

**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING 14th.May 2019**

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Caroline Lewis	Clean Air York
Phil Bixby	Constructive Individuals
Andy d'Agorne	Green Party
Ron Healey	CPRE Nth.Yorks
Dave Merrett	York & District TU/individual member
Barry Otley	Treemendous York
Tom de Simone	York Community Energy
Mike Bonsall	Treligan
John Cossham	Extinction Rebellion etc.
Elsbeth Wrigley	Rollits LLP
Adrian Lovett	Good Food York
Sara Robin	Yorks.Wildlife Trust
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Amanda Crossfield	Yorkshire Water - Asset Strategy Manager

Chair Penny Bainbridge

1 WELCOME TO ALL- the Chair

2 INTRODUCTIONS and APOLOGIES: Amanda Crossfield would talk about Climate Change as it was affecting Yorkshire Water's programme. Apologies from Alison Sinclair, Tom Waring, June Tranmer, John Bibby, Mick Phythian, Audrey Millier Denise Craghill

3- CLIMATE CHANGE and FUTURE WATER SUPPLY- Amanda Crossfield

AC reminded members of the floods in 2007, 2012 and 2015 and their significant impacts on York city in particular. It was predicted that flooding events might become more variable in timing and more extreme in severity. The Yorkshire Water upland catchment area covered some 29,000 ha. in addition to the underground supplies, largely in East Yorks, which needed careful extraction management if they were not to be depleted at an unacceptable rate. A major issue to be considered was population growth in the area, where it was likely to be concentrated, and changes in lifestyle resulting from increased public awareness of the need to conserve water. Plans were presented showing the piped water supply grid which allows for redirection of supply across the region. Details of management of upland areas were tabled, to slow the flow downstream and conserve peat deposits and natural habitats, while allowing for legitimate commercial interests to continue. There were sometimes conflicts in this area. The company was working to a 25 year plan, which would be updated every five years, with a significant emphasis on leakage prevention. This attempts to identify known risks, and channel investment accordingly. An encouraging message was that the company was well placed to ensure continuity of supply across the region, in the light of the current information available.

Members thanked Amanda for her optimistic presentation, with the caveat that unless consumers played their part in reducing consumption restrictions on use might be a distinct possibility.

4- THE YEF WEBSITE - THE WAY FORWARD - Mike Bonsall

MB illustrated various approaches to web-site design, from the generalised to the highly selective. The YEF must decide what its audience is likely to be, its demographic, how much information it could easily absorb over what timeframe. It must avoid information overload and feature selected links rather than repeat information. Should it complement posts on Facebook? Who would edit and manage the content? Members noted that outstanding graphic design, simplicity in use, highly legible text and good colour contrast were essential to project a professional image. What does the YEF expect to get out of this? Will it be self-referential? It needs to take forward a clear message, otherwise it could seem to be "all things to all men", with no coherent focus.

Members thanked Mike, who agreed to refine his ideas for further discussion.

5 YEF BUSINESS

a approval of minutes: agreed

b matters arising not on the agenda: **BO** suggested that all Councillors, many newly elected, should be circulated with the YEF views on climate emergency in the light of recent Govt. announcements.

c membership update :

d subgroup reports: **BO** noted the Yorwaste restructuring, and the evolving proposals for Harwood Whinn tip after closure. **DM** reported £5k support secured to research the consultation options for transport, with a possible £2k from "York BID". The subgroup had commented on proposed re-signalling schemes, and noted that the closure of Micklegate Bar had benefitted cyclists and should be made permanent.

e August meeting-topics and/or speakers: not discussed

f AOB : **A.d'A** noted Clean Air Day on June 1st. Should YEF participate? **CYC** has resources to support this. **DM** noted the Festival of Ideas June 13th. "Clean Air Day-Air Pollution and York" at York Uni. **MB** noted the launch of the comprehensive "London National Park " -are there lessons for York?

6 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

May 21st. Edible York event at St. Crux, Pavement

June 30th. July 12th Askham Bog walks.

Castle Gateway consultation continues.

NEXT MEETING

Date Tues. June 11th. 2019

Venue West Offices

Agenda as tabled

To contact the Chair call 01904 659574 / 07726 904 456, or c/o 24 Hob Moor Terrace, York YO24 1EY t.01904 707939 or email: yorkenvironmentforum@gmail.com

www.yorkenvironmentforum.org.uk

Twitter: -Yorkenvironment 1 Pledged to One Planet York

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Listed notes from agenda item re YEF website.

- Include The Purpose of YEF, and decide who the website is aimed at.
- Some items can be less prominent eg previous agendas.
- Needs wider range of content eg quizzes.
- Needs lots of pictures. Written sections can have fewer words to make the same point.
- Needs to be easy to navigate between sections and to find what is sought.
- Each paid-up member to have a direct link to their website if they want.
- Improve graphic design.
- Check accessibility re sight / vision of readers.
- Diary / calendar not needed.