

**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM  
MINUTES OF MEETING ON April 14th.2015**

**Present:**

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Tom Waring	St.Nicks
Cllr. Andy d'Agorne	CYC Green Group
Cllr.Dave Merrett	CYC Labour Group
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland
Hugh Cripps	Yorks Energy Partnership
John Cossham	Frack Free York/York in Transition
<b>Steve Wragg</b>	CYC

**Chair:** Phil Bixby

**1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies;Dot Lawton, Mick Phythian, Penny Bainbridge,Ron Healey, Alison Sinclair, Graham Collett, Alastair Cooper . Welcome to Steve Wragg

**2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

agreed.

**3 MATTERS ARISING**

Item 4- funds from the Open Planning Forum had not been received

**4 REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP and SUBSCRIPTIONS**

two new members had joined the EF

**5 LOCAL AND GENERAL ELECTIONS-our questions for candidates**

PB proposed identifying issues which could be put to election candidates, possibly through the local Press, which would be useful in future post-election discussions with CYC, and also give publicity to the YEF. The following were put forward as a basis for selection of the questions:-

**to local candidates-**

do candidates still support the established transport prioritised hierarchy, and were they even aware of it?

how would the transport policies affect the air pollution problems,and what actions would be proposed and supported? Monitoring the pollution levels defines the extent of the problems, but does not solve them.

would candidates support radical moves to combat pollution and congestion, even if they were very unpopular?

do candidates recognise the value of extensive tree planting in pollution mitigation, in addition to other environmental benefits? Would they support in depth studies to look into this, when at the moment officers do not consider this a priority? Other authorities are way ahead of York here.

would candidates support tram or light rail measures, which would require major capital investment and continual subsidy, to reduce car use, rather than more convenient bus services?

do candidates consider current cycle training, both for children and adults, adequate?

do candidates agree that officer resources to cover biodiversity and natural environment issues are inadequate, and that management plans for hedges and grass verges in Council ownership are needed?

do candidates support renewable energy schemes, which could involve wind turbine installations?

do candidates support working with adjoining authorities to develop an anti-fracking policy across the region?

PB suggested that questions should be on specific points, rather than on general policies.

#### **to national candidates-**

do candidates accept that climate change should be factored in to all policy decisions, and funds be made available locally to take this into account?

do candidates support natural capital accounting methods as making a strong case for more investment in green infrastructure?

do candidates support greater funding for retro-fitting housing stock to combat fuel poverty, and that this should not come out of local authority funds?

do candidates agree that the natural environment can contribute to mental and physical wellbeing, saving healthcare costs?

do candidates agree that concentrating funding on the contentious HS2 project as opposed to rapid, and achievable, improvements in E-W rail services is the best use of resources?

## **6 SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE & THE GREEN ENVIRONMENT - Steve Wragg**

**SW** gave a comprehensive overview of the sustainable drainage concept, and how its adoption could fit within the mitigation strategies allied to climate change problems, and the degradation and loss of soils, which is now becoming of increasing concern. Use of upstream tree planting, permeable surfaces, swales and reedbed purification were all part of surface water management techniques to reduce rapid surface water runoff contributing to flash flooding, which is becoming ever more prevalent, and which would allow clean water into the main watercourses. Current legislation allows developments of 10 dwellings or less to be exempt from SUDS obligations, and it was difficult to persuade developers to adopt suitable measures. There was a lack of resources for enforcement. There was a possibility of retrofitting schemes, but this requires funding. It would be fair to say that this topic is not high on the political agenda.

Members thanked Steve for his highly informative and passionate presentation.

**7 A.O.B.**

there was to be an Open ECO Homes event on 16th.-17th.May promoted by St.Nicks. Contact Ivana 411821 or [stnicks.org.uk](http://stnicks.org.uk) if you would like to see your house included.

there will be a "Cycle Hustings Plus" at the Winning Post,Bishopthorpe Road 30th.April at 7.0pm. majoring on transport policies

**NEXT MEETING**

Date	Tues. 12th.May 2015 4.00-6.00pm.
Venue	West Offices - George Hudson room
Agenda	tbc

The Forum contact is c/o 70a Holgate Road, York YO24 4AB t. 01904 625300 or email [phil@constructiveindividuals.co.uk](mailto:phil@constructiveindividuals.co.uk) + [www.yorkenvironmentforum.org.uk](http://www.yorkenvironmentforum.org.uk) and on **Facebook**