

Strategic Plan 2006-2009

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.

FADA Newbridge was established in June 2006 by a group of volunteers the majority of which are from the Kildare region.

Introduction

The purpose of this business plan is to outline the development and growth of FADA as envisaged by its founding members over a three-year period. Throughout this period FADA Newbridge will focus on two principal areas simultaneously namely the local food economy and the enhancement of the local skills base for sustainable living through community meetings and workshops.

Objectives

Year one

- 1) Hold an Energy Fair in Newbridge designed to promote awareness in the local community of alternative and sustainable domestic heating systems and energy conservation.
- 2) To start a community garden in the Newbridge area.
- 3) To facilitate the re-introduction of the farmers Market into Newbridge
- 4) To carry out a local food audit, which will determine what percentage of vegetables, fruit, meat and poultry and dairy products are produced and sold in the Newbridge area.
- 5) To establish a sub group dedicated to addressing policy change prior to the general election of 2007
- 6) That we will have held at least two courses relating to sustainable living skills, for example on organic gardening.
- 7) To set up a website linked with Kildare.ie

Year One Expected Outcomes

- Publish an Energy Audit
- Follow up on Energy Fair –
- Newbridge, publish a report on how many households in the area purchased and installed an alternative and sustainable heating system
- To have a minimum of four stalls selling local produce in a Newbridge Farmers market
- Increase the membership base of FADA
- To have lobbied local government prior to the general election on policies related to sustainable living
- To have set up a website linked with kildare.ie

Year two:

- 1) To establish strong links with government bodies, community groups and local community leaders.
- 2) To hold four public meetings designed to improve the local skills base and awareness of the community.
- 3) To encourage local business to become involved in selling local produce and to persuade local farmers to provide these products locally.
- 4) To inform local business of grants available from sustainable Energy Ireland and other sources, which can be used to install alternative and sustainable energy systems.
- 5) To expand the farmers market.
- 6) To secure funding to support administration and promotional costs.
- 7) To expand and promote the existing community garden.
- 8) To explore the possibility of starting a youth project linked with community gardens.
- 9) To generate a constitution.
- 10) To maintain a lobby group concerned with policy change at local and governmental level.

Year Two Expected Outcomes

- Increased membership base of FADA
- To have held four public meetings designed to improve the local skills base and awareness of the community
- To have established strong relationships with local community leaders and other community groups
- To have persuaded at least four local farmers to provide food locally
- To have doubled the number of stalls at the Newbridge farmers market and diversified the produce for sale
- To have a stall at the farmers market manned by community volunteers selling the produce from the community garden
- To provide a report detailing how many local businesses have converted from oil and gas for their heating and energy requirements
- To have secured sufficient funding from various funding and to publish an account of incomes and expenditures
- To publish a piece in the local media summarising the four meetings held throughout the year designed to enhance the local skills base
- To have generated a constitution that will contain the codes of conduct of FADA Newbridge
- To have lobbied at local and government level on policies related to sustainable living

Year three

- 1) To increase the percentage of food produced and sold locally by 50% of the figure determined by the food audit in year 2.
- 2) To increase the quantity of organic food produced and sold locally.
- 3) To have 3 local vending stalls at the edge of Newbridge selling local produce throughout the year as an extension of the farmers market. These stalls would be similar to those currently manned by strawberry sellers during the summer.
- 4) To expand youth projects and community gardens to other towns in Kildare
- 5) To expand FADA Newbridge throughout Kildare.
- 6) To start a loco labelling project whereby all local produce will be clearly labelled in retail outlets.
- 7) To secure funding from local government agencies.

- 8) To hold four meetings designed to enhance the local skills base.
- 9) To increase the membership of FADA Newbridge as well as the number and variety of community projects.
- 10) To carry out an Energy Audit
- 11) For FADA to have become a recognised name synonymous with community, locality and sustainability.
- 12) To investigate and promote the sustainability of local food production methods by linking with other community groups with similar objectives.

Year Three Expected Outcomes

- To have held four public meetings designed to improve the local skills base and awareness of the community
- To produce food audit demonstrating the increase in local food produced and sold in the area
- To produce food audit demonstrating the increase in local organic food bought and sold in the area
- To have stalls selling seasonal produce daily all year round with 4 part-time people employed
- To have established at least one other branch of FADA complete with steering committee and business plan in one other town in Kildare
- To provide a report detailing the percentage of sustainable energy systems (domestic and business) in Newbridge
- To have secured 3000 Euro from various funding bodies
- To publish a piece in the local media summarising the four meetings held throughout the year designed to enhance the local skills base
- To have a list of products bought and sold locally published as an advertisement in the local media
- To have a media article written about the success of FADA Newbridge and how this model can be used to encourage other communities throughout the country to slow down and go further
- To carry out a street pole in Newbridge designed to determine whether FADA Newbridge is a recognised name synonymous with promoting sustainable living
- To have established strong links with other community groups

Organisational structure

Steering Committee composed of:

Chairperson, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Events Organiser(s), Secretary
All positions will be filled for one year only. An election will take place on the first of September each year to vote for new individuals to fill these positions

Sub-groups:

Charged with the responsibility of initiating and maintaining local projects

Meetings:

Plenary meetings (entire group) 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at 8.00 pm

Steering group meetings 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 11.00 am