

BURNLEY COMMUNITY FARM – the concept

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THE VISION

- A demonstration of where food comes from (animals and plants)
- Explore feasibility of urban agriculture
- Community involvement/exchange skills
- Educational resource
- Training and employment for adults
- Contribution to food security
- Research into organic and low input methods
- Explorations of economies of scale
- Sustainable building methods
- Renewable energy
- Social enterprise

1999

Planning for Real Exercise

- Burnley Borough
Council Neighbourhood
Renewal Office
- Urban Farm

2001

- Sure Start
- Visit to Cuba (Organic gardening Brigade)
- Dietitian's Needs Assessment
- Foot and Mouth Disease
- Local 'Open Spaces' meeting
- Old Hall Farm up for sale £150 –200K
- Adjacent land for sale £100K
- Multiagency meeting
- Begging letters!
- Disturbances in Burnley (and Oldham + Bradford)
- September 11th

2002

- Funding for Feasibility Study from Tudor Trust (£12,000)
- Burnley Borough Council (£4000)
- Steering group
- Interim constitution
- Learning through Allotments
- Trip to CAT

2003

- Meetings +++
- Trips to city farms
- Trip to Eden Project
- Community consultation
- Possibility of several linked sites
- SEED funding for development worker

2004

OPTIMISTIC START

- Appointment of development worker
- Successful funding bids (£600,000) – subject to lease
- Some disillusion
- Burnley Food Links set up
- Reach 2 festival
- Lack of clear support from council
- Rushed business plan
- Incorporation as IPS
- Letters to councillors and MP

DEPRESSING END

2005

- Failure to get on to Council's Executive meeting agenda
- Loss of funding from Living Spaces (£150,000)
- Loss of Shanks funding (£50,000)
- Putting back of Remade programme (£150,000) until 2006
- Outstanding bids to Community Fund (Community Engagement Officer) and Tudor Trust (capital programme) on hold
- Still awaiting inclusion on council's meeting agenda .

meanwhile – Burnley Food Links

- Community fund £5000
- Rental of terraced house adjacent to allotments
- GUMI project
- Trip to Ryton Organic Gardens
- Sustainability Grant (£10,000) from NWDA to establish C.A.F.E Culture as social enterprise supplied with local produce