

**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING 12th.Dec. 2016**

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Ron Healey	CPRE York/Selby
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Community Woodland
Adrian Lovett	Schumacher North
Graham Collett	Railfuture Yorkshire
John Cossham	Frack Free York/Red Tower project
Andy d'Agorne	York Green Party
John Bibby	York Bus Forum
Ivana Jakubkova	St.Nicks
June Tranmer	The Healing Clinic
Anna Bialkowska	Tang Hall Big Local
Dave Merrett	York TUC
Barry Graham	
Christian Vassie	
Kate Lock	

Chair Phil Bixby

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies:Chloe Suter, Alison Sinclair, Carole Green, Mick Phythian, Tom Waring.
Welcome to Chris.Vassie, Kate Lock, Barry Graham

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING,MATTERS ARISING

minutes agreed

BO noted that the Harewood Whin nature reserve had now been agreed in principle and a steering group was to visit the site. DM noted no progress on a green infrastructure strategy, and a delay of 6 months on the Local plan. A d'A noted continued concern over bus delays on Fulford and Tadcaster roads, ineffective realtime displays and ongoing modelling of bus idling. DM noted contractual problems over future low emission vehicle provision on P+R routes. BO noted the Env.Agency 5 year flood mitigation plan was now available, and that Yorventure funds were promised to extend the Rufforth-Knapton cycle route at Rufforth.

RH noted the CPRE's comments of the proposed release of Imphal Barracks for housing, quoting the Vauban barracks example (35ha./5000 people/2000 housing units;30 co-housing groups;no detached housing;car free). PB noted the "Yospace"proposal to found a "Community Homes" group in York, following the Leeds example,where £200k. had already been raised by shareholders. Penny B. noted adverse comments by residents on the CYC Lowfield housing proposals on open space grounds.

3 REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED

PB noted the first meeting of the York Central Neighbourhood Forum . It was not clear what role Tracy Carter and CYC generally would play in the discussions. Minutes were expected later.

PB had met Nottingham Express Transit Team to discuss how the city had financed and developed its tram system.

4 NW BICESTER ECO DEVELOPMENT

not discussed.

5 LEEDS COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE - Kate Lock

KL confirmed that she had been appointed communications officer for the "Priestley International Centre for Climate" based in the University of Leeds, a multi-discipline office promoting Climate Action in Cities, following a series of events both here and on the continent, culminating in the Paris Accords of 4th.Nov.2016. The Leeds centre was looking how the rapid growth of cities and the consequent growth in emissions needed rapid responses if the problem was to be contained. A recent "Climathon" involved 59 cities worldwide, of which 5 were in th UK, Leeds being the only northern participant. Cities were allocated themes to examine, and Leeds was leading on financing energy efficiency, noting that housing accounted for 1/3 of the total adverse global warming emissions, and had now reached a plateau. Options ranged from increasing the use of smart meters to the establishment of a green investment bank. A Leeds Committee on Climate Change had been established to run until Sept. 2018, with a structure involving as many of the major organisations, including businesses, as possible, to establish strategies to meet carbon reduction targets. First indications are that this would be a dynamic and effective way of influencing an approach to any man-made contribution to climate change.

Members thanked Kate for her presentation and looked forward to further updates when the results of the Leeds exercise were evaluated.

6 DEVELOPMENT OF A TRAM SYSTEM - Christian Vassie

CV stated that his address would concentrate on the problem of influencing decision makers, initially CYC elected members, so that they would take a long-term view, regardless of individual party politics, on how to solve the city's transport problems. As long as the electoral cycle, with the possible changes in political control of the Council which that implied, was allowed to dictate the course of events, no progress was likely. Both the public, officers and Council members should be made aware of all options open to them in designing, financing and implementing a cost-effective, flexible public transport system over the next 10-15 years through a consistent education programme promoted by the Council itself and local campaign groups. A successful outcome could be achieved provided an all -party consensus on the way forward was agreed. There was no sign of this happening at the moment, unsurprising as York has never been a city renowned for innovative a-political long-term thinking. Could the YEF play a role in kickstarting this process? Over to you!

Members thanked Chris. for his masterly exposition of the status quo. Watch this space!

A.O.B.

JB noted that a series of York "Science Trails" was being developed.

JT suggested that YORK HIVE should be explored for funding options.

IJ announced a series of monthly "mingle" events based on "One Planet" themes to be held at St.Nicks.

GC tabled a highly informative and relevant leaflet on modern railway developments and opportunities-see **www.railfuture.org.uk**

JC noted a meeting at the Crescent Community Hub to discuss the Waste and Minerals strategy.

NEXT MEETING

Date	Tues. Jan.10th.2017 4.00-6.00pm
Venue	West Offices
Agenda	as tabled

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](#)**