

Sprouts Minutes: 14th March 2009

'Visioning Meeting: Part 1'

Present: Jon, Yaz, Soph (and Dave's contribution was emailed in and included)

Overview of the Agenda:

- 1.Housing Co-op Aims
- 2.Long term ultimate goals of Sprouts
- 3.What skills do we have and how we can use them?
- 4.Group structure and process.
- 5.Upcoming Meetings and agenda items

1.Housing Co-op Aims.

A discussion was held on the aims of the sprouts housing co-op. This took up the bulk of the meeting and was an interesting and productive session. As a group we went through the list of questions (please refer to 'Draft Agenda for visioning meeting 14th march') and wrote down our thought and feelings on large bits of paper. The outcome of this will be made available on the 'we' for everyone to access.

***Action Point*:** Yaz to type up the aims and make them available on the 'we'

2.Long term ultimate goals of Sprouts.

It was felt that the question: 'What are our long term ultimate goals?' was answered during the course of coming up with the co-op aims (as above) so we did not reiterate this point. Ultimately it was mentioned that the growth and promotion of other housing co-ops was the very long term goal of the group.

3.What skills do we have and how we can use them?

The agenda question 'What are our skills and how can we use them?' was interpreted as 'what skills do we have for during the process of setting up the co-op', as opposed to 'what skills do we have once it is established'. It was felt that this question linked to the next agenda point (4) concerning group structure and process, and that our skills would become self evident through looking at what tasks had to be achieved and what people felt they wanted to take on.

4.Group structure and process.

There was a long discussion on group structure and process to try and determine whether this meeting was meant to establish either (a) the long term and permanent structure of the group into the future (including how we make decisions etc), or (b) simply the structure that would be adopted in this preliminary period to facilitate the setting up of the co-op.

It was thought that ultimately, the answer was (a) because the structure and decision making process the group decides to adopt will become part of the secondary rules, and so we need to agree on a structure that will suit the group for the foreseeable future. However, time constraints did not allow for us to go into this quite serious topic in depth. Instead we decided to postpone this discussion for another 'visioning gathering', and in the meantime, set up working groups which would allow us to

continue to achieve practical short term goals in a more efficient way.

To clarify this complicated paragraph, broadly two outcomes were achieved:

- The establishment of working groups (process, finance, publicity, etc) which will be put up on the 'we' as committees which you are encouraged to join. Some people will find they are already doing jobs which fall under certain working groups. The progress of the working groups will be reviewed at the regular sprouts meetings.
- A second visioning meeting was arranged for the 11th of April to address the need to discuss long term group structure more in depth.

***Action Point*:** Jon to create committees on 'we' with an explanation of what tasks are the remit of each committee.

5.Upcoming Meetings and agenda items

The next Sprouts monthly meeting is on the 27th of March.

This meeting will update on action points from the meeting 27/02, these include:

- Find a permanent meeting space
- Have a bank account
- Fill in FSA forms
- Get on the Radical Routes lists and get a password for RR website
- Everyone read through the business plans on the 'we'
- Create list of documents in our possession
- Email lists management

Feedback from these action points will allow us to address the need to prioritise/achieve the following goals:

- Look for property
- Create a business plan
- Sort out loan-stock
- Have regular meetings
- Mack members/investors packs
- Create publicity leaflet

Please look at the 'we' for under the heading [Draft agenda for monthly meeting 27 march](#) and add to it anything you would like included.

The next Sprouts 'Visioning Gathering: Part 2' will be held on the 11th of April
at 3pm at 5 Warrender park Crescent.

A suggested Agenda is up on the 'We' under the title [Draft agenda for Visioning Meeting Part 2](#)
At the moment, suggested agenda items include:

- Membership (what is our membership policy?) Please consult the membership discussion thread on this topic before this meeting.
- Long term Structure and Process of the group
- Secondary rules for the co-op