

YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING ON Dec.3rd.2012

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Isobel Waddington	Murton PC
Dot Lawton	Heslington PC
Carole Green	Bishopthorpe PC
Chris Chambers	Strensall with Towthorpe PC
Cllr.Paul Healey	CYC Cons.Group
Hugh Cripps	Yorks.Energy Partnership
John Cossham	York in Transition/York Rotters
Alastair Cooper	York Quakers(Friargate)
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Maurice Vassie	Just York
Phil Bixby	Constructive Individuals
Mick Phythian	YNET
Anna Bialkowska	Tang Hall Community Centre
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland
Ron Healey	CTC
Sara Robin	Yorks.Wildlife Trust
Charlotte Harrison	Mass Architecture
Helen Shiels	CO2 Sense
Cllr.James Alexander	Leader of the Council-Labour Group

Chair:Kate Lock

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies from Guy Woolley, Guy Wallbanks, Edward Harland, Cllr.Ian Cuthbertson, Cllr. Dave Merrett. Thanks to Carole Green and others for their contributions to the buffet.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Apologies to Barry Otley who was missed on the Nov. meeting attendance list.

3 MATTERS ARISING

item 5- **HC** noted the promotion of electric vehicles and associated infrastructure would be a key element of the "Climate Week" events in Mar.2013. **BO** noted there were issues regarding tree planting along the A59 in related to highways work affecting existing trees and the opportunities for new planting.

item 9- **JC** reported that the meeting on fracking resolved to prepare a report pressuring the CYC to include a policy statement on the issue.

4 YORK COMMUNITY CONTRACTS

PC reported on the forthcoming introduction of the new Community Contracts, which clarified the responsibilities of CYC and local residents in the way community issues were dealt with. It was not clear how and where these documents were being distributed, and the time scale and scope of the consultations. While the devolved model of decision making was admirable in principle, how residents could be encouraged to be actively involved could still be a problem. It was not clear how far residents associations and Parish Councils had promoted the consultation procedure in their own areas, and if the responses to date were meaningful as an evidence base. Should local businesses be more involved? **KL** suggested that the traditional concept of "community" had virtually disappeared, and that local policy was often driven by small pressure groups, rather than residents in general. **JC** proposed that local communities could now be defined by the large groups attending the bingo sessions at Fishergate or Clifton, and that CYC might well look to them as a means of assessing public opinion. **PC** hoped to report further at the next meeting.

5 YORK CENTRAL UPDATE

CH noted that this was still being discussed with CYC but with no firm progress. The University of York and the RIBA were promoting an architectural event in June 2013 which could stimulate thinking on how the site should be developed. There was a possibility that Heidelberg could be involved, as the city is in many ways comparable to York. **BO** noted that the experience of Sheffield in developing brownfield sites could be relevant.

6 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

BO stated that it was essential that a green infrastructure strategy be incorporated into the new Local Plan, and that he was preparing a draft paper to lobby CYC to this effect.

7 CLLR. ALEXANDER - open discussion

The following points of concern to members were raised and noted by Cllr.Alexander for future consideration:-

- 1-there should be a major cross-town public transport link
- 2-there should be more public transport links between and to and from the villages
- 3-there should be an increased emphasis on reduction in consumption and carbon reduction
- 4-promote the opportunities for recycling organised within the parishes
- 5-solar panels should be on all council properties, and the results displayed
- 6-CYC should clarify its position on Fairtrade
- 7-car-free areas in the centre should be extended
- 8-green composting facilities should be available city-wide
- 9-wildflowers should be encouraged wherever possible