

**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING ON Aug.12th.2014**

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Dot Lawton	Heslington PC
Cllr. Anna Semlyen	CYC Labour Group
Cllr. Andy d'Agorne	CYC Green Group
John Cossham	York in Transition
Carole Green	Bishopthorpe PC
Denise Craghill	independent
Anna Bialkowska	Tang Hall Residents Assoc.
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
Viv Chamberlin-Kidd	TIM ("The Incredible Movement") in York

Chair: Kate Lock

Extraordinary General Meeting

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies; Chris.Chambers, Phil Bixby, Mick Phythian, June Tranmer. Isabel Waddington has resigned from the YEF after many years of membership and contributing to its debates as representing Murton PC.

2- those members present eligible to vote had now paid their subscriptions

3- election of Chair:- Phil Bixby was the only candidate for the post of ""Chair". KL read out his statement on his behalf, where he stated that he was prepared to stand and would be available initially for 12-18 months, depending on the workload, and how it might affect his own private practice. He was proposed by KL and seconded by BO. He was elected unopposed.

4- election of Administrator- as there were no candidates for this post VC-K agreed to stay in post until further notice.

5- new management committee- VC-K would arrange a date for a handover meeting.

AOB- AS explained the reasons for the winding-up of the Open Planning Forum. It had c.£150.00 balance in funds. As its interests in many respects coincided with those of the EF it seemed logical to examine whether its assets and interests could be transferred to the EF, now that it was a constituted group, to mutual advantage. The options would be outlined in its September Newsletter, alerting the 200

members on its mailing list and the local Planning Panels and Parish Councils. It should be noted that its representation on the Conservation Advisory Panel was a separate issue.

RH emphasised that any responsibilities undertaken by the OPF must be fully clarified before any transfer to the YEF was confirmed.

BO thanked all parties on behalf of members for the work put in by all those involved in making this transition possible.

Ordinary General Meeting

Welcome to Dave Atkinson - CYC

1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

item 11-the item on the rail college was mis-reported. Otherwise agreed.

2 MATTERS ARISING

item 5- members had been advised to contact VC-K directly with any problems with Wiggio.

item 6- BO stated that the proposed CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) should cover management and maintenance costs, and not just capital spending.

item 15-JC stated that 122 riders had entered the "Tour Nu" ride. AB stated that 300 riders had entered the "Tour of Tang Hall".

3 ITEM UPDATES- June- August

KL reported that in the recent "Leader's Speech" there was no mention of York as an "environmentally friendly city" or of sustainable growth.

PB reported that the YEF banner was not yet available for display, with no venue arranged. She commended Harriet from Bootham School who had played an important part in this project.

KL reported that the YEF website had been updated but there remained the unresolved question of its future management.

KL had made representations to CYC on the value of LED street lighting.

4- "REWIRING YORK -Transforming Places Together"- Dave Atkinson

DA explained the purpose of this "transformation programme", resulting from a realisation that communication between CYC and its constituents was not sufficiently effective, and that the opportunities to draw on local knowledge and aspirations were not being fully explored. There needed to be a better balance between local groups, officers and councillors when it came to decision making, and better communication between the many local groups themselves, avoiding duplication of effort. Extensive consultation was now taking place through workshops, where constituents' concerns and suggestions for better ways of working could be assessed.

Comments under Chatham House rules were:-

It was essential to maintain continuity within CYC staff, so that information or requests should not need to be constantly repeated to staff unfamiliar with any particular situation.

There needed to be much better internal communication within CYC. Unfortunately a "silo" mentality was still evident in many areas.

There were many complaints that it took far too long to obtain information, and to ensure that action on the ground took place within a reasonable time frame.

Parish Councils could be more involved if it could be seen that they were a source of constructive comment.

There appeared to be a lack of a democratic mandate for many of the CYC actions, and it was often difficult to identify individuals or departments responsible for sometimes controversial decisions.

Representations at Ward level should be taken more seriously..

If trust in the administrator were to be restored there needed to be more openness, councillors needed to be more approachable, and the public needed to have confidence that their concerns would be acted on.

KL thanked the Dave Atkinson on behalf of members for his presentation, and hoped that the YEF comments were helpful.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS:-

5 Historic and Built Environment sub-goup- (AS, PB,IW,PC,CH)

AS suggested that the YEF should consider the value of the Community Land Trust concept, which would cover the environment in general, and not just built structures. The YEF should promote this, if it could deliver benefits. It would imply an integrated approach to land use. AB confirmed that CYC was interested in self-build.

6 Natural Environment sub-group- (BO, MP,SR,RH)

BO stated that there appeared to be little enthusiasm or involvement by CYC in the York and North Yorks.Local Nature Partnership. KL suggested that the YEF should seek to be represented at Board level (cf.Leeds and Harrogate). The new Ecology officer should be invited to address the YEF.

7 Energy sub-group- (JC,AB,RL)

not reported

8 "One Planet York" sub-group-(KL,MP,JC,AB,JT,KL)

KL reported CYC approved funding for promotion of "1 Planet Living". YEF to invite speakers from other authorities adopting these principles, possibly organise an event.

9 Transport sub-group-(Cllr.Ad'G,RH,CC)

Ad'G hoped that, following the Lendal Bridge fiasco, the proposed Congestion Commission would have an independent Chair, and be non-political. KL pointed out that the YEF "Vision" includes ideas worth examining.

10 THE YEF "VISION"- progress to 2020

KL thought that the "Vision" could well be updated, and members suggestions on any additions or amendments would be welcomed.

11 A.O.B.

Some members felt that a reversion to monthly meetings should be considered, as it would be easier to maintain continuity and monitor the progress of the subgroups. This would be considered at the forthcoming management meeting. If this was confirmed CYC room bookings would need to be adjusted.

NEXT MEETING

Date	Tues. 14th.Oct. 2014 4.00-6.00pm.
Venue	West Offices - George Hudson room
Agenda	tbc

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