

Member's meeting 9th September 2014

A quorum of members were present.

Sim began by welcoming everyone to the meeting. She introduced Chris Sunderland who explained the project in general terms.

Real Economy is about buying groups, pop-up markets, and encouraging new enterprise. The aim is to:

- Give access to local fresh healthy food at affordable prices to all sectors of the city.
- Encourage the formation of new enterprises, especially in areas of high unemployment
- Strengthen community life
- Increase the capacity of the local food system

Real Economy is an alternative economic network, developing local food supply chains, deliberately encouraging small, local enterprises that are brought into relationship with citizens through buying groups, pop-up markets and the use of a local currency.

For more information about how the project works, and what the opportunities and challenges for Sims Hill might be, please see the proposal document sent with the agenda.

Sim introduced the interactive portion of the programme. Kate Whittle facilitated this discussion. Key points to discuss were whether what length and size of commitment we would ask from Real Economy buying groups if we join. Also, do we need to limit our delivery area to within a certain radius of Sims Hill.

Kate explained the need for everyone to understand the proposal, ask questions and express any doubts, and then we have to make our decision!

After a brief question and answer session, we voted using a traffic light system. One concern was raised about possible delivery issues in reaching buying groups in the more outlying areas of the city. We agreed that we would need to strengthen our delivery capacity before we could take on buying groups in those areas. Based on this the vote was carried.

We are going to be a Real Economy supplier!

After this we shared food which was delicious and which was also a great opportunity for some social time.