

# YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM

## MINUTES OF MEETING ON 6th.Sept.2011

### Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Isobel Waddington	Murton PC
Carole Green	Bishopthorpe PC
Dot Lawton	Heslington PC
Cllr. Andy d'Agorne	CYC Green Group
Cllr. Dave Merrett	CYC Labour Group
Cllr. Paul Healey	CYC Cons.Group
Anna Bialkowska	Friends of St.Nicholas Fields
Matthew Page	Transport Consultant
Edward Harland	York in Transition
John Cossham	York in Transition/York Rotters
Paul Hepworth	CTC N.Yorks
Phil Bixby	Constructive Individuals
Chantal Purchase	FOE/Green Party
Sara Robin	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Candida Spillard	Fulford Community Orchard
Alastair Cooper	York Quakers(Friargate)
Charlotte Harrison	MASS Architecture
Jason Rose	York Open Planning Forum
June Tranmer	The Healing Clinic/Briar House Resources
Gwen Swinburn	Econ.Development Consultant
Richard Hampton	SGS Ltd.
Graham Titchener	CYC

**Chair:** Kate Lock                      York Rotters/Planet Southbank/Friends of Rowntree Pk.

### 1      **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mick Phythian, Geof.Harvey-Walker, Chris Chambers, Barry Otley, Guy Wallbanks, Ron Healey, Bill Eve, Cllr.Ian Cuthbertson. The Chair welcomed Anna Bialkowska, Paul Hepworth and Graham Titchener.

### 2      **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

agreed

### 3      **MATTERS ARISING**

KL noted that the consultation on the Central Area Historic Core Conservation Area had now closed, and members had been asked to make individual comments. There had been a limited response to this. A logo for the EF had been approved.

### 4      **"JUST YORK"- presentation by Maurice Vassie**

Item postponed

## **5 RENEWABLE POWER PUBLIC MEETING-update-JR**

Members are referred to a recent article in the "Press" entitled "Power to the People" by Kate Liptrot giving details of the programme.(see also 12-"Notice Board"below). Posters had now been printed.

## **6 (a)MONKS CROSS / (b)ALLERTON INCINERATOR APPLICATIONS-update-KL**

(a)-A planning application was due to be submitted shortly. The major issue was the effect such an "out-of-town" retail development of 240,000 sq.ft. might have on the city centre, and the transport implications. Cllrs.A d'A and DM explained the background to the proposal, which was to allow development of the site which in turn would release finance to build a new community stadium. It was originally hoped that HSBC would have developed the site as a data centre, but this was not pursued. An M&S and other comparison store units were now proposed.

Comments were:- as there was only access by road, why could it not be sited at York Central ?; under the proposed new planning framework could a refusal of the scheme be justified on appeal ?; the fallacious "loss of market share" argument was being used to justify the scheme; would the timescales allow for negotiation on the York Central site? ; what S106 agreements were proposed to cover transport issues?.

It was proposed that the EF should wait until a planning application had been submitted before commenting.

(b)- PC reported that a planning application had now been submitted, but it would be some weeks before this was validated. The EF had already made detailed comments, but these may need to be resubmitted if they were to be considered as part of the formal process of consultation. The outcome might be influenced by the proposed new planning framework. The EF should seriously consider whether or not it should spend more time on this issue. It was not debated.

## **7 LDF CORE STRATEGY-consultation and timetable-PC**

PC and KL met Martin Grainger and Alison Cooke(CYC) on 10th.Aug. to discuss the implications of the revisions to the Core Strategy. The RSS housing targets were being abandoned. CYC now considered that the low target set by the previous administration could not be justified in view of the expected demand, making it likely that a submission to the inspectorate would be considered to be unsound, and lead to rejection. It was important that sufficient land be identified as areas of search for housing growth, and that this be taken out of the greenbelt, so that a permanent greenbelt boundary could be established. This would also impact on transport and other issues. It was vital that York had an approved local plan as soon as possible, otherwise important planning decisions could revert to central government. It was hoped to issue the revised document for consultation at the end of Sept./beginning of October, open for six weeks. It would be submitted in Jan. 2012, with the examination in public scheduled for April 2012. The highly controversial draft National Planning Policy Framework is the driver behind this initiative, and members are recommended to familiarise themselves with this, pending a response to the LDF consultation. There is also an opportunity for the EF to comment on the new Framework, either directly or through the LDF Working Group. The LDF meets on Oct.3rd. and the closing date for direct responses to Govt. is Oct.17th.

The Framework includes a questionnaire. Both documents are of the highest importance, as they will set the scene for York's development for years to come, and merit serious consideration.

Comments were:-it was vital that population growth and public transport be linked, if any development were to be considered sustainable.

## **8 LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND-update by Graham Titchener**

This was worth £4.65m. , and was match funded by CYC by way of support services. Changes in lifestyle ("soft issues") were to be addressed, rather than physical infrastructure. The total value of the bid was therefore c.£9.0m. The northern quadrant of the city was to be the focus of attention. The programme was considered as "additionality" to support LTP3. CO2 reduction and the encouragement of economic growth through better sustainable transport was part of the message. Funding could be available for group initiatives.

Comments were:that local employers must be involved, and their social responsibility emphasised. Many jobs required a driving licence as a prerequisite. Out of town retail access was a problem. The EF should be represented on the steering group, either individually or through a new transport sub-group, if there were volunteers for this..

## **9 ENV.PTNRSHIP BD. - STRATEGY / SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS- KL**

The Sustainability Assessments would underpin the Strategy, and there was to be a further EPB meeting to discuss the issues. Quality of life should be paramount. There was concern over the emphasis on growth, with no definition of what "growth" actually means. Environmental issues were underplayed. There appeared to be widespread unease over the way the strategy was being presented. An EPB questionnaire was to be circulated in an attempt to achieve an acceptable consensus.

## **10 YEF- FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

Item postponed

## **11 SUBGROUP REPORTS**

**climate change sub-group: none**

**transport sub-group: none**

**natural environment and resources sub-group: none**

**built and historic environment sub-group: none**

**sustainable communities act: none**

## 12 "NOTICE BOARD"

KL reconfirmed the important **Renewable Energy Seminar on Sept.27th.** in conjunction with the YOPF and the Y&H Env.Forum at the Priory Street Centre 7pm-9pm. Keynote speakers are John Whitelegg,SEI University of York; Jacquie Warren CYC Sustainability Officer; Amanda Botterill, chair of the Yorkshire and Humber Microgeneration Partnership.

### NEXT MEETING

Date	<b>Monday Oct.10th. 2011 4.00 - 6.00pm.</b>
Venue	<b>Guildhall room 2</b>
Agenda	<b>TBC</b>

The Forum contact is c/o 66 Bishopthorpe Road, York YO23 1JS t.01904-620171 or kate @ klockworks.co.uk