

Arbroath Fairtrade Action Group
Minutes of Meeting – 22 August 2017, St Andrews Church, Arbroath

Present: Karen Bowie, Rebecca Brown, Paula Fenwick, Evelyn Fordyce, Janice Swankie

Apologies: Caroline Farquhar, Jean Glass, Helen Muir, Noela Watson.

1. Minutes of previous meeting 16/5/17 approved.
2. No Matters arising
3. Angus Fairtrade Zone Meeting – meeting is scheduled for 12/9/17 at 10.30 at County Buildings, Forfar. Evelyn shall be attending with Rebecca and Janice possibly going too.
4. Fairtrade trademark – Cadbury and Cocoa Life and Sainsbury removal from teas.

We have some news to share - Information sent from the Fairtrade foundation

From next month, you'll no longer see the FAIRTRADE Mark on the front of Cadbury Dairy Milk bars, hot chocolate and Buttons. This is because Cadbury's parent company, Mondelez International, have decided to roll out their own sustainable sourcing programme called Cocoa Life across all Cadbury products. This is so they can safeguard their supply chain by taking complete responsibility for the sustainability of the cocoa they buy.

The difference between Cocoa Life and the FAIRTRADE Mark

The Cocoa Life programme isn't an independent farmer-owned system like the one behind the FAIRTRADE Mark. Instead, Mondelez work directly with cocoa farming communities to develop action plans that tackle challenges such as climate change, improving cocoa quality and making cocoa farming a more attractive profession for young people.

Instead of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and the Fairtrade Premium, Mondelez pays farmers the market price for their cocoa and then a loyalty payment on top to boost their incomes. They also invest in projects that address the challenges identified by community action plans, which farmers create and deliver with Mondelez.

Fairtrade's involvement with Cocoa Life

Here at the Fairtrade Foundation we've been working with Mondelez for many months to make sure Fairtrade farmers have been properly consulted on the Cocoa Life programme, and that they will receive at least the same value as they have under Fairtrade certification. As part of its development we have been able to make sure farmers' views have been heard and they have told us they fully support it.

Five times as much Cadbury chocolate will be sourced on sustainable terms through Cocoa Life than was Fairtrade certified. Mondelez have committed to continue buying the same volumes of Fairtrade certified sugar as they do now.

The Fairtrade Foundation exists to represent and protect farmers' interests, and we see it as our responsibility to ensure that this continues to be the case. That's why we've worked with Mondelez on developing Cocoa Life and will continue to help them monitor it to ensure it truly benefits cocoa farmers and will publish an annual report on how we think that's going. Our work with Mondelez on their Cocoa Life programme is indicated by the Fairtrade Foundation's name appearing on the back of packs.

Discussed the petition that was organised through Change.org to protest against the decision made by Sainsbury's supermarkets to remove the Fairtrade log from their own branded teas and replace with a different scheme ('Fairly Traded'). Still time to sign the petition see hyperlink - <https://www.change.org/p/sainsbury-s-don-t-ditch-fairtrade>

Karen spoke about some articles in newspaper links are listed:

[Thought this was interesting article from FT:](#)

<http://fairtradeamerica.org/Media-Center/Blog/2017/July/Vanilla-farmers-in-Madagascar-lead-fight-against-child-labor>

[These are the two articles I mentioned last night:](#)

https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/jul/05/sainsburys-agm-rocked-by-protests-over-plan-to-drop-fairtrade-tea?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Gmail

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/jul/07/sainsburys-fairtrade-parliamentary-motion>

5. Fairtrade Products – stocked in supermarkets

Listed the number of goods:

ASDA (38)

Tesco (45)

Morrisons (8)

However unable to verify that these goods are stocked in our local stores.

Aldi and Lidl harder to narrow search from their websites specifically for Fairtrade.

Co-operative (hyperlink to listed Fairtrade goods from their official website - <http://www.co-operativefood.co.uk/food-matters/fairtrade-ethical-trading/fairtrade-product-stories/>)

Scottish Fairtrade Campaigner Conference – Kelly Ann Fordyce is attending and unfortunately no one from those present at the meeting could attend

6. Churches

St Johns – at their coffee morning on the 17/6/17 Helen and Jean had their Fairtrade stall. Janice advised that they have another coffee morning in November and date to be confirmed.

St Marys – a Christmas Fayre being planned at the end of November and will be serving Fairtrade coffee.

St Thomas' - continue to use Fairtrade coffee, tea and sugar at the weekly teas after Sunday mass.

Due to apologies from the other reps from St Andrews and Old and Abbey unable to report any activity since last meeting.

7. Schools

Arbroath Academy – the school achieved “Fairer Achiever Award which is their second award. Lots of Fairtrade activities achieved by undertaking this award – examples were hoodies, a notice board specifically for Fairtrade highlighting everything that is taking place in the school. The school is now moving onto their 3rd Award

Arbroath High School – awaiting news as no rep available to update at present.

8. AOCB

Finance - Janice gave an update on the monies held in the Bank Account – healthy balance. Suggestion was put forward to use the monies to help support buying Fairtrade (Traidcraft) stock to help other churches sell and then monies can be reimbursed.

Fairtrade Renewal Application – Arbroath's Fairtrade certificate expired and therefore requires to be renewed. At the meeting we discussed the activities and evidence that will need to be

collated for the renewal application along with our future aims and goals. Evelyn was going to look over the online application. Action required by all to help support the renewal application.

Received information from Karen after our meeting so I have included the excerpt as below:

Hi Karen

Many supporters have been asking what the latest news is regarding Sainsbury's decision to drop the FAIRTRADE Mark from their own-brand tea, so here's a quick update on what's been happening over the summer.

Nearly 100,000 people have signed the [Change.org petition](#) started by Fairtrade supporter Barbara Gwinnett, and supported by Oxfam, CAFOD, Traidcraft Exchange and many more. The petition received a response from Mike Coupe, Sainsbury's CEO, in July and [you can read Barbara's reply here](#).

In the last few weeks, a group of charities including CAFOD, Christian Aid, Traidcraft Exchange, the Women's Institute, Tearfund and Global Justice Now have launched their own campaign to stop Sainsbury's ditching Fairtrade. They're asking supporters to campaign locally and have lots of ideas and resources available. You can find out more at dontditchfairtrade.com

The Fairtrade Foundation remains focused on finding a way forward with Sainsbury's that is in the best interests of the tea farmers and workers we represent, and are still hopeful that through discussions we can see their own-brand tea go back to being Fairtrade certified.

A reminder that you can find [our latest FAQs here](#), our response to Sainsbury's announcement [here](#), and Fairtrade [tea farmers' response here](#).

And of course, [please keep choosing Fairtrade certified tea](#) and asking your friends, family and local community to do the same.

Jonathan Smith

Head of Campaigns, Fairtrade Foundation

9. Date of next meeting

Meeting ended without date of next meeting confirmed.

Is Tuesday 14 or 21 November 7.30, St Andrews Church, Arbroath suitable?