

## York Environment Forum

AGM and March meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### Minutes

Present:-

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Caroline Lewis	Clean Air York
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Tom Waring	St.Nicks
Andy D’Agorne	Green party
June Tranmer	Healing Clinic / One Planet York
Ron Healey	CPRE NY
Dave Merrett	York & District Trades Union Council & individual member
Sara Robin	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Adrian Lovett	Good Food York
Barry Otley	Treemendous York
Audrey Miller	Treemendous York
Tom de Simone	York Community Energy
Mike Bonsall	Treligan
Phil Bixby	Chair & individual member

Apologies:-

Mary Cannon  
Alison Sinclair  
John Cossham  
Roger Pierce

### Minutes of AGM

Welcome was issued and apologies noted. The minutes of the 2018 AGM were deemed to have been approved at the subsequent meeting.

#### Chair’s report

We have discussed Sustainable energy and what this really means; the communication of climate change, and a range of views on influencing public behaviour from gentle persuasion to the Extinction Rebellion; Clean air in York, leading to an update from Mike Southcombe following approval of the CAZ and anti-idling measures; York’s rivers and how future development will impact on them.

We have sought to have broad impact by working with Civic Trust on transport matters and on developing city-wide public consultation on transport strategy; agreeing a joint response to the Moor Lane planning application, and a joint response to the York Central planning application; making detailed responses to the station frontage consultation; coordinating responses to the draft Local Plan.

We’ve had updates on Castle Gateway; Fossgate improvements; the outer ring road and other major projects; the York Central Masterplan proposals, including the “beyond flying cars” public event looking at future transport options; Treemendous York’s work with the Environment Agency on flood alleviation and slowing the flow.

Plus reports on regional transport matters, changing fuel at Drax power station, feedback on Passivhaus projects in York, and revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework.

Last year I said that:-

- The Forum hasn't defined what its strategic vision for the future should be, and I don't think we've got any closer to that over the past year; I think the Forum has an important role to play in York, but I'm not clear about exactly what that is.
- We need to ensure the subgroups are more dynamic and proactive in shaping meetings and discussion, and although they have done some brilliant work over the past year I think we still need to work on that
- The website and social media output have both rather limped along with minimal input. They both need shaking up.
- I'll hold up my hand for none of the above having moved forward in the past year under my watch, which is why I'm standing down as chair in order to enable a fresh look at how we move them forwards.
- However, it's been fun. Thank you all.

### Secretary's report

Attached as scanned document.

### Treasurer's report

As previously circulated. Noted that date of AGM means two years of accounts (one incomplete) need referring to. Recommended to shift AGM to April in 2020 in order to simplify the process.

### Election of officers for 2019

The following have offered to stand:-

Chair	Penny Bainbridge
Minutes Secretary	Philip Crowe
Membership Secretary	Caroline Lewis (also handling website and social media)
Treasurer	Phil Bixby

All were approved collectively by the membership on show of hands. The secretary offered thanks to the departing chair, and the meeting was closed.

### Minutes of March meeting

#### Updates and matters arising

Sara Robin outlined progress with the Moor Lane planning application. YWT obtained funding to enable commissioning of an independent hydrology report which accorded with YWT's own report. As a result Natural England has objected to the scheme. This now has a number of prominent objectors, including both MPs. Given the scale and sensitivity consideration of the application has now been deferred until June, after the local elections.

Barry Otley noted that he has followed up last month's meeting by providing to Mike Southcombe material on the value of trees and on opportunities for mitigation on the outer ring road. He noted

Leeds has planted around 4000 trees using funding which is equally available to York. Barry has offered to the council to work with development staff to encourage greater consideration of tree planting.

Andy D'Agorne referred to newsletter from last year noting that ring road improvements would include tree, shrub and flower planting to encourage wildlife. Barry pointed out that when starting from cleared landscape, it can take years for tree canopy to establish and provide suitable environment. Graham Collett noted exposed ditches which could be a safety hazard; Barry explained they were part of the drainage strategy.

Dave Merrett noted an exhibition in Clifton Moor Tesco seeking public comments on provision for pedestrian / cyclist movement across the outer ring road as part of the proposed upgrades. Access to Wigginton Road in particular needed consideration, he commented.

The transport subgroup is still seeking funding contributions towards the proposed transport survey – a number of refusals have been recently forthcoming.

The transport subgroup has formally objected to the revised York Central outline planning application. This is largely based on Tony May's analysis as almost all application documents have been resubmitted with no certain way of knowing what has /hasn't changed. Tony has proposed that an independent analysis of transport impact is necessary and that consideration of the application should be delayed pending this. David Fraser is speaking on behalf of the Civic Trust at the planning meeting; Tony May has offered to speak on behalf of the Forum; this was approved by show of hands, subject to briefing prior to the meeting.

