

Transition Town Lewes Annual Report 2008-2009



First, very warm thanks go out to all our many members, supporters and funders. Transition Town Lewes (TTL) was launched in April 2007. We were overwhelmed by the positive response from every quarter of our community, and this support has continued and been fortified in our second year of existence. Our membership has grown considerably as more people engage in looking to build our economic resilience for the future and respond to the challenges of climate change and the end of cheap oil.

More than 10 groups have formed around key themes of our lives, such as Food, Waste, Education, Transport and Energy. The groups have involved themselves in the local community holding regular meetings, where plans for the future are discussed and planned, and participating in many inspired community actions. News of the groups can be found on our participative "wiki" website at www.transitiontowns.org/Lewes.

We have also strong relationships with both local government and other non-governmental organisations in Lewes, such as the Lewes Town Partnership. TTL is a community response to the challenges of climate change and the end of cheap oil and we believe a stronger community will create the resilience we need to face these challenges. Our approach is very much about collaboration.

We work from the bottom-up based on the ideas of local people. September 2008 saw the launch of the Lewes Pound – www.thelewespound.org. This raised awareness of how a local currency can create community resilience in the face of climate change and global economic downturn. The success of this pilot scheme has been astounding. The Lewes Pound brought our town into the world's spotlight with many national and international newspapers and television stations visiting the town. The Lewes Pound group has fostered relationships with local traders, producers and suppliers as well as local consumers. A second phase of the Lewes Pound is being launched mid 2009.

The TTL Energy Group formed Ovesco, a local energy services company, which continues to work with Lewes District Council delivering a range of energy saving, renewable energy and related grants to the residents of Lewes and the Ouse Valley.

TTL is an organic, non-hierarchical, inclusive organisation. This is an idealistic path which is not always easy to follow, but the advantages of such a line are manifold. Our administrator was unable to continue due to illness, but we hired an environmental consultant to assist the various groups in pursuing their goals, and overcoming obstacles. In the coming year, the TTL groups will collaborate to appoint a new person to occupy the seat at the hub of our organisation.

Many projects and awareness-raising events are being planned by the various groups and as an organisation we hope to put in place the necessary structure, people and procedures to allow us to run effectively and efficiently. Further funding will be necessary to support this and we are actively pursuing this.

Please see the attached Financial Statement. We are very grateful to all our funders for supporting us - these include Awards for All, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, East Sussex County Council, Lewes District Council and Lewes Town Council, as well as private donations.

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You can find out more about TTL on our website at www.transitiontowns.org/Lewes

1/3/08 - 28/2/09

INCOME:

ESMEE FAIRBAIRN GRANT - Spent this year	£10,297	
AWARDS FOR ALL - Spent this year	£807	
GRANT FOR CAR CLUB SURVEY	£2,000	
DONATIONS	£2,681	
EVENTS INCOME:		
HEART & SOUL	£730	
TRANSPORT GROUP	£182	
FOOD GROUP	£758	
OTHER	£242	
BANK INTEREST		£67
TTL HANDBOOK & BOOK SALES		£325
		<hr/>
		£18,089

EXPENSES:

CAR CLUB SURVEY	£2,000	
ESMEE FAIRBAIRN GRANT:		
SALARIES	** £10,297	
ARTS FOR ALL AWARD:		
PRINTING, POSTAGE, STATIONERY	£429	
ROOM HIRE	£190	
CATERING FOR EVENT	£188	
OFFICE/GENERAL:		
RENT/RATES	£1,332	
ROOM HIRE	£75	
PRINTING, POSTAGE & STATIONERY	£655	
TELEPHONE/BROADBAND	£484	
OFFICE EQUIPMENT PURCHASE/MAINTENANCE	£187	
EVENTS	£70	
BOOKS/HANDBOOKS	£420	
FOOD GROUP:		
PRINTING, POSTAGE & STATIONERY	£480	
EVENTS	£159	
WEBSITE:		£847
TRANSPORT GROUP EVENT:		£182
HEART & SOUL GROUP:		£508
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		£18,503
DEFICIT OF INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE		<hr/> -£414

** net of Statutory Sick Pay refunds