

**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING 8th.May.2018**

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Cllr.Denise Craghill	CYC
Dot.Lawton	Heslington PC
Carole Green	Bishopthorpe PC
Barry Otley	Wheatlands Woodland
Sara Robin	Yorks.Wildlife Trust
Dave Merrett	York TUC/individual member
Alison Sinclair	Cons.Area Advisory Panel
Luke Richardson	Member
Ron Healey	CPRE N.Yorks
John Cossham	Treemendous York
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Graham Collett	Raiffuture Yorkshire
Andy d'Agorne	Green Party/individual member

Chair Phil. Bixby

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies from June Tranmer, Adrian Lovett

There were currently 9 paid-up members. Outstanding subscriptions should be made a.s.a.p. There were 30 names on the mailing list. It was decided that they would be allowed 2/3 months to confirm their continued interest.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING(13th. Mar.2018) MATTERS ARISING

(note that the April meeting took place at the NRM in conjunction with the York Central exhibition, when transport issues were the main topic. No minutes were taken)

minutes agreed.

DM reported on the Yorkshire Water future programme, in line with Govt.directives. Note that domestic river pollution was now greater than industrial. There was now a comprehensive list of issues to be dealt with.

3 NPPF CONSULTATION - Dave Merrett

Revisions include consideration of "garden city" principles in new housing strategies: restrictions on onshore wind developments: planning decisions on fracking to be taken at national level, and not devolved to local authorities. It is not clear what response, if any, CYC has made to these radical proposals.

4 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY - John Cossham

JC gave a comprehensive overview of the current energy mix. Of particular note was the fact that half the energy used is via liquid fossil fuels - finite and polluting. Levels of CO2 were a serious problem and were difficult to predict. There needs to be a focus on energy production without CO2 emissions. Technology exists for CO2

sequestration through carbon capture, but this is costly at the moment, and would need major subsidy to roll out at scale. Should the UK rely more on electricity (20% of current supply) rather than continuing with fossil fuels such as gas? There is public concern over nuclear as a pollution-free option, but there are also issues with the worldwide sourcing of construction materials and the embedded energy costs and eventual decommissioning of the generation plants and disposal of nuclear waste. There are current difficulties in realising hydrogen potential, battery storage, and the sourcing of rare earth metals, a finite resource. Coastal wave and large scale tidal generation have potential, but are considered by some not to be cost-effective. Part of the solution would be to use less energy, through reducing travel, better planning of developing urban areas, retrofitting buildings, and concentrating on expanding hydro, wind-power and solar opportunities, and aim for zero-carbon targets. For starters CYC itself should give a lead in promoting renewable energy in its own estate. Society as a whole needs to be future-proof. St.Nicks is already a significant local player, which could develop its outreach programmes on energy use and conservation with additional funding.

JC was thanked for his valuable analysis, and confirmed that his detailed paper would be accessible electronically.

5 MAJOR PROJECTS-CASTLE GATEWAY,YORK CENTRAL - Phil Bixby

The Castle Gateway master plan has now been signed off, and each element of the phased development will now be submitted as an individual planning application as it is brought forward, with opportunities for public comment as usual. The initial application will be for the construction of a controversial multi-storey carpark on St.George's Field.

(Philip Crowe submitted detailed comments on this particular issue at the the Executive meeting on 26th.April).

York Central development is focussed on securing approval for the access route from Water End through the Millenium Green. Philip Crowe has agreed to take Phil Bixby's place on the York Central Community Forum panel. Public consultation events continue.

A.O.B.

There will be an "Edible York" event at the Red Tower on May 31st.

It is hoped to arrange visits to the L&G Offsite factory in Sherburn and to Allerton Park energy from waste plant.

NEXT MEETING

Date	Tues. June 12th.2018
Venue	West Offices
Agenda	as tabled

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