



Stroud Common Wealth Community Farm Land Trust Project

Case Study

Honeycomb Project Penzance, Cornwall

Summary

Martin Venning and Simon Beavis conceived the Honeycomb Project in Summer 2006 as a Community Orchard initiative. There was an initial meeting with five potential stakeholders and supporters on September 15th at Penwith District Council Offices, Penzance with the CFLT Project. It is early days, but the Honeycomb Project, as a potential CFLT is offered as an example of a start up project.

The Vision

The aim is purchase land, then lease it at say £1.00 per week to members who will have access to the land. The aim is to find land close to public footpaths and close to towns, such as land and woods on the Nancealverne Estate between the Astro Park and the A30 near the St. Clare Penwith DC HQ, and the Penzance Fire Station This land has woodlands, a marsh area, open field, and hard standing foundations for temporary workshops.

The aim is to create a working model in Penzance that can be duplicated and altered to suit varying climates, sites, local cultivars and varieties in other towns in Cornwall. Honeycomb will pay for the land purchased and the development of each field as the money comes in from grants and through public sign ups. As soon as one field is paid for and developed we will purchase another. They aim to have one field for every large town; the size and selection of towns will be determined by the amount of people from that locality signing up.

They will target individual households, schools, community groups and workplaces surrounding the site to give priority of involvement to those closest to the site and with the greatest needs e.g. single parents, young people, and disadvantaged adults.

This plan is transferable from a small-scale one-field project to a larger scale community farm project based upon public support, funding and population of the area.

Setting up the Project

Honeycomb is working with Cornwall Rural Community Council which is advising with Funding Applications etc. Honeycomb has incorporated as a community interest company.

Potential benefits offered by Honeycomb

In return for membership, you get:

- Free access to any communal orchard where you can help yourself to your share of nature's harvest.
- Secure existing woodland for conservation and expansion.
- Secure waterways, streams, ponds, lakes, reservoirs to restore and renew.
- Set up wild animal habitats and food reserves for birds and small animals.
- Woodland and burial memorial sites.
- A place to picnic and play
- A place to grow things and get your hands dirty
- Community farms growing fruit, veg and fungi, whilst providing a place to educate and expand from, dig up your own veg, find an egg, milk a cow or goat and bake some bread.
- Place to exercise.
- Education in cultivation, nurture and harvesting.
- Access to workshops at a reduced fee to learn new skills e.g. wood and metal work and bush craft skills.
- Social events at specific stages of the growing calendar e.g. planting, blossoming and harvesting.
- Access and involvement to similar projects.

Contacts

Simon Beavis, Martin Venning and Anna
Flat 2, 6 Kings Road, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 4LG

T: 01736 331058 or 01736 367330
E: honeycombproject@yahoo.co.uk