



Making Oadby a Fairtrade Town



www.oadbyweb.org.uk/ft

What's this all about?

For several years many of the churches in Oadby, some of the schools and shops, and Oadby & Wigston Council have been effectively promoting fairtrade goods and encouraging their communities to choose fairtrade.

Oadby Community Stakeholders brings together community, voluntary & statutory groups with the aim of supporting and nurturing good community relations. Over the past year or so members have been working to draw together information about the fantastic work that's already going on in Oadby and have been chatting to Oadby & Wigston Council about gaining their backing to apply for fairtrade status. The Council has been very supportive and has agreed to support our work.

The next stage is for us to form a group to share ideas and celebrate the good work that's going on. We'll also be encouraging more cafes and shops to get involved, publicising where items can be bought, possibly arranging events and supporting schools in developing fairtrade work.

What are the criteria for becoming a fairtrade town? The core criteria are:

- 1. *The Local Council passes a resolution supporting fairtrade and agrees to serve fairtrade tea at its meetings and in its offices and canteens.*** We already have the agreement to take this forward, and simply need to write from this new group to the Council to ask for this to be done.
- 2. *A range of at least 2 fairtrade products is readily available in the area's shops and local café.*** This varies according to the size of the town. For a population of 20-30,000 (like Oadby) 5 shops (Sainsburys, ASDA, Co-op, Marks & Spencers & Oxfam, maybe Walker's?) and 3 cafes (Sainsburys, Brocks Hill Park & either church cafes which run once a week or maybe La Maromme if the manager was happy to join in?)
- 3. *Fairtrade products are used by a number of local work places (estate agents, hairdressers, etc.) and community organisations (churches, schools, etc.)*** Schools and churches are well covered – we'll need to find some workplaces that already use fair trade, or promote fairtrade to hairdressers etc.
- 4. *The group attracts media coverage and popular support for the campaign*** We may choose to run an event (maybe a fairtrade day at Brock Hill?) or launch a directory showing where goods can be bought, or something else to get the project into the media. Popular support could come through schools events which promote fairtrade to parents and children; free tastings on The Parade, etc.

5. A local fairtrade steering group is convened to ensure continued commitment to its Fairtrade Town status. That would be this new group! It could consist of 2 or 3 people, or a much larger group. It might be that we have a small core who meet 3 or 4 times per year but are in email contact with a much wider group of interested members who could feed in ideas and information about events they are running in their own churches, schools, etc. They could also pass information from the group back to their communities. An online forum for sharing ideas might be helpful for some (but is unlikely to suit everyone).

Why bother? Because...

- fairtrade is an important way of alleviating poverty and promoting fairness throughout the world.
- Oadby already has a great deal happening and it would be great to celebrate this widely and share what we do with the wider community.
- it would be an encouragement to everyone who's involved in fairtrade to know that there are others pulling in the same direction.
- we want to support Oadby shops and cafes and help in promoting them within Leicester, local villages etc.
- it would be good to persuade others in the community to buy and stock fairtrade.

What's already happening? Here's a snapshot of some of the things we're already aware of – there are bound to be more:

- Last Fairtrade Fortnight the whole of the Beauchamp College campus promoted the event with students from Beauchamp teaching students from Gartree High who taught children from Brocks Hill Primary who taught children in Beauchamp Childcare Centre.
- The Oxfam shop actively promotes fairtrade and has a wide range of gifts and foods.
- The Co-op has championed fairtrade for many years and has a very wide range of goods.
- All own brand sugar and all bananas sold at Sainsbury's are fairtrade.
- For many years a fairtrade goods stall has been running at Trinity Methodist Church alongside their Saturday Morning Coffee.
- Oadby Baptist Church has been running a fairtrade café called The Well from 10-11.30am on a Tuesday (termtimes) for over 3 years.
- Brocks Hill Environment Centre's café stocks fairtrade refreshments, as does Sainsbury's café.
- Oadby Library held fairtrade events in Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 and aims to serve fairtrade drinks in the new library opening in the autumn.
- Brocks Hill Primary School uses all fairtrade tea, coffee & sugar for its parent and fundraising events (they get through lots of Fairbreak bars!) and the children have learned about fairtrade arts and crafts made from recycled materials in Big Arts Week and Science Week.

- Beauchamp College has installed fairtrade vending machines.
- St. Paul's, St. Peter's, Rosemead Drive URC, Trinity and Oadby Baptist Church already have Fairtrade Church status.
- Beauchamp and Brocks Hill Primary are working towards Fairtrade School status.

There are bound to be more wonderful things happening, and one of the aims of the group is to pass the word on ~ so if there's something that we've missed that you know about, please get in touch whether you'd like to join the group or not.

How can I get involved?

If you're interested in fairtrade and would like to get involved, even in a small way, please get in touch. We promise not to draw you into taking on more than you're happy with! If you can't make daytime meetings but would like to be on the mailing list ~ or would like us to consider evening meetings so that you can get involved ~ please let us know.

Either return the attached form by post, or email your details, and how you'd like to become involved to swans@swansweb.co.uk.

If this isn't something you're interested in but know someone who might be please pass this on.

Many thanks

(Mrs.) Chris Swan

Oadby Community Stakeholders

c/o 76 Briar Meads, Oadby LE2 5WD ~ 07808 882033 ~ swans@swansweb.co.uk

Initial mailing to Oadby Community Stakeholders mailing list plus:

Faith groups:

Trinity Methodist, Oadby Baptist, Rosemead Drive URC, St. Paul's, St. Peter's, Church of the Immaculate Conception, Lighthouse Fellowship, Oadby & Wigston Muslim Association, Kenilworth Drive Gurdwara, Leicester Progressive Jewish Congregation

Schools:

Beauchamp College, Gartree High, Manor High, Brocks Hill Primary, Langmoor Primary, Launde Primary, Woodland Grange Primary, Brookside Primary

Local Councillors:

Jeffrey Kaufman, Mark Carrarra, Mike Griffiths, Jill Gore (Mayor)

Council Officers:

Jacky York, Sallie Wocha

Shops & cafes:

Oxfam, Sainsbury's, ASDA, Co-op, Marks & Spencers, Walkers
Brocks Hill Environment Centre

Fairtrade

Claire Carr, GELS



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___ I'm planning to come to the meeting on June 27th

___ I'd like to be put on the email circulation list.

___ I'd like to receive information by post.

___ I'd be happy to pass on information to my club, school, church, community, friends (please let us know which so that we know which communities we're covering.

___ I'd like to come to meetings but can't manage Friday mornings. I can manage these daytime slots:

or these evening slots:

Please add any information about fairtrade activities taking place in Oadby:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Communities you have links to: