
**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING 14th.Jan.2020**

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Caroline Lewis	YEF/Little Hob Moor Trees
Sara Robin	Yorks.Wildlife Trust
Phil Bixby	My Future York
Cllr. Denise Craghill	CYC
Cllr.Tony Fisher	Strensall PC
Audrey Miller	Treemendous York
Ron Healey	CPRE Nth.Yorks.
June Tranmer	Wellbeing in York
Dave Merrett	unaffiliated+(York & District TUC)
John Cossham	York Biochar
Adrian Lovett	York Biochar+Good Food York
Tom de Simone	York Community Energy
Graham Collett	York Bus Forum
Angela Blackwood	CYC
Debby Cobbett	unaffiliated+(Pensioners Convention)

Chair Penny Bainbridge

1 WELCOME

2 APOLOGIES:from Cllr.Martin Rowley, Barry Otley, Rose Hilton

3 SUSTAINABLE TREES- Audrey Miller

AM was concerned that where communities wished to plant Christmas trees in particular they should be rooted, and not simply supplied cut. This would ensure that they would be a sustainable resource, and be planted at locations which would allow for significant growth, at least for the medium term. Cllr.Fisher quoted the Strensall experience,where a satisfactory solution had been found. Parish Councils should be alerted to this policy.

4 BIOCHAR-SAVING THE PLANET?- John Cossham, Adrian Lovett

The speakers outlined the environmental benefits of producing bio-char (aka charcoal) using waste timber in pyrolysis conditions in a low- or non-oxygen environment to improve soil without using unnecessary fertilisers. It can be used in composting or no-dig regimes, fixing the carbon in the ground. Any biomass can be used to produce the same results, with what might otherwise be regarded as a waste product. Various burning techniques were illustrated, including experimental examples producing electricity from the heat generated in a conventional power plant. "Charcrete", brickmaking, cattle feed, were some of the possible applications. Large-scale commercial production was problematic, as large quantities of feedstock would be required, although these were being trialled. There was now a considerable literature on the topic. Certainly the concept has credibility. Drax, watch out!

Members thanked the speakers for their presentation. Keep up the good work!

5 YEF BUSINESS

a approval of minutes

agreed

b matters arising not on the agenda:

none

c membership update & finance:

no update

d subgroup reports:

DM tabled a detailed report on the transport survey results, noting that the under-25 cohort were under-represented. 495 respondents were prepared to participate in a Citizens Transport Forum. CYC had still not responded to a request for funding support to canvas "hard to reach" groups. The Civic Trust had suggested establishing a "Transport Forum" to complement CYC consultations, to include a wide range of interested parties, such as businesses.

PC reported on the lack of progress on the "Northern Forest" initiative. Meanwhile the "Treemendous" tree-planting programme continues.

SR reported on the conclusion of the Moor Lane/Askham Bog enquiry, with a decision expected in mid.Feb. PC had attended on one day, and had not been impressed by the proceedings.

JT reported that there was to be a further One Planet group meeting to try and establish clear protocols for action and responsibility.

e further meetings:

Tom de Simone to cover domestic retrofitting, insulation and associated housing issues? Phil Bixby to give an update on York Central?

Dates to be confirmed. NB 10th Mar. possible public meeting at "Explore"?- Phil B. to negotiate.

6 AOB :

PC reported that a planning application was to be submitted for a major apartment block and museum (badged as the "Roman Quarter") in Rougier Street. Visuals had been circulated in local media. It had not been general practice for the YEF to comment on individual planning applications, but PC considered that this proposal was likely to have such an adverse environmental impact that the YEF should object, and he would submit an objection on behalf of the YEF. Members agreed.

7 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

consultation on Castle Gateway now open; next stage consultation on York Central to follow. 2nd.Feb. open event at St.Nicks.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Date	Tue. 11th.Feb.2020
	Tues. 10th.Mar. 2020 unconfirmed (see above)
Venue	West Offices
Agenda	as circulated

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