

**Minutes of a Virtual Meeting to Re-establish the Cross Party Group on Food  
held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021**

**Present**

Rhoda Grant	MSP (Chair)
Annie Wells	MSP
Jim Fairlie	MSP
Allene Bruce	New Nutrition Business
Gillian Purdon	Food Standards Scotland
David Johnston	Food Standards Scotland
Phoebe Williams	Food Standards Scotland
Amanda Brown	The Knowledge Bank
Mary Lawton	CPG Secretariat
Cat Hay	FDF Scotland (FDFS)
Moira Stalker	FDF Scotland
David Thomson	FDF Scotland
Peter Garrity	FDF Scotland
Alistair Trail	SAC Consulting
Kerry Hammond	SAC Consulting
Ceri Ritchie	SAC Consulting
Liz Barron- Majerik	Lantra
Colin Smith	Scottish Wholesalers Assn
Peter Finnie	SEPA
Richard Gosling	SEPA
Jennie MacDiarmid	Uni Aberdeen
Baukje de Roos	Uni Aberdeen
Jules Griffin	Uni Aberdeen
Karen Barton	Uni Abertay
Bill Crosson	Consultant
Christine Graham	Kettle Produce
Josephine Heger	SRUC
Mads Fischer-Moller	SRUC
Laura Mitchell	3R Energy
Tracy McCollin	Scot Gov Good Food Nation
Lynne Dawson	Scot Gov Good Food Nation
Peter Faassen de Heer	Scot Gov Health
Julia Mitchell	SEFARI
Paul McNamee	SEFARI
Lorna Dawson	SEFARI (part time)
Cate Devine	Journalist
Wendy Barrie	Scottish Food Guide (part time)
Bosse Dahlgren	Consultant (part time)
Orchid Lui	UK Chinese Times
Sandra Williamson	REHIS
Chelsea Marshall	Nourish
Beatrice Morrice	NFUS
Helen Duggan	Seafish
Ian Muirhead	AIC Scotland
Pat Abel	Transition Edinburgh South

Lorraine Kelly  
Finlay Allmond  
Brenda Black  
Tilly Robinson-Miles  
Yvonne Traynor  
Natasha Martins  
Hamish Macdonell  
Christine Fraser  
Ann Packard  
Carrie Ruxton  
Gordon King  
Sarah Duley  
Martin Irons  
Liesel Tipper  
Charlotte Maltin  
Lynne Stevenson  
Iain Clunie  
Samm Swain  
Dan Yaxley  
Graeme Findlay  
Rachel Mirfattahi  
John Mackey

Magic Breakfast  
Magic Breakfast  
Edinburgh Community Food  
Eatwell Agewell  
Public Health Scotland  
Uni of Edinburgh  
SSPO  
Food Training Scotland  
RSA  
Nutrition Communications/FSS Board  
Scottish Craft Butchers  
Soil Association  
Queen Margaret Uni  
MSD  
Biomics Ltd  
BDA Scotland Board  
Zero Waste Scotland  
The Company Shop  
Good Food Ambassador  
SQA  
IFST

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Colin Smyth, John Whitehead, Jim Fox, Lesley Stanley, Ray Lorimer, Michelle Carruthers, Christopher Trotter, Viv Collie, Joanne Burns, Sara Smith, Andrew Fry, Andy McGowan, Sue Whittle, Martin Meteyard, Colette Walker, Ruth Watson, Martin Morgan, Gary Stephenson, Sarah Millar, Jackie McCabe, Archie Gibson and Alistair Williams.

#### 2. Matters Arising from meeting 3.2.21

- **Lorna Dawson SEFARI** was unable to join the meeting at this point, but had sent a slide presentation updating on the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission (FFCC) which would be circulated with the minutes. FFCC work on Covid-19 food system in 2020 was also available <https://ffcc.co.uk/library/yougov-covid-19-polling>).

ACTION: ML

- **Moira Stalker FDFS** updated on the waklet/hub for online resources. FDFS held a workshop of 20 parties in July to see how they could better co-ordinate, collaborate and communicate. Pro-formas were sent out first to collect information. The plan going forward is to meet semi-regularly to develop and refresh the work and investigate suitable platforms.

### 3. Election of Co-Conveners and Secretariat

There was an election for the Secretariat. Mary Lawton FDFS was proposed by Rhoda Grant MSP, seconded by David Thomson and elected.

The following stood as Co-Conveners:

Rhoda Grant MSP    Labour  
Jim Fairlie MSP    SNP  
Annie Wells    MSP    Con

They were proposed by Cat Hay FDFS, seconded by Ann Packard RSA and duly elected.

### 4. Impact of Covid 19 on Consumer Trends –What Does this mean for Food and Drink?

The scene setting was by Allene Bruce, (AB) Director, New Nutrition Business.

