

**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING ON Nov.10th.2015**

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Cllr.Denise Craghill	CYC Green Group
Dot. Lawton	Heslington PC
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland
Ivana Jakubkova	St.Nicks.
Mick Phythian	YNET
Andy d'Agorne	Green Party
Dave Merrett	independent
Graham Collett	independent
Ron Healey	CPRE York/Selby
Adrian Lovett	Schumacher North
Tony Clarke	CYC
Harry Woolner	Urban Buzz

Chair Phil Bixby

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies: Tom Waring, John Cossham, Kate Lock, Alison Sinclair, June Tranmer, Sara Robin.(also to Barry Otley for failing to note his apology for absence at the previous meeting). Welcome to Tony Clarke, Harry Woolner.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING,MATTERS ARISING

Minutes agreed.

Penny B. reported 17 paid-up members. Balance £751.00

A d'A reported on progress on setting up a cross-party congestion commission, and encouraged YEF members to participate.

Cllr.C. suggested that YEF should engage positively in the sustainable building debate as a support to CYC in formulating policy options.

DM was concerned over the loss of city centre employment opportunities through the increase in conversions to residential now permitted under Govt. policy. This would lead to a gradual decline in a viable city centre economy.

IJ was looking for buildings suitable for large-scale solar installation.

BO suggested that it was time to establish contact with the "BID" promoters before it was too late. He would explore the possibilities.

3 CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

PB tabled comprehensive details of the "climate festival" events across Yorkshire taking place before the Paris conference, as compiled by Kate Lock, who is taking a major role in organising these, badged under the "FOR THE LOVE OF YORKSHIRE" brand. Too many to mention here - details on www.fortheloveofyorkshire.org. Also on Facebook and Twitter (@ForYorkshire). The main York event is on 28th Nov. and volunteers are still needed - try Kate on 07792-633984. There will be a coach on Nov.29th for the London march organised by York Climate Action Coalition, details- www.yorktoclimatemarch15.eventbrite.co.uk. Friends of the Earth are organising a Paris trip for 11th-13th Dec. details- www.foe.co.uk/go/paris2015.

Well done to Kate for her splendid efforts

4 UPDATE ON TRANSPORT - Tony Clarke

TC reported that a transport policy sub-group was being established to define future priorities, aware that previous sustainability aims were to be carried forward under the new administration, maximising the capacity of the existing network in the light of limited funding for major infrastructure work.

Main points to note were:-

Further work on the A19/A64 lead into York on hold pending outcome of the Germany Beck site resolution.

There were utility relocation problems on the proposed Clarence St./Lord Mayor's Walk junction improvements.

Improvements to the bus stop areas in Rougier St. waiting for details on the hotel expansion scheme.

Traffic light ground sensor failures due to road resurfacing need to be addressed.

Bids for funding for low-emission P+R bus fleets needing greater reliability requires evaluation of benefits of larger-capacity buses v. a greater number of smaller capacity vehicles.

The new P+R contracts should start in 2017.

A wider spread of electric charging points is under consideration.

The I-Travel residents consultation and behaviour change programme continues.

There are problems over the legality of proposed Coppergate signage - a wider area review will be undertaken.

Consultation is ongoing regarding the use of "A"boards.

The next 5 years transport management improvement programme will involve upgrading outdated equipment and signalling.

Major ring road and other capital improvements could depend on the outcome of the devolution discussions.

The Sustainable Transport Fund was closing, which might impact on non-statutory services.

Provision of a new pedestrian and cycle crossing at Scarborough Bridge was on hold due to high cost and complex negotiations with Network Rail.

BO raised the importance of including consideration of green infrastructure in future schemes. **TC** agreed this was important.

DM raised the question of smart ticketing. **TC** stated there were difficulties in bringing all parties to agree workable proposals.

PB suggested any further comments send by E.mail for consolidation.

Members thanked Tony for his review, and hope to be kept updated.

5- "URBAN BUZZ" - Harry Woolner

HW, representing "Buglife", introduced his "Urban Buzz" programme for York, one of 8 cities selected by BIFFA for a 3 year exercise in promoting the creation of habitats which will encourage pollinators. He will be working with CYC, community volunteers and other groups, identifying meadows and other possible areas for pollinator habitats, including nesting sites. Remember this is **NOT** just about bees! It is hoped to identify 25ha. of suitable sites, and after preparation there will be a monitoring programme which should extend well beyond the lifetime of the initial exercise. There will be a formal national roll-out of the programme on Nov.23rd., but it is intended to have a York launch event during the week before- all invited. Contact Harry c/o Urban Buzz Officer, CYC Hazel Court, York YO10 3DS mobile 07464 828 626 or Twitter [@buzz dont tweet](#) and connect via [Linkedin](#)

Members thanked Harry for his presentation, and look forward to further information and involvement

6 A.O.B.

"**Gaswork**-the fight for CJ's Law" - 7.30pm. Nov.16th. Selby Globe Community Cinema 01757- 708449 www.selbyglobe.co.uk - www.gasworkfilm.com. More about fracking U.S. style

NEXT MEETING

Date	Tues. 8th.Dec.2015 4.00-6.00pm.
Venue	West Offices
Agenda	tbc

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