

YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 6th.Sept.2011

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Isobel Waddington	Murton PC
Chris.Chambers	Strensall PC
Cllr. Andy d'Agorne	CYC Green Group
Cllr. Dave Merrett	CYC Labour Group
Cllr. Paul Healey	CYC Cons.Group
Cllr. Ian Cuthbertson	CYC Lib.Dem. Group
Cllr.Mark Warters	CYC Independent
Anna Bialkowska	Friends of St.Nicholas Fields
Maurice Vassie	Just York
Edward Harland	York in Transition
John Cossham	York in Transition/York Rotters
Ron.Healey	CTC N.Yorks
Phil Bixby	Constructive Individuals
Guy Woolley	CPRE
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland/ FWAG
Jason Rose	York Open Planning Forum
Richard Twigg	CTC
Andreas Heinemeyer	SEI
Martin Granger	CYC
Frances Sadler	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, Carole Green, Dot Lawton, Charlotte Harrison. The Chair welcomed Richard Twigg, Maurice Vassie, Steve Shaw, Martin Granger and Frances Sadler.

2 **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

agreed

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

item 5- linking with the YOPF worked well, and the meeting was a great success, with over 100 attendees. Jacquie Warren (CYC) was to organise city wide workshop(s) with businesses and other significant groups. KL would represent the EF, others invited.

item 6(a)- KL and Richard Lane met Adam Sinclair informally to assess the situation vis-a-vis the Chamber of Trade. The whole issue needs an informed debate before the EF can take a view on this. Cllr.DM noted the additional application to redevelop the existing Monks Cross site. The current application by Oakgate was to be considered an "enabling" measure to secure the stadium's future. There is the usual 13 week evaluation period in place before a decision can be expected. There was to be an YOPF meeting on 27th.Oct. to which EF members are invited, when the matter be on the agenda.

item 7- KL and BO met JW (CYC) to finalise the sustainability impact assessment- which would be reported to the EPB.

item 8- KL and CC would represent the EF on the proposed steering group.

4 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT - Steve Shaw

SS gave an overview of the Act and its progress to date. After the approval of proposals under the first round, the second round of applications was open, and was now a rolling programme. Suggestions must be submitted through CYC. The EF needed to clarify who was to represent it in this process (*see minutes of 7th.Dec.2010 and 4th.Jan. 2011*).

5 CITY CENTRE MOVEMENT/ACCESSIBILITY FRAMEWORK - Cllr.Dave Merrett

Cllr.DM noted that this was a 20 year vision, and should be seen in the context of the Central Conservation Area Appraisal and other key documents. Although total access trips were expected to increase, it was hoped to change the modal split to minimise vehicle intrusion into the centre. The centre had been divided into four sections, with traffic "cells" identified to prevent through traffic between them. It emphasised the importance of the railway station , as it generated some 20% of visitor traffic. It advocated two new pedestrian bridges. The report did **not** deal with the diversion of traffic away from the inner ring road. It would go out to consultation early in 2012.

6 LDF CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION- Martin Granger

MG explained how the city had changed over time. The LDF was expected to hold for between 20-25 years. The aim was to allow for an additional 800 homes and 1000 jobs per year. Climate change was recognised, and its sustainability objectives would ensure that York did not become a "twin-track" city. Derived from an initial "vision" the spatial core strategy sought to achieve a balance from which strategic policies could be established. There was sufficient land available to support housing development up to 2025 (ie. 14-15 years supply), but even allowing for "windfalls" there would still need to be land available for some 4000 units within the plan period. Areas of search were proposed which would only be considered for development when all other sites had been taken up. This implied taking some land out of the Green Belt, which would be necessary if CYC were to establish a permanent boundary as required by Government.. The consultation closes on 7th.Nov.2011.

Comments were made on the doubtful viability of the housing needs forecasts: that there was a risk of low income families being driven out of the city, and the desirable social mix being eroded: that the natural environment was not given sufficient recognition.

7 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK - Philip Crowe

PC explained how the introduction of the NPPF could radically change the role of the Local Planning Authorities, and the presumption in favour of development carried serious risks. It is essentially driven by the concept of "growth". That this was a complex document requiring detailed analysis was flagged up under item 7 at the EF meeting on 6th.Sept. To assist members KL had circulated his draft response to the proposals which hopefully would reflect the considered views of the EF. Any comments should be forwarded to KL no later than 14th.Oct.,so that a final version could be submitted by the deadline of 17th.Oct. Useful background information can be found in the DCLG document "*A plain English guide to the Lccalism Bill - Update*".

Comments were:- that the concept of GDP as a measure of economic value was totally discredited: that transitional arrangements must be in place to allow LPA's to function effectively.

8 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

9 "NOTICEBOARD"

The York Open Planning Forum (YOPF) was to meet on 27th.Oct.- 7.0pm. Priory St. It was hoped inter alia to debate the City's retail expansion issues, and EF members were welcome for that part of the meeting. Note that planning applications have been submitted as follows, and members are recommended to consider them in detail as a background to any subsequent debate :-

Monks Cross Shopping Park - 11/02206/FUL, 11/02205/FUL, 11/02199/OUTM

Monks Cross Vanguard and Stadium sites- 11/02581/OUTM

NEXT MEETING

Date	Weds. Nov.9th. 2011 4.00 - 6.00pm.
Venue	TBC
Agenda	TBC

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