Tony has been setting up a specific Civic Trust transport group. It was suggested that a joint group should be established including transport-focussed YEF members. This was broadly welcomed and is subject to further discussion. Graham Collett noted he will join the CT transport group on behalf of the Bus Forum.

Graham noted a number of upcoming events including the Bus Forum AGM (details:- 5:30pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at West Offices, preceded by group visits to the West Offices Control Centre from 4pm – pre-booking required). Details attached.

### [Speaker – Michael Bonsall – A Social Platform to Boost Urban Ecology](#)

PDF slides attached to these minutes – thanks to Michael for agreeing circulation. Comments:-

Sara – noted need for management, not just planting, and that some management wasn't always easy to "sell" – habitat can be "untidy" which goes against public wish for "neatness" in landscape.

Barry – noted that Hungate development has an incorporated environmental scheme which residents are assumed to have "bought into".

Andy D flagged up the possibility of "meanwhile" uses on sites prior to future developments.

Penny noted the example of a family who wanted a fruit tree planting to remember a lost daughter – was planted by Edible York. She noted that "you need people first" before platforms become effective.

Graham commented that platforms need to link with existing organisations. Michael clarified that he was being very careful to not tread on toes, and that any platform should link to and benefit existing organisations. Funding to run the platform would be incorporated into the process of payment. It

was intended to be self-sufficient, but not a big money-earner; he is currently funding its development himself.

### Discussion on subgroups and development of meeting agendas

Phil B outlined previous discussion around the role of subgroups in a more proactive shaping of strategy and meeting agendas.

General discussion about the groups:-

The green environment subgroup comprises Barry O / Michael B / Sara R / Philip C / Caroline L / Tom W / Mick P. Noted some members unable to commit to regularly contributing in meetings, but could usefully liaise outside of meetings to link with local projects and issues.

The transport subgroup members are all committed to other transport-related initiatives and have limited time available. Possible joint working with Civic Trust noted above. Caroline L noted walking was top of the CoYC transport hierarchy and asked whether anyone represented the interests of walkers. It was noted that the River Foss Society and Civic Trust might have people who could pick this up.

Built environment subgroup members (Phil B / Philip / Alison S / Tom dS) have diverse interests and limited time due to other commitments. Tom dS noted that YCE were starting to organise insulation and home energy assessment projects.

Currently there is a OPY subgroup (June / Adrian) which reports back on OPY matters, but with minimal resourcing there is little leadership within OPY. A number of the OPY principles are duplicated by other subgroups, leaving the OPY subgroup as something of a catch-all. This was discussed and it was agreed that possibly a sustainable production subgroup (looking at food, farming and rural sustainability) would be better.

Tom W / Carol G proposed a Zero Waste subgroup – this was felt to be a current hot topic which could attract interest.

Penny B proposed that the subgroups should be important in setting the issues which the Forum worked with, and could be used to re-structure the currently rather bland website to make it more specific and engaging. Caroline L / Tom dS discussed this and will liaise re web design. It was noted that a more punchy website could then be more valuable for signposting from social media.

Penny B proposed that she would not be a member of any specific subgroup but would aim to liaise and meet with them informally in order to seek and develop useful connections between them. She is also keen to get members to share the experience of organisations they represent. PB noted the recent OPY networking event as a useful model for teasing out ways that people could contribute to each other's efforts. There was discussion about other local organisations who could be asked to contribute to discussion – Stockholm Institute, Environment Observatory, the universities and other specialists. Dave M noted value of input from the Environment Agency.

Upcoming meetings – draft focus:-

April – Community-led housing. PB to liaise with Yorspace and others, YCE to have input.

May – Based around offer from Amanda Crossfield / Yorkshire Water, look at climate change adaptation

June – Sustainable food production and rural economy – input from Adrian / Michael / others

## Any Other Business

Participation in Allerton Waste Recovery Park stakeholders' group was discussed. Tom W had indicated he was interested in joining as representative of St.Nicks; June T as representative of the Forum. Phil B will liaise.

Penny B noted that she wishes to use the [yorkenvironmentforum@gmail.com](mailto:yorkenvironmentforum@gmail.com) email address for Forum business in order to avoid overwhelming/cluttering her personal email account – please amend records accordingly.

There was a discussion about the downsides of blind CC'ing in that members were unaware of the extent of circulation of emails they received. It was proposed that members were invited to opt in to having their email details made available to other members. PB to action.

Dave M noted upcoming lecture in on health & urban environment at the university – March 27<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.

Andy D noted that the council is progressing plans to add energy hubs to initial Park & Ride sites by installing PV array and chargers.