



End of Year Review of the Strategic Plan

Monday 25th June 2007

Because we have come to the end of the first year of work by Fada Newbridge the Strategic Plan was reviewed at a plenary meeting on Monday 25th June, attended by 9 group members and the following was the outcome.

Year One

1. Energy Fair

This was successfully achieved with 350 attending.

2. Community Garden

We don't have a community garden but are on our way with an allotment acquired by the group. *To do: set up a community garden*

3. Farmers Market

We are working with a group in Newbridge who are attempting to open a farmer's market in the town. *To do: set up a farmer's market in George's Street, Newbridge*

4. Local Food Audit

A questionnaire was completed with a view to holding a food audit from businesses and shoppers in Newbridge. *To do: Carry out the food audit*

5. Sub group dedicated to addressing policy change prior to election 2007

We assisted, with 2 other Newbridge groups - NCT and Newbridge CDP, to organise and successfully participated in a public meeting with local politicians addressing our issues.

6. 2 Courses related to Sustainable Living

We organised a:

- 4 week organic gardening course in Kilcullen
- Race against waste talk in the Parish Centre with Mountmellick Environmental Group

7. Website

Successfully created with Kildare.ie

Expected Outcomes

- **Publish an energy audit** *To do: perform an energy audit*
- **Follow up on Energy Fair** *To do: local energy audit and form an energy information group*
- **Farmers Market** See above
- **Increase Fada membership base** Partially successful but more are needed
- **Lobbied local government** Very successful – contributed to a public meeting with local politicians
- **Website** Successful

Year Two

The following has been achieved from Year 2 of the Strategic Plan

1. Established links with government bodies, businesses, community groups, churches and schools – Fiona O Loughlin, Newbridge Town Council, Tidy Towns, NCR, Newbridge CDP, Fairtrade Committee, Kildare Co Council, KELT, Newbridge Silverware, Marks & Spencer's, Lilywhite Print among others.
2. Public meetings – more planned for 2008
3. Encouraged local businesses to sell local produce – Lenten Campaign
4. Inform local businesses of grants available from SEI and other sources-partially successful and more to be done after the October public meeting
5. Farmers Market – we are working with others to secure this
6. We are in the process of securing funding from KELT, Co Kildare VEC and Kildare Co Council.
7. Community Garden – Allotment has been acquired but more to be done.
8. Youth Projects – letters have been sent to local schools and Transition Year teachers.
9. Constitution – almost complete
10. Maintain lobby group

Year Three

Food Labelling Project

We have spoken to KELT about a local food labelling project

Additional Achievements

1. Local Food Guide - We have spoken to KELT about producing a local food guide for Co Kildare
2. Lenten Campaign
3. Allotment
4. Courses – organic gardening and waste management
5. Talk given in schools to Confirmation children and seeds given out.
6. Raised the profile of Fada – Eamonn spoke at Cultivate and DIT about Fada, by invitation
7. Facilitated ethics talk took place in November 2006 and an Ethics document produced
8. 12 articles published in local newspapers and radio interviews given
9. We now have a permanent postal address and a filing cabinet at Charlotte House, Newbridge.
10. 6 invited speakers spoke to the group:
 - January – Marty Whelan re Writing article
 - February – Brian Kaller re Peak Oil
 - March – Herman re Bord na Mona
 - April – Liam and Angela re Athy Farmers Market
 - May – PJ Dooley and Mary Ashe re Funding
 - June – Bertha McGivern re KELT
11. We were part of the Linear Park Campaign
12. Submitted a proposal to the Newbridge Town Centre Plan
13. Sent a submission to KELT as part of their 2008 Rural Development Plan.
14. Sent submissions for funding to Kildare Co Council.
15. Successfully managed our funds and obtained sponsorship when required.

Points for Next Year

- Change how meetings are run
 - Steering committee will concentrate on business e.g. strategy, processes, constitution while the Plenary committee will concentrate on projects.
 - Plenary meetings will be structured but with room for flexibility to allow an exchange of information re projects and issues.
 - The small talks for the group will continue on a monthly basis with time at the end of the meeting for group business.
 - All meetings will have an agenda, an e-mail will be sent out the week before the meeting looking for contributions to the agenda so anyone can decide what goes on.
 - Meetings will be more strictly timed.
- We need to increase the number of group members and keep them. Follow up on those who have left – find out why.
- Visit relevant places of interest.
- Construct a schedule of work for the allotment and more communication is needed.
- Utilise local media e.g. radio, local and national newspapers, expand our contacts list.
- Avoid an over-reliance on e-mail. Text or telephoning might be preferable.
- Obtain and maintain a Fada diary
- Advertise the website in the area to encourage people to access it.
- Update the pamphlet and distribute to as many areas as possible.
- Have a stock of recycled paper for correspondence and pamphlets.
- Get to know each other better through outings and social activities.
- Chose our activities carefully so we don't become an events machine, activities must be an efficient use of our time.

So, a huge amount has been achieved in a short space of time by a small group of people. The year has been a learning experience for all and the group is now stronger than ever. Roll on next year!