

YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING ON Oct.8th.2012

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Isabel Waddington	Murton PC
Dot Lawton	Heslington PC
Carole Green	Bishopthorpe PC
Chris Chambers	Strensall with Towthorpe PC
Sara Robin	Yorks.Wildlife trust
Cllr.Paul Healey	CYC Cons. Group
Cllr. Dave Merrett	CYC Labour Group
Phil Bixby	Constructive Individuals
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland
Mick Phythian	YNET
Paul Appleton	Conservation Volunteers York
Anna Bialkowska	Abundance York
Maurice Vassie	Just York
Edward Harland	York in Transition
Sir John Lawton	

Observers:-

Alistair Crosby	Woodland Trust
Alice Farr	York resident
Malcolm Cresser	Mayfield Residents Assoc.
Anne Leggett	Mayfield Residents Assoc.

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

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. A.d'Agorne, Cllr. Warters, Cllr Cuthbertson, Alastair Cooper, Richard Lane, Penny Bainbridge, Ron Healey, John Cossham. Please note it is the responsibility of individual members to make sure they sign the attendance sheets.

The Chair welcomed Sir John Lawton and the observers.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

agreed

3 MATTERS ARISING

item 5- KL reported a disappointing launch event due to the weather. A community photographer had now been identified, but more poster entries were needed.

4 "MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE"- Professor Sir John Lawton

JL reviewed the Govt. "Making space for Nature" report and the Natural Environment White Paper 2011. There had been a competition for 12 "nature improvement areas" in England, for which there had been 76 applications. It was a three year programme, with a good mix of areas. The Humberhead Levels(Wildlife Trust) and the Dearn Valley(RSPB) were among those selected. The Govt.primier of £7m. had led to a levered input of some £43m. The creation of corridors and linkages through engaging landowners realised both the ecological and economic potential of green investment. Note that the Yorks.Wildlife Trust had £5m. turnover and was classed as a major charity, now incorporating the Sheffield Trust, involved in the "Yorkshire Peat" project.The economic value of nature conservation was being increasingly recognised. There was an argument that the approach to green space issues was often too unimaginative, sometimes overly influenced by traffic considerations.

Comments:- that Yorkshire Water policies could be in conflict with desired outcomes; that the way forward must be written into the Local Plan;; that Localism could provide opportunities to develop sustainable flood plains; how can the value of land left fallow, as under traditional farming methods, and lately "set aside", be assessed ?

The Chair thanked Sir John on behalf of members for his fascinating and informative address.

5 TRANSPORT VISION FOR YORK- Cllr. Merrett

The Government proposed to devolve much decision making to local transport authorities, to reflect the needs of local economies via the Local Enterprise Partnerships. Links with West Yorks. could consolidate funding, although there were difficulties in that York was not contiguous with the Leeds conurbation. It was prudent to prepare schemes in anticipation of funds being eventually materialising. CC would relay EF comments to Cllr.Merrett.

6 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SUB-GROUP- Barry Otley

Naturalistic planting to encourage the bee population was being discussed with Dave Meigh (CYC). The report on the Olympic Park was to be circulated. Links with the "I-Travel" programme as a means of developing green corridors were being explored. It was hoped to start work on the Rufforth - A59 P+R site cycle link shortly. Discussions with Martin Grainger(CYC) were ongoing to establish how green infrastructure could be incorporated into the new Local Plan. Workshops were scheduled on a range of topics to feed into the Local Plan process, giving opportunities for green issues to be raised.

7 YORK CENTRAL SUBGROUP/YORK IN TRANSITION

KL was to circulate minutes of the latest subgroup meeting. EH regreably reported the impending demise of "York in Transition", with a final meeting in January 2013. It was suggested that the EF should be represented in a supporting role

8 PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT and other WORKSHOPS

CC would attend the first of these workshops on 25th.Oct. KL was to be one of two keynote speakers on 23rdOct. PC and BO would also attend. KL and PC would attend the workshop on the local economy on 5th.Nov. , and PB would attend that on housing on 6th.Nov. The results would be reported at the next meeting.

9 AOB

none

NEXT MEETING

Date	Mon, Nov. 12th.4.00-6.00 pm
Venue	Guildhall Council Chamber
Agenda	tbc

further meetings:-

Mon. Dec.3rd. 4.00-6.00
Guildhall rm.1

The Forum contact is c/o 66 Bishopthorpe Road, York YO23 1JS t.01904 620171 or kate @ klockworks.co.uk. + www.yorkenvironmentforum.org.uk and on Facebook