

**Recovering civic
engagement in pursuit
of sustainable food:
Developments in Cork**

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Local solutions

- $>1/2$ world's population live in cities
- Cities are emerging as major food policy actors
- Food is a planning prism for land, energy, transport, waste etc
- Food offers potential for high level of civic engagement:
- Food growing, local markets, public procurement
- In cities food, health & social justice intersect



Sustainable urban nutritional security

- The 21st Century global urban policy issue
- Locating cities in their region: city & its hinterland
- Building around neighbourhoods: needs & assets
 - Nesting top-down facilitation with bottom-up ideas
 - Food poverty: insufficiency & malconsumption
- Perishable supply chains are a valuable asset, yet
 - Huge levels of discard: trivial aesthetic criteria & dating practices (Best Before, Use By)
 - Working to 'save' lost food without stigma (banking)
- Sustainable, resilient, nourishing & inclusive food *ecosystems*

Why food for civic engagement?

- Low entry threshold; potential for (re-)skilling
- A social lubricant, aiding connectivity, aggregation
- Reveals territorial resource endowments hidden by phases of modernization; recovers 'place-ness'
- Therapeutic value to able-bodied & disadvantaged
- Food policy: the picture that makes sense of the jigsaw
 - Ecological public health
- Opportunities for low-cost, high-return initiatives. But:
 - We need baseline evidence (research) & willingness to value human wellbeing & environmental quality.
- What might be the role for Food Policy Councils here?

The scope of a Food Policy Council

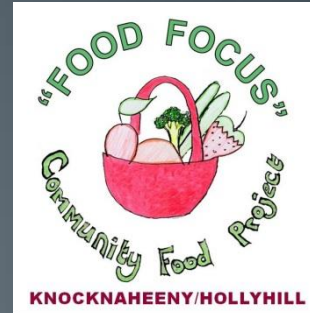


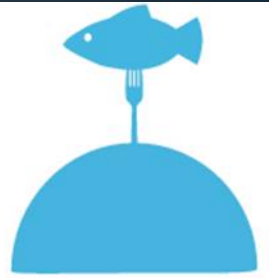
What does a FPC do?

1. A Forum: a roundtable representing diverse groups for dialogue within a food *system* – not sectoral – approach
2. It does not *make* policy but advocates for policy that progresses outcomes (health etc)
 - Promotes existing good practice messages and, critically, collective responses to them
3. It seeks to broker linkages between actors & helps coordination between programmes
 - It avoids duplicating work but seeks to join up expertise
4. It works to re-establish a regional/ territorial dimension to the city's food system

Creating a FPC in Cork

- Knocknaheeny CFI
 - NICHE community health
 - Targeted interventions
 - City Council: land + works
 - A safe 'neutral' space
- Idea of CFPC
 - Cork Healthy Cities
 - City Council (not CoCoCo)
 - Synergies: EcCoWell
 - Steering Committee
 - Launch event



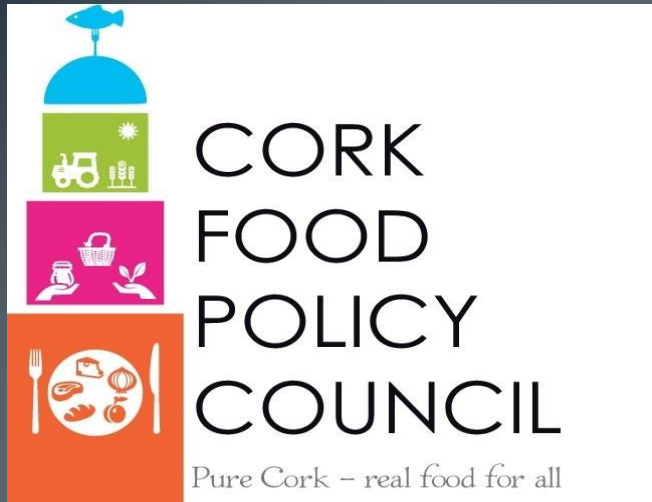




CORK FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Pure Cork – real food for all

Launch of the Cork Food Policy Council



'Feed the City'

Part of Cork's 2014 St Patrick's Festival



Saturday March 15th
Grand Parade
10 am to 4pm

Key Elements of the Launch Event

- Feeding the City: Using >1 tonne of residual food to produce 5,000 bowls of curry + drink + snack
- Official Launch of the CFPC by Lord Mayor of Cork
- Cookery Demonstration Marquee
- The Food Trail
- Entertainment Area
- City Library (Talks)
- CFPC Information Stand

Beyond the launch: extending & deepening civic engagement

- Building awareness of and support for a *principled* food system
- Promoting our values
- Strengthening the evidence base around food poverty and dietary ill-health
- Mobilising around growing schemes – especially community gardens
- Enhancing skills around food preparation: winning people to ‘cooking from scratch’
- Feeding into policy deliberations and local development plans