

**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.