

**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM  
MINUTES OF MEETING ON Dec. 8th.2015**

**Present:**

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Cllr.Denise Craghill	CYC Green Group
Hugh Cripps	Yorks.Energy Partnership
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland
Andy d'Agorne	Green Party
Graham Collett	independent
Ron Healey	CPRE York/Selby
Adrian Lovett	Schumacher North
Alastair Cooper	York Quakers(Friargate)
Alison Sinclair	Cons. Area Advisory Panel
Sara Robin	YWT
Anna Bialkowska	Tang Hall Big Local

**Chair** Phil Bixby

**1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies:Tom Waring, Mick Phythian, Dot Lawton, Dave Merrett, Cllr.Tony Richardson, Chloe Suter, Carole Green

**2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING,MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes agreed.

Penny B. confirmed the appointment of Chloe Suter as membership secretary.

A d'A reported that the Congestion Commission was progressing, and hoped to hold a public event in Feb.2016. BO reported on the York BID, and that the London Victoria BID had included a "green audit" and that this approach should be recommended for the York BID. AS had approached the BID leader on the importance of conservation issues and on the built and historic environment in general, with the support of the Cons.Area Advisory Panel. Penny B. reported on her participation with John Cossham in the Leeds Climate Change march. BO reminded members of the closing date for the minerals and waste consultation on Jan.15th. 2016.

**3 YORK ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS - report on workshops**

PB tabled the responses to the various workshops, indicating the priority rankings given to the topics discussed. The conclusion was that the results indicated ""old fashioned thinking".

HC stated that a vision of the "Smart City" was missing.

PC suggested that reference to the EF "2020 Sustainable City" Vision document prepared by Kate Lock (2011) would have been helpful. The topics had already been the subject of several reviews in the past, and the current review added little to the debate.

Cllr.DC stated that any economic strategy should be a basis for formulating the new Local Plan.

A d'A expected council members who had attended the workshops would report back to the relevant scrutiny committee. He suggested organising a public event to debate the implications, supported by AB.

PB agreed, and that it should be a significant opportunity with expert speakers, but was concerned over how this should be funded.

General comments were that climate change, green infrastructure and sustainability appeared to be of low priority and the recommendations lacked visionary content.

#### **4 FOCUS ON 2016**

PB asked the sub-groups to put forward rolling programmes for the topics they felt worthy of detailed examination, with suggested speakers.

**one planet group-** AL suggested a spring "Festival" involving businesses, trying to promote individual events in line with the 10 principles of the One Planet agenda, hopefully involving CYC in partnership working, while recognising the council's cost constraints. It would be more effective to promote a series of small events on limited budgets rather than large scale costly programmes. Penny B. suggested the Railway Museum as a possible venue and partner.

**natural environment group-** BO reiterated the importance of developing a green infrastructure strategy, with associated issues of air quality and flood risk management. The YEF needed updates on this from CYC officers. SR emphasised the importance of Askham Bog, and that the public should be made more aware of this by promoting walks and producing an updated guide, working through the YWT.

**transport group-** RH reported little progress, and the group needed updating on this before it could take action.

**historic and built environment group -** AS raised the issue of the "Local List". There was a general consensus that this was now acceptable, but that CYC were unable to take this forward due to lack of resources. Some of the entries were included in village design statements, and could now be included in neighbourhood plans. Until CYC were prepared to devote time to this the validity of the list remains in doubt. Other options needed to be explored - who would undertake this task?

**energy group-** HC reported that Govt. community energy schemes were under threat. Using the River Ouse and geo-thermal as possible energy sources had not been seriously considered. No positive action proposed by the group. Note that Jacqui Warren and Richard Lane had previously given updates on the current situation ( see minutes of 8th.Sept and 13th.Oct.)

#### **5 LIVE ON-LINE PARIS CLIMATE REPORT - Kate Lock, Richard Lane**

There was a fascinating interactive conversation (despite some technical glitches describing the events in Paris as experienced from the ringside by KL and RL. It is hoped to have a personal assessment at a future YEF meeting.

#### **6 A.O.B.**

PB requested further items for consideration by e-mail please

## NEXT MEETING

Date           Tues. Jan. 12th. 2016 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](mailto:phil@constructiveindividuals.co.uk) + [www.yorkenvironmentforum.org.uk](http://www.yorkenvironmentforum.org.uk)  
and on **Facebook**