

**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING ON Oct.13th.2015**

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Cllr.Denise Craghill	CYC Green Group
Cllr.Ian Cuthbertson	CYC Lib.Dem. Group
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Andy d'Agorne	unaffiliated
Dave Merrett	unaffiliated
Alastair Cooper	York Quakers(Friargate)
Ron Healey	CPRE York/Selby
Anna Bialkowska	Tang Hall Big Local
Adrian Lovett	Schumacher North
Richard Lane	York Community Energy
Kate Lock	Planet Southbank/Zero Carbon Yorks
Sarah Leith	Univ.of York
Mike Slater	CYC
Jacqui Warren	CYC

Chair Phil Bixby

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies: Tom Waring, Mick Phythian, Dot Lawton, Graham Collett. Welcome to Mike Slater, Sarah Leith, Jacqui Warren

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, MATTERS ARISING

Minutes agreed.

DM reported on the end of LTP3 and the possibility of LTP4 for 2016ff. I-Travel York funding was closing. He suggested a meeting with Tony Clarke would be appropriate. The proposed Congestion Commission had potential, but should be cross party with an independent chair. The new P+R contract did not include low-emission requirements for the bus fleet. CYC had no statutory duty to enforce this as part of a low-emission strategy.

DM had attended meetings discussing pension fund disinvestment, and the associated social impacts.

3 CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE AND LOCAL ACTION - Kate Lock

KL reported on the establishment of a Zero Carbon Yorkshire Network, leading to a Yorkshire Climate festival on Nov.10th. This would move the debate out of the political arena, be open and inclusive, and would examine potential, particularly local, solutions. The positive actions which can be taken must be emphasised, rather than concentrating on the negative threats.

There would be major publicity prior to the Paris conference running from Nov.30th-Dec.11th., defining what the "asks" should be, to be put to the conference. It was hoped to have public "conversations" initiated by CYC on Nov.6th and Dec.3rd. Schumacher North was supporting these actions.

4 UPDATE ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENT SITES - Mike Slater

MS noted the continued input from Arup and Oxford Economics in defining economic and housing needs. 800 housing units p/a were suggested as reasonable. It was hoped to go out to consultation in Feb.2016, with examination in 2017 before Govt. intervention. There could be conflict between the proposed Neighbourhood plans already prepared and the emerging new Local Plan. Preferred options for minerals and waste were being developed. Whether a moratorium on fracking was feasible was open to debate. AC questioned whether the whole issue of population growth was really being properly addressed holistically.

MS reviewed the status of the major development sites:-

York Central:- had been submitted for Enterprise Zone status. Major remediation.

Terry's:- moving forward with problems over the use of the clock tower.

Nestle:- possible changes to mix of uses.

Germany Beck:- wildlife issues

Brit.Sugar:-1000 housing units proposed but major contamination and sewer problems. Major delay expected.

Hungate:-phase2 70% taken. Less retailing. Progressing well.

Stonebow House:- possible new developer.

Castle/Piccadilly:-nothing positive to report on new developer interest.

Dewenthorpe:-problems with final site allocation and power lines.

University:-developing a long term plan for Campus West. More residential to be developed on Campus East. Concerns over overdevelopment and loss of open space in the original approved plans.

Members thanked Mike for his helpful overview.

5- COMMUNITY ENERGY- Jacqui Warren

JW emphasised that solutions should be community-led rather than initiated by CYC. Local domestic consumption of gas was estimated to be below the national average, with electricity consumption higher(2011figures), with the total installed renewable sources at 1.6% of the total. 1800 homes now had solar panels.Solar thermal is not included. Govt. had abandoned carbon zero targets. It was not clear how and to what extent Govt. expected energy reductions to be achieved.

There were options for community purchase of energy, and there were 5000 groups nationally. Crowd funding and joint ventures are ways forward for financing. Residents need to identify applicable projects, and CYC will help with this. Details of the proposed drastic reduction in the Feed In Tariff scheme were tabled. Was investment in solar PV worth it if these proposals were to be implemented?

Members thanked Jacqui for her encouraging report.

6 UNIV.OF YORK VOLUNTEERING - Sarah Leith

SL leads a brokerage team identifying volunteering opportunities in the community, working with other groups such as York Cares and CVS for placements. The projects needed to be term-based if possible, over 30 weeks, with 30 hours input, and with a clear objective, for completion in mid-June for assessment. Enquiries from Forum members would be welcomed, provided there was a clear brief which could be addressed within the constraints of student life. Members felt that there might well be opportunities here.

Members thanked Sarah for her informative presentation.

7 A.O.B.

Due to the extended agenda items there was little time for discussion. PB asked all those with comments and suggestions to e.mail for further consideration. The membership secretary position is still open-enthusiasm for a minimal workload an advantage.

NEXT MEETING

Date	Tues. 10th.Nov.2015 4.00-6.00pm.
Venue	West Offices
Agenda	tbc

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