**National Campaigner Committee 18-19 July 2018**

**Bullet points.**

* **Update on FT mark / other ways of working**

FT commercial team explained that the commercial landscape is changing and FTF need to change as well if they are to continue working with big brands. They recognised concerns that the general public can get very confused with many different brands – which ones are best? NCC made comments that FT mark must be kept as the “Gold Standard”, but understood why FTF felt the need to work with companies such as Mondelez in other ways. The new ways of working with businesses are being consolidated in to a new set of tools and explanations to be launched to businesses in October 2018 (NCC members have been invited to attend), with assets to support campaigners understanding the changes created following this.

* **Sainsbury’s update**

The positive news is that Sainsbury’s have not removed the FT Mark from coffee, bananas & sugar, which seem to be their original plan. Therefore the campaign against their “Fairly Traded” tea was felt to be a success. At the Sainsbury’s AGM the issue of their commitment to FT was raised and the Board made very supportive comments. FTF have begun to be in more regular contact with Sainsbury’s and it is hoped that their working relationship will continue to improve.

* **Cocoa Life update**

FTF has produced a report on the scheme so far and this will be available soon. Mondelez are keen to show how they have met their obligations and that their scheme is independently scrutinised. So far producers seem to be happy with the new scheme, although there have been some early teething problems in communicating exactly what is required from them. FTF will continue to monitor this and ensure that Mondelez standards do not slip.

* **FT Towns new renewal process**

New online process seems to be going well. Pilot testing began in May 2018 and 48 groups have taken part so far. They were asked their opinions and have given practical feedback on problems completed the forms – e.g.: not being able to move on to the next step without having filled out all the fields in the previous section. FTF will act on the feedback and improve the system before launching later in 2018.

* **Fairtrade Fortnight 2019**

The 2018 campaign of “Come on in” was well received and worked well for commercial partners as well as campaigners, and we reviewed the results of the campaign. Fairtrade Fortnight 2019 will launch a new 3 year campaign on living income, focused on cocoa in 2019, and setting a new challenge for the Fairtrade movement to grow the impact of Fairtrade to deliver living incomes to farmers through Fairtrade sales and other actions, like advocacy campaigns to tackle systemic issues. There is a thought that the calendar date for FT fortnight may change from 2020 – was felt that there was time for change. NCC agreed with this and it was felt that the particularly bad weather in Feb 2018 affected many planned activities –especially in Scotland/ Northern England. It was suggested that we could concentrate more on World FT day in May.

* **Fundraising**

The fundraising campaign was a new initiative for FTF, but essential. More funds were raised than expected, which was good news. It is expected that FTF will need to continue to fundraise in the future if it wants to continue to do the same quality/quantity of work. NCC agreed, but raised a concern that FT is known as “trade not aid” and it was important to ensure that the two were not confused in the eye of the public.

* **E-shop Update**

NCC raised concerns again over lack of availability of items in the e-shop. There is a funding issue and FTF are working on ways to ensure that there are sufficient items available in good time for FT fortnight. This will continue to be on NCC agenda until we are happy that it has been resolved.

* **University & Colleges scheme update**

The new scheme is going well. 11 universities have completed the first year of the pilot scheme and have been audited. It is felt that there is scope for considerable more involvement both with the original group of universities and to extend the scheme to many more.

* **Regional Conferences**

Venues have been booked and agendas drafted. Working title: “What is fair – and sustainable?”

* **Church update**

It was felt that we could get much more support from the FT church networks across the country – FTF acknowledged that they need to input more resource to get communication improved. Need to recruit someone for this work – hopefully there will be some action on this before the next NCC meeting.

* **Final Comments**

Barbara Gwinnett, Nicola Bunting and Karen Palframan are all at the end of their terms on NCC. Their replacements will not be known until after the regional conferences. Nina Tweddle (London Rep) agreed to Chair the next meeting and once the new NCC were in place, volunteers could be sought on who would like to be Chair / Deputy Chair for 2019. Thanks were given by the FTF team and NCC to Barbara, Karen and Nicola on their enthusiasm and support over the years they have been part of the group.

Date of next meeting: 11th October 2018

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