

Constitution of FADA Economic Localisation Organisation

Article 1 - Name

The name of the organisation shall be 'FADA', with "Slow Down, Go Further" as a slogan and



as logo (boat signifying "Powerdown Communities as lifeboats for a low energy future, and tree as a symbol of life).

Article 1a - Vision and Mission

Vision:

Newbridge is a self-sufficient, ecological, safe and sustainable community built on values of openness and respect for diversity. There is a high level of community participation and ownership where everyone is provided for, with a closeness to nature.

Mission:

FADA Newbridge is a local network dedicated to creating and maintaining a vibrant, diverse, secure and sustainable community, by fostering ingenuity through local projects and positive action.

Article 2 - Purpose and Objectives

FADA is organised and will be operated exclusively for educational, scientific, social and charitable purposes.

The **Objectives** of FADA will be:

- To build a local network dedicated to creating and maintaining a vibrant, diverse, secure and sustainable community, by fostering ingenuity through local projects and positive action.
- To strengthen the local food economy.
- To enhance the local skills base for sustainable living through community meetings and workshops.
- To foster working relationships with local statutory agencies and voluntary and community organisations.
- To become self-financing through sponsorship, membership and funding as a community development group with a sustainability/environmental focus.

Article 3 - Membership

Active membership of FADA will be open to anyone.

Article 4 - Committee of Management

The governing body of FADA shall be a **Steering Committee** consisting of 6-10 elected members. The Committee will be the policy making body of the organisation and shall continuously observe activities of the organisation to ensure adherence to approved policies.

The members of the Committee will be elected annually by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. They can be re-elected. In the event of a vacancy, the Committee may co-opt a member to serve on the Committee until the next AGM.

While the Committee will have the full power to carry out the purposes of the organisation, it shall not have the sole right to **amend this Constitution** or its Byelaws. Any amendment must be proposed in writing to the Committee at least 60 days prior to the next AGM and have the support of at least seven (7) members. It shall be submitted to a vote of the members attending the AGM and two thirds of all votes cast shall be required to agree the proposed change.

A minimum of five (2) members of the Committee in attendance at meetings, or joining by telephone is required to constitute a **quorum** and the Committee will meet twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Saturday.

Major issues, which could affect the workload of the organisation, need to be sent to the Committee (in advance) of a meeting for comment and discussion. These major issues need to be ratified and agreed by the committee at a future meeting.

The Committee's **main functions** are to:

- decide on the organisation's general policy
- organise the organisation's programme of professional and social events
- manage the organisation's finances
- admit new members
- propose to the Annual General Meeting
 - o amendments to the organisation Articles
 - o election of Committee members
 - o confirming the organisation's funding.

An Annual General Meeting will be held annually – or within at least 15 months from the date of the last AGM. One month's clear notice will be provided to Members.

Article 5 - Officers

The Committee will elect, from among its members, individuals to the following position as officers:

- Chairperson
- Vice-Chairperson
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- any other positions as shall from time to time be deemed appropriate by the Committee.

These individuals shall hold office for a period no greater than 2 years. Thereafter, these incumbents shall retire and be eligible for re-election to any position as an officer for one additional term only.

The Chairperson will be elected for a maximum term of two years and may be re elected for one additional term.

In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson will have a casting vote.

Article 6 - Financial Matters

Financial records of the organisation shall be kept and an annual summary made available to the members.

Auditors of the organisation will be elected at the AGM on the recommendation of the Committee for a period of one year. The Auditors will not be members of the Committee and are elected for a period of one year, and may be re-elected.

In the event of the **dissolution** of the organisation, all funds and property, if any, remaining after payment of all liabilities will be paid over to a recognised Charity chosen by the outgoing Committee.

Article 7 - The FADA organisation Mailing List

The membership list should not be made available for any purpose not connected with the organisation (i.e. it should not be sold or given to any advertisers; sponsors; recruitment agencies or other commercial enterprise), and saved as agreed by the Committee in order to raise contributions to FADA's operational funding as a not-for-profits organisation.

Endorsed by the Membership Committee at the first AGM of FADA held in Newbridge, Co. Kildare on the 30th September 2006