

YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 20th.Feb.2012

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Isabel Waddington	Murton PC
Chris.Chambers	Strensall PC
Carole Green	Bishopthorpe PC
Dot Lawton	Heslington PC
Cllr.Andy d'Agorne	CYC Green Group
Cllr.Paul Healey	CYC Cons.Group
Cllr.Dave Merrett	CYC Labour Group
Sara Robin	Yorks.Wildlife Trust
Barry Otley	Yorks.Farming Wildlife/WheatlandsCommunity Woodland
Alastair Cooper	York Quakers(Friargate)
John Cossham	York in Transition/York Rotters
Maurice Vassie	Just York
Mick Phythian	YNET
Ron Healey	CTC North Yorks.
Richard Lane	YRAIN/FOE
Edward Harland	York in Transition
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Gwen Swinburn	Econ.Development Consultant
Hugh Cripps	Yorks.Energy Partnership
Prof. Colin Campbell	York University Sustainability Forum
Jacqui Warren	CYC

Chair: Kate Lock York Rotters/Planet Southbank/Friends of Rowntree Park

1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Andreas Heinemeyer, Guy Woolley, Jo Bussey, Anna Bialkowska, Phil Bixby, Cllr.Ian Cuthbertson, Mark Warters.The Chair welcomed Prof. Campbell, Hugh Cripps, Jacqui Warren.

2 **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

agreed

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

The EF website can now be accessed at www.yorkenvironmentforum.org.uk. Thanks to Richard Lane and John Forrester for this. Following the EF response to the Monks Cross Planning applications (item 6 EF meeting 19th.Jan.) KL issued a press release and included the EF in the list of objectors on the "Campaign 4 York" website at www.campaign4york.co.uk.

4 WORKING GROUPS UPDATE - (JW,CC,PC)

(i)-**Climate Week**:- **JW** outlined the CYC -supported programme , following on from the Fairtrade Fortnight and working with partners e.g.NHS, Aviva, and and with a proposed stall on Newgate Market. There could be a Joseph Rowntree "Superhome" visit. **PB** has also been involved.. **EF** volunteers were needed to man the market stall on 14th.Mar., when a start was to be made on interviews and photography for the "Engage" project (see item 8 on previous minutes). **KL** would mastermind this.

(ii)-**Intelligent Travel** :- **CC** had discussed with Graham Titchener how the **EF** could be involved. Monitoring transport and related activities and assisting with censuses could involve the parish councils. There should be a public meeting to explain "intelligent travel". A film could be produced illustrating the principles. Cycling events could be used to promote the **EF** message on attitude change. There needed to be pressure on bus operators to maximise route and frequency effectiveness to reduce car travel. **Cllr.DM** stated that £2.4m. was available to develop smart ticketing, interchange points for cross-city travel, bus priority systems for better timekeeping. **KL** proposed to invite John Carr (Quality Bus Partnership) to address the **EF** on these topics.

(iii)-**Treemendous**:- **PC** reported that the potential of Google Mapping was being explored as an aid to identifying sites for tree planting. Biodiversity issues were being correlated as an aid to site selection. Opportunities for planting along the A1237 were being examined. Preparation of material for the BTCV bid for major funding was on-going. The bid deadline was 14th.Mar. The invaluable back office support of council staff, limited by internal budget constraints, was much appreciated. It was doubtful if the programme could progress if this was to be reduced in the future. **Cllr.DM** stated that at one time CYC had a policy for dealing with roadside verges, but was unsure if this was till current.

5- **WoW BOARD/ ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP - mtg.8th.Feb.(JW)**

A new strategy for York 2011-2025 was being developed, with the draft short term action plan to 2015 containing 36 actions relating to the agreed themes of "Enabling Growth", "Creating the Environment for Growth" and "Sharing Growth". The **EF** could work with lead partners on certain aspects of sustainability. There must be more focus on delivery, working with businesses high on the agenda. **KL** addressed the Board at some length, as the **EF** and the **EPB** had been concerned as to how the impact of the proposed sustainability impact tool could be assessed. on delivery, . It was claimed that all of the additional comments submitted by the **EPB** had in fact been incorporated, although there was a limit to the amount of detail that could be included.

6 "GREEN DEAL" PRESENTATION - Hugh Cripps

A new grant structure was being introduced, where repayments for household energy-saving measures were made through future energy bills, avoiding the need for initial capital investment. Govt. appeared to assume that the private sector could be persuaded to finance this. Grants would be tied to the property, not to the individual.

Savings could not be guaranteed, and behaviour changes were not catered for. There was considerable uncertainty over the roll-out and future of the scheme.

7 YORK UNI.SUSTAINABILITY FORUM - Prof.Colin Campbell

The Sustainability Forum was set up in 2010 with considerable campus publicity, with the intention of promoting a sustainability strategy for the University . A working party was established in 2011 to take this forward. The authorities showed no enthusiasm for this, with no targets for carbon reduction set, no monitoring proposed, no input into the student curriculum, and no-one responsible for sustainability issues. Of particular concern were the low BREEAM ratings aimed for in the new campus buildings, compared to many other campuses, which were leading the way in producing outstanding performances in their developments.

It would be fair to say that the EF was shocked to hear of the University's short-term approach to such an important issue, and would consider whether an approach to the University would be appropriate.

8 CYC CAMPAIGNS -"GeniUS" - (JW)"

CYC with Science City York is promoting an "Open Innovation" scheme backed by The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts ("NESTA") under the "GeniUS" banner, calling for local ideas which can "change peoples' lives for the better". Of particular interest to the EF was challenge no.2 - " How can footfall and transport be used to generate income and improve environmental sustainability in the city?" The programme could attract up to £250,000 in funding. See www.geniusyork.com. for details.

9 SUBGROUP REPORTS

climate change sub-group: none

transport sub-group:- none

natural environment and resources sub-group- none

built and historic environment sub-group- none

sustainable communities act - none

10 FOE BEES CAMPAIGN - Guy Wallbanks

The importance of bees as pollinators could not be over-emphasised. Environmental issues were:- pesticide threats; unnecessary mowing of grassland, field boundaries and verges; correct selection of flowering plants. CYC should have policies in place which addressed these topics. The EF was asked to make representations in support of the FOE campaign. Also see www.naturalbeekeepingtrust.org.uk.

11 A.O.B.

Discussion on the CYC economic strategy, new supplementary planning documents, Fairness Commission, was postponed.

KL thanked Hugh Cripps and Prof. Colin Campbell on behalf of members for their valuable contributions to the meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS

Date **Mon.**Mar.19th.4.00-6.00pm
Venue Guildhall rm.1
Agenda TBC

Mon.April 16th.4.00-6.00pm
Guildhall rm.2
Weds.May 16th.4.00-6.00pm
Guildhall rm.2

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