



Elaine speaking to Laetitia and Anne about a new epicerie in Guern

Elaine: Laetitia, what was involved in terms of finding premises, funding and your status as a cooperative or association, because I believe you are on many committees?

Laetitia: Yeah, this is about an association. We are supported by the town hall of Guern and thanks to Nicolas Champot who is a person of our association, he has participated to request for another association Bouche Dans Coque, and we approached him to create our grocery shop and also a funding of 1000 euros, this is to help to create this grocery.

Elaine: And so the status is actually as an association and you have received funding and the premises, tell us about the premises.

Anne: Well it used to be a creche until a larger one was constructed er, just a bit further down the road. So that this particular locale was vacant. It belongs to the Mairie and they have put it at our disposal free of rent, but it is up to the Epi de Guern itself to renovate and furnish it. That's what has been going on for the last couple of months.

Elaine: So that's good, you've rent free premises, you've got committees and you've got an association and you've received some funding. Will that funding be rolling every year or is it a one-off?

Anne: I think it's a one-off, for setting up the locale, after that we hope that we will make a sufficient profit to be able to cover our expenses, which will be quite low, because it will be run entirely by volunteers.

Elaine: So what products can be found in the shop? And are they all sourced locally?

Anne: They are all sourced locally. One of our aims is to encourage local producers. We now have over 300 products and I think about 25 producers. We cover virtually every aspect of groceries.

Elaine: So that's great everything being sourced around the area, means it's fresh with your vegetables, so how does it work in terms of people coming in and buying something? You were explaining that a little earlier.

Anne: Well for, for fresh products we can't actually store fresh products in the locale, because it isn't big enough and the idea is for most products to be ordered online in advance. That will cut down on any wastage for fresh produce.

Elaine: So people will find what they want maybe online....they will have gone online

Anne: We have our own website L'Epi de Guern



Elaine: And then they can scroll down and find... And then how long in advance will they need to put in their order?

Anne: Well hopefully about a week, to enable the local producers to bring the produce in to the locale where the orders will be made up.

Laetitia: It depending of producer maybe 2 days or maybe a week it's depending on the producer.

Elaine: Depending on the producer and also what you're ordering because obviously with dairy products it needs to be as fresh

Anne: Yes it does, it needs to be as fresh as possible

Elaine: So what are your particular roles? Anne to begin with ?

Anne: I'm on the communications group which is in charge of publicity. So we have been particularly busy recently producing flyers for distribution throughout the commune, to explain to people how the shop is going to be run.

Elaine: And Laetitia, I think you're quite an important person?

Laetitia: I am a member of the steering committee and I find for the new producer, suppliers and new products with a team of 7 people we have the responsibility for to contact these provider and to propose their best products, local products, for the community.

Elaine: So I think you said each person on your committee they have 1 contact that they have to keep in touch with?

Laetitia: Yes, in the group of producer the 7 people have some producer by people, by 1 person.

Elaine: That's good, that's good. So they have to maintain a good relationship

Laetitia: Yeah

Anne: It's easier for the producers to have only 1 person to contact

Elaine: Laetitia, how many volunteers are involved? Is there some kind of rota?

Laetitia: There are 35 families now, but currently we are maybe 15 or 20 people engaged to help to create this grocery.

Elaine: So the people actually who will be serving in the shop in the epicerie how many hours a week or a month will they be required to



Laetitia: Yes, I provide, we provide 2 hours by month minimum, 2 hours by month and we have planned with the task to open the locale and to receive the product.

Elaine: You're going to be opening for how many days to begin with?

Anne: 3 days a week

Laetitia: 3 days a week yes

Anne: For a 2 hour period

Laetitia: Monday in the morning, Thursday Saturday in the afternoon

Anne: Yes

Elaine: Do you hope if things work well and you attract more members that you will be open more days?

Laetitia: Yes, Actually we can open 3 days a week but if we have 50 families or more we can open every day.

Anne: I should have mentioned the beer.

Elaine: Oh yes, very important.

Anne: Because we have 2 local brasserie, 1 at Margaynac which is run by an English couple and a second one a little bit nearer to the village at St Georges which is run by a young French couple. So we are going to stock beers from both of the brasseries.

Elaine: Why do you think its so important to have a community epicerie or grocery shop here in Guern?

Anne: The village needs a focal point, it needs a hub where people can actually meet, sit down and chat. We are hoping in fine weather to have tables and chairs outside in the courtyard of the mairie where we can have a little drink of coffee or even beer, so it will be a social hub as well as a shop.

Elaine: Laetitia, would you like to add to that?

Laetitia: It is necessary also to propose local products to motivate local economy, support our producer, our farmers and to propose all community we have variety of products, quality to every person.

Elaine: Because that as you say is price too is going to be



Anne: It's important yes

Elaine: To keep it at a particular

Anne: It needs to be affordable. We will have some bio products. Naturally they tend to be a little bit more expensive, but I think it's important to stress that there will be something for everybody

Elaine: Well thank you very much ladies for your time this afternoon and I look forward to coming back when it's all up and running and maybe testing some beer.