

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

**Present:**

Derek Utley	"Treemendous"York
Kelly Osborne	"Treemendous"York
Ian Tomlinson	"Treemendous"York/York Tree Wardens
Cllr.Tony Richardson	CYC Conservative Group
Cllr.Denise Craghill	CYC Green Group
Andy d'Agorne	unaffiliated
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland
John Cossham	Frack Free York
Alison Sinclair	Cons.Area Advisory Panel
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Mick Phythian	YNET
Alastair Cooper	York Quakers(Friargate)
Ron Healey	CPRE York/Selby
Anna Middlemiss	"Treemendous"York
Brodie McGhie-Fraser	"Treemendous"York
Ben Morris	observer

**Chair Philip Crowe**

**1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies: not recorded. Welcome to Derek Utley, Kelly Osborne, Ian Tomlinson, Cllr.Tony Richardson, Anna Middlemiss, Brodie McGhie-Fraser, Ben Morris

**2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

agreed.

**3 MATTERS ARISING/MEETINGS ATTENDED**

AS suggested that "Make it York" should be made aware of the YEF and its relevance to York's future development. Ad'A queried the future of the Green Infrastructure Forum. JC suggested a representative should be invited to attend.

**4 REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP and SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Penny B. reported a balance of £671.0 on YEF funds, with 15 paid-up members. PC confirmed the importance of appointing a membership secretary. One possibility was to advertise through the CVS. He reported that "Treemendous" had had some success through this route. JC felt that there should be more effort made to attract Parish councillors.

## **5 "TREMENDOUS" York - Derek Utley**

**DU** was representing not only "Treemendous" but the Woodland Trust, as Woodland Creation Champion. His presentation was one which he gave to organisations interested in learning more about trees and their benefits, tailored to individual audiences, for whom this may be a completely unfamiliar topic - although not in this case (hopefully !). He gave an overview of how tree planting should be regarded as a positive contribution to our landscapes, both urban and rural, both as a visual amenity but as contributing to a more healthy environment and a foundation for effective eco-systems. He emphasised the role of volunteers and community groups in the process, and how "Treemendous", working with the City Council and its constituent group members, was able to help groups and individuals in raising funds, identifying potential sites, obtaining approvals and enthusing volunteers to carry out actual planting where practicable. "Treemendous" had worked on over 50 sites, planted some 9000 trees and attracted over £41k. in funding to date, and had an ambitious forward programme. It is run by a small steering group, and new members are welcome. Check out "Facebook" for more details, pending the launch of a new web-site.

Members thanked DU for his excellent and well-illustrated address.

## **6 "TTIP" ( Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) - Mick Phythian**

**MP** explained his concerns that this would not be a series of conventional trade treaties with agreements on tariffs and quotas, but a policy driven by the US and transnational corporations to bypass national safeguards on regulations on products and services and institute wideranging unregulated arrangements which would allow free trade activity which could not be challenged by national governments. Examples were exemptions on food safety standards; licence to export tar sands products internationally; challenges to minimum wage policies. Companies would be entitled to sue governments for loss of profit if their proposals were challenged, and have already done so. There was a probability that adoption of the TTIP would involve significant job losses. MP tabled a briefing paper, indicating there would be no public benefits and major costs, and that chemicals, automotive , business/IT, health, education, postal and sewerage sectors could be adversely affected. There could well be unspecified knock-on effects locally, which might involve environmental issues of particular concern to the YEF, such as its impact on agriculture and the food chain and the ability for fracking companies to operate.

AS reminded members that the YEF was not a campaigning organisation, and were individual responses to the proposals preferable to a group response? JC felt that a group response might be appropriate. No decision was made on this.

Members thanked MP for his presentation on what is a highly technical subject.

## 7 A.O.B.

BO asked Cllr.TR if he could establish the state of play regarding the CYC Green infrastructure programme, and its incorporation into the Local plan. PC and MP asked for clarification on the progress of the Local Plan in general. AS was also concerned over the future of the "Local List". Cllr.TR noted these requests and would seek clarification.

JC noted a meeting of the "York Sceptics" group at the "Phoenix" on 27th.July to discuss arctic methane issues.

### NEXT MEETING

Date	Tues. Aug.11th.2015 4.00-6.00pm.
Venue	West Offices (provisional)
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**