

**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING ON July 9th.2013**

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Isobel Waddington	Murton PC
Carole Green	Bishopthorpe PC
Cllr. Paul Healey	CYC Cons. Group
Cllr. Andy d'Agorne	CYC Green Group
John Cossham	York in Transition/York Rotters
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Alastair Cooper	York Quakers (Friargate)
Anna Bialkowska	Tang Hall Community Centre/Residents Assoc.
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland
Alison Sinclair	YOPF, Cons.Area Advisory Panel
Ryan Sandford-Blackburn	St,John Student Union
Imelda Havers	Incredible York
Mick Phythian	YNET
Ron Healey	CTC
Sara Robin	Yorks.Wildlife Trust
Ray & Danila Taylor	visiting guests
Bob Missin	CYC Ecologist and Countryside Officer

Chair: Kate Lock

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies: apologies to all those who sent them in, details mislaid. Hope to do better next time (PC). Welcome to Bob Missin, Ryan Sandford-Blackburn, Ray and Danita Taylor.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

agreed

3 MATTERS ARISING

Item 5 - **AS** reported that CYC were to retain the posts currently held by Esther Priestley, Dan Calvert and Bob Missin. Archeaology and sustainability were to remain full time, but conservation architect and conservation officer posts were reduced, with no admin. support.

4 BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN - Bob Missin

BM described the start of the Biodiversity Audit in 2008 using aerial photographs for phase 1 baseline data. Individual sites of potential interest were then ground surveyed, identifying SINCS and other sites of local importance. It was vital that precise descriptions were defined so that planning applications could be properly determined under the Local Plan. York had important threatened areas of heath and grassland. Many sites were fragmented, and there was little important woodland remaining. Logging the invertebrate resource over the many sites was very time consuming. An important aspect of the work was to promote wildflower creation, and the designation of existing and potential biodiversity corridors, with linkages between them. A strategic approach might draw in funding for implementation.

Biodiversity offsetting could be part of the planning process, under the Local Plan proposals for built development. . Note that York was important nationally on several biodiversity aspects, and these must be recognised. The **BAP** provided an access point for further information, and was essentially a work in progress.

KL thanked **Bob** on behalf of members for a most informative and well illustrated address, which only served to indicate the importance of biodiversity and the amount of work needed to monitor the existing situation, identify risks and promote conservation initiatives

5 INCREDIBLE YORK - Imelda Havers

IM described the development of the "Incredible Movement" , dating from the Todmorden initiative in 2008, now being followed in over 40 towns and cities. This new RSA initiative has important social aspects, using food growing as a means of engaging local communities in promoting enterprise while learning about food production. There was some evidence that anti-social behaviour could be modified through local ownership of projects, however small they might be. These aspects were to be evaluated. In this region York, Leeds, Hull, Wakefield, Sheffield and Bradford were participating. Tackling inequalities through behavioural change was an important aspect of the programme. Meanwhile premises were being sought for a project base in York. To date there appeared to be no reference to this movement and its potential in the emerging Local Plan.

KL thanked **Imelda** on behalf of members for this advocacy of the " the power of change through small things", and looked forward to further updates.

6 ECO-CULTURAL PRODUCTION PROJECT - Kate Lock

KL reported on an Academics Research Council proposed York pilot scheme for urban food production involving community groups. The EF would submit a letter of support.

7 YORK LOCAL PLAN

individual members agreed to comment on allocated topics so that most aspects of the consultation could be covered. **KL** would collate these if possible to form the EF response. Otherwise members should comment directly to CYC with their views. Constructive comments rather than total negativity would be helpful bearing in mind that the new Plan would be the subject of rigorous examination in public, and it would very unfortunate if it was again rejected.

8 AOB

the future constitution of the EF would be discussed at the August meeting. Members are urged to attend if at all possible.

NEXT MEETING

Date	Tues. Aug. 13th. 2013. 4.00-6.00pm
Venue	West Offices - George Hudson room
Agenda	EF constitution

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