

**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM  
MINUTES OF MEETING ON June 10th.2014**

**Present:**

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Dot Lawton	Heslington PC
Cllr. Dave Merrett	CYC Labour Group
Cllr. Andy d'Agorne	CYC Green Group
John Cossham	York in Transition
Mick Phythian	YNET
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland
Alison Sinclair	YOPF, Cons.Area Advisory Panel
Tom Waring	St.Nicks
Ron Healey	CTC N.Yorks.
Alastair Cooper	York Quakers (Friargate)
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Hugh Cripps	Yorks Energy Partnership
Maurice Vassie	Just York
June Tranmer	The Healing Clinic/Briar House Resources
Sara Robin	Yorks.Wildlife Trust
<b>Rebecca Harrison</b>	CYC

**Chair:** Kate Lock

**1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies; Chris.Chambers, Viv.Chamberlin-Kidd,Phil Bixby, Isabel Waddington.  
Welcome to Rebecca Harrison

**2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

JC noted that "York Rotters" had been wound up, and that V.C-K did not represent "York in Transition" Otherwise agreed.

**3 MATTERS ARISING**

item3- V.C-K had circulated a guide to the Wiggio procedures. There appeared to be some difficulty in downloading the information for printing. KL would report this.  
item5- PB noted difficulties with organising a "Tour" banner.

**4 STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR**

**KL** announced her intended retirement from the position as Chair, to take effect at the August meeting, following acceptance on a course at Leeds Uni. **PC** thanked her (prematurely) on behalf of the membership for her tireless devotion to furthering the aims of the YEF. One candidate had already been canvassed. There may well be others who would like to be considered. **AS** proposed checking the Constitution

for further action before notices were sent out. New members qualification to vote should be subject to subscriptions being paid.

**5- WIGGIO PROGRESS** - this item not discussed

## **6 LOCAL PLAN UPDATE - Rebecca Harrison**

**RH** explained the revised consultation documents, with a comment deadline of July 16th. They did not deal in any policy changes but with an assessment of the new sites which had come forward for consideration, many submitted by developer consortia, others revised by CYC itself in the light of new evidence. There would be a further opportunity for comment later this year. An important issue was the incorporation of green space into what are in some cases large-scale proposals, and how this could be incorporated into the CYC responses. This could well be of major interest to the YEF. Cllr.DM stressed that the YEF comments could significantly assist CYC in its final recommendations, noted that Govt. policy was subject to constant change, and that the impact of the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy could affect final outcomes. It was still hoped to submit to the Inspector early 2015. SR confirmed that the YWT would be looking at the submission in detail and would liaise with KL. Members would be free to make their own comments direct to CYC.

**KL** thanked Rebecca on behalf of members for her presentation

### **WORKING GROUP REPORTS:-**

## **7 Historic and Built Environment sub-goup- AS (+ PB,IW,PC,CH)**

The workshop on the Castle Area/Eye of York, convened by the Civic Trust, followed a similar exercise on Stonebow. AS and PB (not present) attended. It was part of a research project to establish how the public could best express its concerns over development on historic sites, and through democratic processes ensure that these concerns were brought to the attention of policy makers and that they were acted upon. It was suggested that the area was of international significance. A report would be prepared by the North of England Civic Trust, which moderated the event.

## **8 Natural Environment sub-group- BO(+ MP,SR,RH)**

CYC did not appear to have any representation on the Local Nature Partnership. It was vital that it should have a pro-active influence on LNP policies and actions. Cllr.DM would check on the situation. CYC was not giving green infrastructure, including the tree strategy, the priority it deserved. This could be a problem when the Local Plan was submitted. SR and the YWT had already commented on the relationship between tree planting and wildlife support and encouragement. The appointment of a new countryside and ecology officer from Sept. was welcomed. DEFRA had initiated a "Living Ash Project" dealing with the threatened loss of ash trees. There were concerns over the replacement hedge planting along the new Wigginton Road-Haxby Road cycle path, which should be monitored.

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## **9 Energy sub-group- JC(+AB,RL)**

A petition to the Council was being organised (1000 signatures required) asking for a clear policy statement rejecting "fracking" to be included in the Local Plan. The Council meeting on July 17th. was an opportunity for representations to be made. KL had already made the YEF views known to CYC. There were already two exploratory sites in E.Yorks. The treatment of contaminated water had still not been dealt with.

## **10 "One Planet York"sub-group-KL(+MP,JC,AB,JT,KL)**

Leeds was leading the way locally, and P.McCabe was the CYC liaison contact with Leeds on an informal basis ( see minutes of YEF meeting on 12th.Nov. 2013 for background). JT felt that YEF should be more pro-active in pressurising the Council to take this more seriously.

## **11 Transport sub-group-Cllr.Ad'G(+RH,CC)**

There were doubts about the value of bidding for the Rail College. If it were intended to be sited on York Central this would significantly reduce the area available for other preferred development, already affected by the new signalling centre. AC emphasised the faults in the arguments for HS2 and the importance of alternative connectivity investment which would also increase capacity. HC suggested that this should be a topic for an in-depth study by the sub-group as a "task-and-finish" exercise. (STOP PRESS- rail bid rejected-PC)

## **12 "TREMENDOUS" York update-PC**

Tremendous has attracted funding which has led to the planting of some 5300 trees over 25 sites, despite the CYC withdrawal of its secretarial support, and the difficulty of finding a replacement. The continued support of Dave Meigh, CYC, who has acted as a link with the Council, is appreciated. A major fully-funded scheme in Clifton is on hold following CYC Property Services objections. The next major project is working in West York with the local residents' associations, and several other schemes are being evaluated. Any help towards administration or project evaluation would be really appreciated. This a long-term project which should benefit York for years to come.

## **13 REVISITING THE YEF "VISION"-KL**

Many hours went into the preparation of this comprehensive document "York 20/20-Sustainable City" Dec.2011. It would be interesting to see what changes,if any, have occurred since it was published and submitted to the Council. Members should forward their thoughts for incorporation in a future appraisal, holding the Council to account (*cf. also "A new vision for York" 2003 - Urbed,JRF- PC*)

## **14 TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership)-MP**

A "Day of Action" had been called for July 21st. to raise awareness and protest against this proposed insidious compact between global financial manipulators and

their political stooges, when environmental constraints could be swept away in the interests of "free" trade. National governments ability to set limits on environmental pollution and to follow sustainability principles in policy-making would be compromised. Is this an opportunity for the YEF to contribute to the debate? It would fit well with the suggestion made by Adrian Lovett (Schumacher North) at the previous meeting for wider topic considerations by the YEF

#### **15 A.O.B.**

JC announced the proposed "Tour Nu de York" cycle event on June 20th.

Cllr.A d'A noted that the required CYC Air Quality Report had not yet been submitted to Govt. and was unavailable for scrutiny.

HC reported that a community renewables grant was now available over two years.

KL felt that HC's suggestion on the "Task and Finish" topic concept, already flagged up in the previous meeting (item4) should be explored further, if the sub-group structure was to be effective.

MP announced the designation of Rawcliffe Meadows and Clifton Ings as an SSSI site. Well done to YNET and all those involved.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Date	Tues. <b>12th.Aug.</b> 2014 4.00-6.00pm.
Venue	West Offices - George Hudson room
Agenda	tbc

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