

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

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Cllr.Denise Craghill	CYC Green Group
Dot Lawton	Heslington PC
Ron Healey	CPRE Nth.Yorks
Sara Robin	Yorks.Wildlife Trust
Andy d'Agorne	Green Party/individual member
Dave Merrett	York & District TU/individual member
Graham Collett	Rail Future York, York Bus Forum
Barry Otley	Treemendous York
Tom Waring	St.Nicks
Alison Sinclair	Cons.Area Advisory Panel
Tom de Simone	York Community Energy
John Cossham	"Extinction Rebellion" et al.
Caroline Lewis	Clean Air York
John Bibby	York Bus Forum
Luke Richardson	LNER/individual member
Kate Lock	University of Leeds
Andy Kerr	CYC

Chair Phil Bixby

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES, MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Welcome to Kate Lock, Andy Kerr

Apologies: Carole Green, Cllr.Mary Cannon, Elspeth Wrigley, Audrey Miller, Adrian Lovett, Mick Phythian, Ivana Jakubkova

2 minutes agreed.

JC reported that Scarborough BC had agreed to recognise a climate emergency.

Ad'A noted CYC had scheduled a meeting to discuss a Clean Air strategy.

DM noted discussions in Hull to consider job transitions to alternative jobs with lower adverse environmental impacts.

SR attended discussions on Drax and the role of the "Biofuelwatch" group, the downsides of reliance on biomass, and the need for Northern Power to update the grid to allow more flexibility.

3 COMMUNICATING CLIMATE CHANGE - Kate Lock

KL, representing the "Priestley International Centre for Climate", based at the University of Leeds, described the "Climate Communication Project". In essence this hopes to identify ways to use visuals and words to ensure that messages about climate change are structured to best effect when presented to varied audiences. Its recent survey indicates that there is consensus and disagreement around some key principles of climate communication and public engagement. For example, was "myth-busting" a productive or counter-productive method of public engagement (with some responses arguing that correcting false beliefs should **not** be a central part of a

dialogue with the public. There were additional concerns over the value of trying to communicate the scientific consensus on climate change to lay audiences, and whether changing behaviour should be on the agenda. One recommendation, among many, was ".....hold people's attention, be concise, get to the crux of the communication quickly and make it interesting....use visuals, stories, narrative, humour and other creative forms of engagement to build a sense of optimism about tackling climate change. Two way dialogue is crucial: learn together, avoid preachy "didactic" communication , and don't persuade forcefully....." The research programme is continuing, and members are referred to [www.the climatecommsproject.org](http://www.theclimatecommsproject.org) for more background information.

Members thanked Kate for her presentation on this important topic.

4 CASTLE GATEWAY UPDATE - Andy Kerr

AK described the process involved in taking forward the Council's objectives, following the widespread public consultations on the indicative master plan. The proposals have been divided into workpackages which can be sustainably financed. The priority is to remove the castle carpark, which brings in some £1.2m. p.a. in revenue to the Council. This requires the construction and completion of a multi-storey carpark on St.George's Field with a ground level coach park, to be part-financed by a developer-led apartment building or buildings alongside the Foss Basin. There have been delays because of issues with the Yorkshire Water infrastructure in the area, but it is hoped to complete the mcp in the spring of 2021. Allied to this are projected pedestrian access improvements across the main road at Castle Mills, with attendant traffic controls, and agreements for a public right of way behind the Castle Museum with a new pedestrian bridge over the Foss to allow site permeability. It is clear that the effective sequential implementation of the master plan involves highly complex behind-the scenes negotiations which are on-going, making precise completion dates of the various work packages hard to predict.

There will be further public consultations on the detailed development of the Castle Precinct itself, so that this can be taken forward as soon as possible, once the carpark has been cleared. Meanwhile options for the redesign of Piccadilly are being evaluated, now that approvals have been given for private development along its western side, and these will be out for consultation in due course.

Members thanked Andy for bringing members up to date with progress, and looked forward for further updates.

A.O.B.

none

NEXT MEETING

Date	Tues Feb.12th.2019
Venue	West Offices
Agenda	as tabled

IMPORTANT

Members should note that the **YEF AGM** will be held on Mar.12th.2019. Familiarity with the Constitution would be helpful. Further details in due course.

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