational and vocational need for training and qualifications based solely on 100% organic techniques is beginning to be recognised at university level, but until market demand reaches a critical size, the bodies responsible will continue to treat organics as a poor cousin of the conventional, chemical horticultural and agricultural industries.

Courses organised in recent years by Sheffield College have been designed to meet the general trend towards more ecological practice in the municipal, amenity and landscaping sectors. This provision reflected a genuine shift in expectations on the part of potential employers, but was indistinct from industry-wide standards of good practice which have welcomed the re-introduction of organic techniques wherever they have been perceived as more successful, safer or more economical.

The domestic and municipal gardening markets have already accepted and adapted to their customers' demand for increasingly eco-friendly practices. This can either mean that they are as organic as possible or simply that there is an organic component included.

It is only in the production of food, market gardening, that there is a real requirement to be completely Organic, to fulfill the requirements of marketing certification and guarantee that produce is completely as safe and as beneficial as possible for human consumption.

Although the horticultural sector has been devastated by recent crises in agriculture, the demand for organic and locally grown produce currently exceeds available supply manyfold. The Organic sector, though much smaller than the continental average, is presently doubling annually, in terms of acreage in conversion, 60,000 Hectares registered in 1998.

Imminent reductions in subsidies and potential changes to the C.A.P. mean that this trend is likely to accelerate in the near future.

The only element missing from this equation is the supply of people qualified and competent to grow food organically, taking into account the increased need for human attention in organic systems and the fact that not all conventional producers will be willing or able to adapt to the challenge of conversion.

In addition to the need for broadscale, commercial organic producers, there is also a growing consensus in support of community-supported organic projects, linked to the wide range of social benefits they are capable of contributing to positively ; community-building and development of the local economy; health, wellbeing and mental health; exercise, diet and nutrition; occupational therapy and special needs. This reflects the increasing public expectations relating to organic, local and own-grown food as an aspiration or lifestyle choice.

Taking these factors into account, there would seem to be an inevitable demand for qualified and experienced organic growers. If this scenario is correct, there will be an expansion in this field in the next few years. At present, there is an opportunity for a training organisation to meet this prospective demand.

FOOD FUTURES SHEFFIELD FIRST MEETING 17 / 12 / 98

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POTENTIAL FOOD FUTURES PROJECTS:

GROW YOUR OWN / ALLOTMENTS / CITY FARMS / COMMUNITY GARDENS AND ORCHARDS / COMMUNITY COMPOSTING / L.E.T.S. / CREDIT UNIONS / FOOD CO-OPS / COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE / SUBSCRIPTION FARMING / FARMERS' MARKETS / W.I. MARKETS / LOCAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION AND CONVERSION / LOCAL FOOD DIRECTORIES / BUY LOCAL! / FAIRTRADE

AGENDA

INTRODUCTIONS

DISCUSSION

CONSENSUS

COMMITMENTS

OTHER CONTACTS AND LEADS

SUGGESTIONS / PLANS

FOOD FUTURES SHEFFIELD

FIRST MEETING

17 / 12 / 98

NAME

REPRESENTING

CONTACT ADDRESS / PHONE

FOOD FUTURES NETWORKING: OTHER RELEVANT CONTACTS

PREPARATION WORKS OFI Trust has secured £ 5000 funding from Sheffield Community Enterprise Development Unit to pay Richard one day a week and Darrell part-time to develop and support the project, and cover their expenses.

SOIL ASSOCIATION SUPPORT The meeting felt that the project would require a dedicated full time worker based locally. Uncertainty was expressed about exactly what the Local Food Links Office would bring to the project. More detailed expenditure projections would help us convince other funders that Sheffield would get its money's worth out of the project.

MONEY We need to identify potential sources of the £10,000. Sheffield Council is completely broke, £ 16,000,000 in the red. The Health Authority may be able contribute part of the payment. Richard will try to research other sources and attempt to compile a package made up of small contributions from a variety of sources. European match-funding (SRB / ERDF) can only be matched against delivered expenditure. This could be used to fund the local development worker.

We need more details about the expenditure profile planned by the Soil Association.

POLITICAL WILL Rachel will try to ensure that the current review of the Council's Countryside Strategy includes a commitment to sustainable, local food. She is currently working on the LA 21 Strategy document and will ensure that it includes a similar commitment and a mention of Food Futures. Councillors who may support FF include Chris Roslyn-Joseph (Beighton) and Andy Jackson (Meersbrook).

ADAS Isobel Wright explained her involvement with the pilot Food Futures in Leicester and explained the contribution she could make in engaging the local agricultural community and assessing the productive capacity of the local area. Isobel specialises in organic conversions, so her input is very valuable. The local contact for ADAS is Jackie Evans.

BUILD ON SUCCESS It was felt to be important to remember that the local food sector already exists, if only at a small level: we don't want to offend anybody by suggesting it's non-existent, and that working examples are invaluable in trying to explain and promote the ideas and issues involved. There is a lot of potential to build on from existing activity.

ORGANICS Locally- and sustainably-grown food should be the first priority, so as to involve as many people as possible and not exclude people who think organic food is just a luxury. Many conventional producers acknowledge the value of organic techniques and could be encouraged to go fully organic as part of a local certification scheme. Some of the benefits of organic cultivation were mentioned: demand exceeds supply; organics could provide the answers to so many of the current crises in agriculture; improved health and safety for group and community projects; more likely to be successful in the long run.

PROFILE AND EDUCATION Future Foods will need to promote the issues in the local media. Opportunities will arise as relevant issues hit the local and national headlines. Time publicity to synchronise with the time of year / seasonally. Schools could benefit from local growing projects, information and visits.

PROCESS Food Futures seems to provide a good outline for an ongoing process, which can be adaptable enough to encompass a wide range of interests and participants.

BRINGING OPPOSITES TOGETHER The issues have the potential to make links between social groups that are usually mutually-exclusive: i.e. rich and poor / young and old / producers and consumers / urban and rural / inter-ethnic co-operation. Older and retired people's organisations, such as Age Concern, and voluntary groups such as the Women's Institute, could be strong sources of activity and support.

Rose Tanner offered to help Richard and Darrell by providing administrative support and stressed the importance of recording the content of meetings.

CONCLUSION The meeting achieved a consensus that the time is right for Food Futures in Sheffield. Many existing, small-scale and planned, potential projects could contribute to and benefit from the project, especially those elements which relate to social and economic regeneration. The meeting agreed to make a commitment to the project.

The core group will meet again at **4 p.m. on Thursday 14th January 1999 at the Old Town Hall.**

We will try to organise a one-day **conference** for up to fifty people on **Monday 8th of February, possibly at the Quaker Meeting House.** Joy Carey from the Soil Association Local Food Links will come from Bristol to make a presentation in the afternoon and answer questions about the project.

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