

YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING ON Jan.31st..2013

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Isobel Waddington	Murton PC
Dot Lawton	Heslington PC
Carole Green	Bishopthorpe PC
Cllr. Ian Cuthbertson	CYC Lib.Dem.Group
Cllr. Andy d'Agorne	CYC Green Group
Cllr. Dave Merrett	CYC Labour Group (part)
Tom Waring	St.Nicks.
John Cossham	York in Transition/York Rotters
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Chris. Vassie	Covenant of Mayors
Mick Phythian	YNET
Anna Bialkowska	Tang Hall Community Centre
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland
Ron Healey	CTC
Sara Robin	Yorks.Wildlife Trust
<i>Helen Shiels</i>	CO2 Sense

Chair:Kate Lock

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies from Chris.Chambers, Alastair Cooper, Hugh Cripps, Richard Lane, June Tranmer, Charlotte Harrison, Owen Daggett, Phil Bixby

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

agreed

3 MATTERS ARISING

it was the considered view of members that the discussion with Cllr.Alexander had been most helpful and constructive, and hoped that this will lead to positive action .- **JC** reported that the report on fracking had not yet been finalised. **Cllr.IC** noted that methane extraction does not use high pressure liquids, and suggested that this could be discussed at the next meeting. **PC** had no further information on the new Community Contracts.

4 "GREEN CHRISTMAS LIST" review and priorities

KL thought that the meeting was positive, and the EF should prioritise actions which could be taken forward with some chance of success. **MP** was concerned over the

increasing problems in the flood plains and how CYC dealing with this. **CG** thought that the "Arc in the Park" project should be more widely publicised, and brought to attention of councillors and officers as an exemplar which might have applications to flood-plain building generally. **KL** understood that the EPB was to organise workshops to explore these issues. **PB** felt that the new West Office site should showcase edible planting in the landscaped areas, and noted the "Feed Leeds" initiative in the Millenium Square. **JC** reported on the RSA promotion of the "Edible" approach to planting. **CG** suggested an annual "Swap Day" in Bishopthorpe in co-operation with CYC, and **AB** would contact Sara Goodhead(CYC) to progress this. **PB** noted the end-of term free shop at St.John's University promoting the "Freecycle" concept. **PB** would liaise with I-Travel York re cycle storage at bus stops. **AB** would prioritise an action list for members benefit.

5 YEF ORGANISATION

KL outlined possible problems with accommodation and spheres of influence if the EF remained as at presently structured. **AB** suggested that any future configuration should be flexible. **JC** noted that there were various options for restructuring. **IW** was concerned over the EF's lack of influence on CYC policies. **Cllr. A.d'A** felt that a formal constitution would make clear the role that the EF could play. **MP** was concerned that independence might mean losing contact with councillors and officers. **PB** suggested that closer links with the CVS might be beneficial. **KL** emphasised that an independent EF could usefully complement the work of CYC officers who were overstretched, in effect acting as unpaid consultants, capitalising on the expertise within the membership. **Cllr.IC** thought that having a formal constitution would add to credibility. **AB** suggested that a pro-active co-operative approach can have influence; that the EF should become a lobbying body; that CYC cannot continue to ignore the EF in the light of its own staffing problems. **PC** quoted the Civic Trust an unaccountable body which nonetheless had considerable influence.

6 TREEMENDOUS update

PC briefly reviewed the first year of operation, which he regarded as laying the groundwork for the next four years. There have been major tree planting sites brought on stream, and donations and grant awards made. Further opportunities for grant applications are being looked at, now that the Big Tree Plant scheme is closing. It is hoped that the CYC back office support which has been so important will continue, on the basis that Treemendous must be one of the most cost-effective deliverers of CYC strategies imaginable. **JC** asked for comments on suitable mapping tools for site identification and tree planting

7 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE update

BO reported that local nature partnerships were now established in North Yorks, following Government policy. York has signed up to this, but no action has been taken. This is of great concern as it fits with the green infrastructure initiatives which must be built into the new Local Plan. There has been a meeting with officers to ensure that the BAP/Tree strategies are fully incorporated. It is understood that only

some aspects will be in the Plan, the main strands will be included in a supplementary document. There will be a reassessment of open space. **SR** noted that the community infrastructure levy was being evaluated by Selby, leading to the possibility of funding for green infrastructure projects. It is not clear if CYC is looking at this. This is already operating in Leeds and Harrogate. Possibilities for running a pilot Toolkit for a suitable future project are not considered a priority for CYC, but co-operation with the SEI is being looked at by the EF. **KL** thought the EF should take the initiative here.

8 YORK IN TRANSITION

JC reported that the group had reformed following an "open space" workshop, with the intention of forming a "Green Hub" which would co-ordinate the activities of the numerous disparate green groups. This was costed at £2.5k for the first year, and projects were invited for inclusion in a forward programme. **TW** warned against the overuse of the "green" label. **KL** stated that the EF website was only suitable for hosting notices of events, and could not carry detailed information on projects. CYC already had links with voluntary bodies, and YiT could benefit by capitalising on this.

9 NORTH SELBY MINE

PC asked if the EF wished to make representations in relation to the planning application for an anaerobic digestion plant and glasshouse facility on this redundant industrial site. Rather than return the site to agriculture, which was the original condition attached to the development, it would be far more effective, and in line with sustainability objectives, if this could go forward as proposed. It is understood that traffic generation was not an issue with the Highway authorities. **SR** noted that the existing spoil heaps on the edge of the site were of ecological significance, and were within Selby. **CV** suggested that all vehicles should be powered by liquified gas produced on the site. **JC** thought that this was an excellent example of recycling and renewable energy generation. **AB** suggested that any waste energy should be used locally. Members agreed to support the application and **JC** and **CV** agreed to prepare a suitable response a.s.a.p.

10 AOB

Cllrs. **IC** and **A d'A** asked that it be noted that under item 9 they were not present during the discussion.

9 NEXT MEETING

Date	Mon. Feb.11th. 2013. 4.00-6.00pm
Venue	Guildhall room 1
Agenda	tbc

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