

**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING ON Nov.11th.2014**

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Dot Lawton	Heslington PC
Carole Green	Bishopthorpe PC
Cllr. Anna Semlyen	CYC Labour Group
Cllr. Andy d'Agorne	CYC Green Group
John Cossham	York in Transition
Anna Bialkowska	Tang Hall Residents Assoc.
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland
Alison Sinclair	YOPF, Cons.Area Advisory Panel
Ron Healey	CTC N.Yorks.
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Adrian Lovett	Schumacher North
Mick Phythian	YNET

Chair: Phil Bixby

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies; Alastair Cooper, June Tranmer, Viv.Chamberlin-Kidd, Kate Lock, Tom Waring, Cllr.Dave Merrett

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

agreed.

3 MATTERS ARISING

item 4- PB noted that Parish Councils not yet contacted. AS reported that the YOPF news letter advsing members of its dissolution and proposed allocation of funds had been drafted but not sent out.

item 8- Penny B. stated that it was Edible York that was now a charity, and not the EF.

4 REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP and SUBSCRIPTIONS

Penny B. stated that the current balance was £281.48. AB suggested that the website should include an appeal for subscriptions.

5 THE LOCAL PLAN- UPDATE

Cllr.AS noted that Cllr.DM was still chair of the LPWG. CYC recognised that York would be vulnerable if the Plan was not completed a.s.a.p..Cllr.Ad'A noted that the new composition of the Council could imply delays on agreement on key issues.

6 THE LOCAL PLAN - subgroup contributions

Historic and Built Environment subgroup

AS felt that the Plan proposals to date were too city-centric, and developments in the villages and rural areas neglected.. Would CYC have management problems as a result of anticipated staff cuts? How could the Plan proposals be managed, and effective guidance given on future development, particularly as the enforcement team did not have sufficient resources? The EF should make representations to CYC about this.

PB accused CYC of a lack of vision and an unwillingness or inability to explore other solutions in land management, acquisition, or simply alternative design solutions for built development. The draft Plan was not sufficiently prescriptive, and there were too many "get out" clauses which could placate developers, and which could lead to substandard development. The Plan was insufficiently aspirational - one Derwenthorpe does not a summer make.

Cllr.A d'A was concerned over the amount of student housing coming forward, and whether it was legitimate to include this in the housing completion figures.

PC stated that he was concluding a study on housing densities, and whether these could be significantly increased on appropriate sites, thereby avoiding building on farmland. The review would be submitted for members' comments.

Natural Environment subgroup

MP was concerned over the comprehensiveness of the draft BAP, and how this could be addressed, or even if it was still relevant in the light of recent legislation. It was not clear if CYC had the resources to tackle this. The Flood Risk Strategy was now open for consultation.

BO confirmed that CYC had still not agreed a tree strategy, again through lack of staff resources. It was notable that Harrogate was to be commended on its approach both to this and to the preparation of a green infrastructure strategy. These issues would be raised at a forthcoming meeting with the new Countryside and Ecology officer, which PC would also attend. A national policy on pollination and guidance on "Care in the Farming Environment" had been published.

Transport subgroup

Cllr.Ad'A queried the validity of the modal split in the CYC strategy of 15% trips by public transport and 85% by private car/cycles. Funding initiatives were inadequate to make these achievable targets.

Energy subgroup

JC thought that the energy implications of the Plan were not fully addressed. Alternative energy sources such as water-sourced heat pumps and wind turbines should be promoted.

One Planet York subgroup

AL emphasised that sustainability was a cross-cutting issue affecting all policies, and this should be reflected in any actions or reports initiated by the EF.

A.O.B.

AS suggested that a presentation to the EF on the "Local List" would be appropriate. Dr. Bridget Morris of the Rowntree Society was keen to promote the "Rowntree Legacy" in both the social and built environment fields.

JC noted the role of the Green Investment Bank in supporting local energy schemes

PC suggested the the EF should make representations on the Local Plan dealing with the lack of attention paid to farming issues and the rural economy.

Cllr. A d'A suggested that Alan Charlesworth, of the York Local Plan Action Group, should contact the EF to exchange views.

AB noted that the Tang Hall Local Plan draft ("The Big Local") was out for consultation.

NEXT MEETING

Date	Tues. 9th. Dec..2014 4.00-6.00pm.
Venue	West Offices - George Hudson room
Agenda	tbc

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