

# YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM

## MINUTES OF MEETING ON Feb.11th.2013

### Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Isobel Waddington	Murton PC
Dot Lawton	Heslington PC
Carole Green	Bishophorpe PC
Chris.Chambers	Strensall with Towthorpe PC
Cllr. Andy d'Agorne	CYC Green Group
Cllr. Dave Merrett	CYC Labour Group
<i>Cllr. Paul Healey</i>	CYC Cons.Group
John Cossham	York in Transition/York Rotters
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Maurice Vassie	Just York
Mick Phythian	YNET
Guy Woolley	CPRE
Phil Bixby	Constructive Individuals
Anna Bialkowska	Tang Hall Community Centre
Alastair Cooper	York Quakers(Friargate)
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland
Ron Healey	CTC
Hugh Cripps	Yorks Energy Partnership
Helen Shiels	CO2 Sense

**Chair:**Kate Lock

### 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies from Andreas Heinemeyer

### 2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

item 4- **AB** should read **CG**. "Arc in the Park" should read "Ark in the Park". The EPB was to look at sustainable housing, not as stated.

### 3 MATTERS ARISING

item 4- there had been no response to the suggestion of cycle rack provision at bus stops.

item 9- the CPRE was objecting to the application. Local comments suggested that the plant was too small to generate biofuel economically; local energy distribution of waste heat was not practicable; there had been little evaluation of the implications of long-distance waste transport to feed the site.

### 4 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE - Barry Otley

Its importance had been recognised by central government, and emphasised in the Alan Simpson report. The BAP and Tree Strategy were due shortly. The Open

Space study was being updated.. A Heritage strategy had been drafted. The issue had been marginalised, and although endorsed by CYC the "Trees in the Townscape" study had not been acted on. What was needed was a Landscape Design Guide similar to Harrogate. Meanwhile trees were being taken out and not replaced. C.A.P. reform could have an effect on stewardship schemes, but there was no evidence that this was being allowed for. Indeed there was no attempt to engage the rural communities in these issues. There was to be a Green Infrastructure strategy meeting on Feb.13th.and this would be reported at the next meeting.

Members' comments :-

Leeds Met. were acting as a "sustainable think tank" promoting the "Feed Leeds" initiative on local food supply. It was involved in the York and North Yorks. Nature Partnership. They could be invited to address the EF., with a possible link to York Uni.

Effective publicity was essential if the green agenda was to be promoted.

Local community groups should be mobilised, with a possible stall in the market.

A travelling "pop-up-shop" on existing green spaces could be one option.

The message must be simplified to gain public support.

Actions, not words.

Developers must be brought on board.

Priority sites should be identified, particularly those under threat, where plans could be modified if necessary to achieve measurable progress.

It was not clear if CYC regarded the "green wedges" as sacrosanct, and there was confusion over the "green wedge"( non-statutory) concept and the green belt, and whether there was a conflict here.

Increase in the urban fox population indicated a loss of natural habitat.

It was not clear if existing green spaces had been fully mapped, although an open space assessment map apparently did exist.

CYC should look at all aspects of city development in an holistic way, and not compartmentalise issues. Every effort should be made to retain an industrial base.

Much of the work on the previous local plan submission was still relevant, and it was now too late to significantly change CYC policies if the new submission date was to be met.

CYC does not have a delivery plan for green infrastructure!

Members should consider whether the EF was in a position to assist CYC in co-ordinating all previous green infrastructure work as a contribution to the new local plan process, as a way of establishing its credentials, and if so whether this would imply a formal constitution.

## **5 CO2 SENSE - Helen Shiels**

This was a community interest company initiated by the now-defunct Yorkshire Forward, advising businesses on investment and delivery of low energy solutions and resource efficiencies, and making a significant impact on national energy consumption by introducing grid balancing programmes. It also advises on match funding for community based projects and public sector procurement using responsible sources. It is already working with CYC on five community projects, and hopes to pilot one or two energy " smart clubs" where residents can exchange