

**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM  
MINUTES OF MEETING ON Dec.9th.2014**

**Present:**

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Cllr. Andy d'Agorne	CYC Green Group
Cllr.Dave Merrett	CYC Labour Group
John Cossham	York in Transition
Anna Bialkowska	Tang Hall Residents Assoc./Big Local
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland
Alison Sinclair	YOPF, Cons.Area Advisory Panel
Ron Healey	CTC N.Yorks.
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Mick Phythian	YNET
Hugh Cripps	Yorks.Energy Partnership
Rosalind(Linda) Maggs	Friends of Hagg Wood/YNET
Monica Nelson	observer
Andy Walsh	Belectric Solar (part)
<b>Nadine Rolls</b>	CYC Ecology Officer

**Chair:** Phil Bixby

Before the meeting Andy Walsh introduced his company Belectric Solar Ltd, which had been in discussion with Jacquie Warren on Community Finance Initiative opportunities in the sustainable energy sector.

**1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies; Alastair Cooper, June Tranmer, Viv.Chamberlin-Kidd, Tom Waring, Dot Lawton, Carole Green.

Welcome to Nadine Rolls, Andy Walsh, Linda Maggs, Monica Nelson

**2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

agreed.

**3 MATTERS ARISING**

Penny B. noted that there would be a Parish Council workshop on Jan.22nd., when representation on the YEF could be on the agenda.

**4 REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP and SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Penny B. stated that the current balance was £281.48. No change.

## **5 REPORT BY NADINE ROLLS - green infrastructure programme**

NR gave a comprehensive overview of her new role as Countryside and Ecology officer, in the light of the limited resources available for work across the whole of the LA area.

It was important that CYC maintains links with the York and North Yorks Nature Partnership, on which it is represented.

AMEC had been appointed to lead on examining the potential for developing green infrastructure policies. The draft Local Plan policies GI1, GI2 and GI3 cover the main areas of importance to date, and these need to be kept under review before publication.

There was much work to be done on the draft Biodiversity Action Plan, but this was not considered a priority in the light of the limited resources available.

Work continues on managing some of the CYC "SINC" sites, but NYCC no longer supports the Local Site System, and a meeting is scheduled for January to explore alternative options.

Margaret Trigg has been recruited as a trainee with CYC and TCV concentrating on improving biodiversity at community level.

The Natural Environment sub-group hopes to be closely involved in future discussions and events.

Members thanked NR for the presentation, and looked forward to future reports on progress.

## **6 THE LOCAL PLAN - subgroup contributions**

### **Historic and Built Environment subgroup**

AS suggested that the EF should submit a covering letter outlining principal concerns prior to the formal consultation period, such as CYC staffing resource issues, the loss of retail capacity through approval of non-retail uses, and restricting changes of use through Article 4 directions. These should be addressed without delay.

PC tabled a draft comprehensive review of housing density issues, which would be forwarded, subject to YEF approval, to all members of the Local Plan Working Group and key CYC officers, due to meet on Dec.17th. The review argued that much of the proposed housing development on green field sites was unnecessary if the density figures given in the draft Local Plan were either amended or abandoned, and that serious consideration be given to high quality, higher density development on existing allocated sites. It was clear that CYC policies appeared to be driven by the needs of developers to achieve their 20% profit margins rather than what is in the best long-term interests of the community. This view was questioned by Cllr. Merrett, chair of the LPWG. Members approved submission to the LPWG, and PC would circulate a final edition, and speak at the LPWG meeting.

### **Natural Environment subgroup**

No comments following the presentation by NR

### **Transport subgroup**

Cllr. A.d'A reported that there seems to be little progress being made on transport issues, particularly on the question of central as opposed to dispersed bus station provision, and the potential for inner city shuttle-bus operations. A response to the the draft Local Plan was tabled for consideration before submission.

### **Energy and One Planet York subgroups**

No comments.

## **7 THE LOCAL LIST - Alison Sinclair**

The Local List prepared from 2003 ff. had still not been adopted as policy. Its potential importance as providing "material consideration" evidence could not be underestimated, and it would require a monitoring group to oversee its application. The YEF should take this up with CYC now that the YOPF was no longer functioning.

## **8 A.O.B.**

AS was worried over proposals on the Terry's site to alter the clock tower to provide apartments. In the past the YEF had not commented in detail on planning applications. If it were to take on the role of the former YOPF this was an opportunity to reassess the position. Was the Historic and Built Environment subgroup the appropriate body to do this?

JC reminded members of the activities of "Frack-Free-York", and support at its meetings and events was welcomed.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Date	Tues. 13th. Jan.2015 4.00-6.00pm.
Venue	West Offices - George Hudson room
Agenda	tbc

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