This was followed by thoughts from Dr Gillian Purdon, (GP) Head of Nutrition Science and Policy, Food Standards Scotland and Amanda Brown (ABr), Director, The Knowledge Bank.

Their presentations are distributed with the minutes. This was followed by an open debate.

#### Open Debate

**Peter Finnie (SEPA)** was surprised at the volume of food prepared from supermarkets and being “assembled” rather than cooked. He also asked about export markets. **ABr** said there had been the impact of Brexit on export markets which were down particularly to the EU. However exports were now starting to pick up in other areas of the global economy helping to build recovery. Work was on-going in accessing new markets in the longer term.

**Baukje de Roos (Uni Aberdeen) (BR)** noted that 80-100 years ago people spent 25% of their salaries on food and 8% on transport. This now seems to have switched. **BR** wondered if given that during lockdown people spent less on transport, this might translate into spending more on food including healthier and local food which may cost more. **ABr** said that food and drink sales fell by 12% in 2020. This included grocery, retail and food service. People were not going out to eat during lockdown but buying food and ingredients in grocery stores. **AB** had some data from other markets in Ireland, Spain, The Netherlands and USA showing there had been some transference of spend on to food, particularly novel brands or new products on-line. **AB** offered to see if there was any UK data and send it for distribution.

ACTION: AB

**Tilly Robinson-Miles (Food Train) (TR)** said that they had seen a 70% increase in demand for their grocery services across Scotland compared to pre-pandemic and this level has stayed high. **TR** was particularly interested in the breakdown by age for population health as older adults had experienced lockdown differently compared to the majority of the population, especially those shielding. Food Train's work suggested that 20-30% of older adults were malnourished or undernourished which created different challenges. **GP** said they did have some data on splits but not older adults, more the cooking and eating habits split by young population families and older families. FSS had a new report was coming out giving a lot more information. **GP** highlighted the increase in food insecurity and that while we often think of this in relation to young families, there was impact on the older generation too.

**Carrie Ruxton (Nutrition Communications) (CR)** was heartened to see that people were interested in buying local food but thought one of the biggest problems was being aware of what was available in your local area. There was an app for free food-Olio and thought this idea could be extended to local food. **Rhoda Grant (RG)** thought a good place to look for local information was social media. **ABr** noted the activities of Scotland Food and Drink on local food including how to support local producers and marketing such as [Scottish Food and Drink Fortnight](#). There had also been a focussed regional campaign. There was also work underway by Scottish Wholesalers Assn, Scotland Food and Drink and SAOS to encourage local food sales particularly in smaller stores and hospitality. **Ceri Ritchie SAC Consulting** highlighted the massive amount of work carried out by regional food groups and there was information on the [Scotland Food and Drink database](#).

**AB** was not aware of any app for local food but thought it an interesting idea. **AB** said there were other ways to promote local food such as in Ireland, supermarket receipts detail the percentage of local food bought to motivate people.

**Ann Packard (RSA)** asked given the pupils had been locked down, whether the school curriculum should be reviewed and cover issues such as budgeting, choice, food waste etc. **GP** reported that the curriculum had been discussed at the FSS Board and it was agreed there should be more linkage with Scottish Government Education. **Graeme Findlay SQA (GF)** said that all these issues were already in SQA courses. There was a broad education S1-3 and then more specialized courses. He would welcome a dialogue with FSS and asked her to contact him.

ACTION: GP

**AB** agreed with **GF** noting that her teenager was currently working on an assignment on budgeting and food waste and that it was giving her an excellent grounding.

**RG** thanked all the speakers for their thought-provoking presentations.

## 5. Themes and format for CPG Food

**RG** asked that people think about the format for the CPG Food going forward. The next meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> during COP would be virtual, but it was hope that meetings in 2022 would be in person. Whilst the on-line meetings were more accessible for those living further away, there was a loss of in person dialogue and networking. Hybrid meetings have been tried (on-line and in person) at the Parliament but so far not been that successful, but this may be improved .**RG** asked that people send their views to Mary Lawton.

ACTION: ALL

The following ideas for meetings were suggested;

- Good Food Nation/Right to Food Bill –invite Cabinet Secretary (TR/RG)
- Livestock production-trends, sustainability, education (Ian Muirhead)
- Joint meeting with Rural CPG on food production and distribution/land use partnerships (AP)
- Food Farming and Countryside Commission (AP)
- School meals-overview and how to increase take up of these healthier meals (CR)
- UN Food System summit –horizon scan on global level- learnings for Scotland and future of its food (Mads Fischer –Moller)
- Food resilience is an urgent problem ,shortage of labour, empty shelves (Jim Fairlie)

Any other ideas should be emailed to Mary Lawton.

ACTION: ALL

## 6. 6 AOB

There was no other business.

## 7. Dates of the Next meeting

The next meeting will be virtual on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm.