

YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING 11th February 2020

Present:

Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Dave Merrett	York and District / TUC / individual member
Andy D'Agorne	CYC / Green Party
Ron Healey	CPRE N Yorks
Debby Cobbett	Individual
June Tranmer	Wellbeing in York
Phil Bixby	My Future York
Sara Robin	Scarcroft Allotments
Barry Otley	Treemendous York
Kate Hignett	Individual
Caroline Lewis	Little Hob Moor Trees
John Cossham	Treemendous

Chair Penny Bainbridge

1. APOLOGIES for absence: Philip Crowe, Tom Waring, Tom de Simone, Adrian Lovett, Angela Blackwood, Graham Collett, David Craven.

2. MINUTES of JANUARY 14th accepted as a correct record.

3, MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES;

Sending out the Biochar presentation had been held up but was ready to send out now.

4. REPORTS FROM SUBGROUPS.

**Natural Environment**

Treemendous.

There is lack of progress on the White Rose Forest, and hedges have been removed in connection with enlarging the ring road. On the other hand, there have been a thousand trees planted at the University of York, and a new section of the 'green walk' route joining Rufforth, Knapton and Poppleton has been approved.

The Local Plan, Askham Bog planning enquiry and related issues.

The planning inspector is due to report the decision to the Secretary of State by 20th February, and this will be made public in May or June.

Mention was made of how the decision could have a knock on effect on the housing element of the Local Plan

**Transport.**

The next stage following up the transport survey has begun. From the respondents who offered to take part in discussion groups three sessions have been held. The main issue from those participants is to have better public transport, such as more services, better timing of when buses run.

All the information collected at the events has been retained as a record, and can be used as the York Transport Plan is developed.

The transport group hopes to secure funding for other pieces of work that have not been possible so far.

### **One Planet York.**

The Leadership Group is working on a constitution so that OPY can become a Community Interest Company. Four roles have been identified that are crucial to establishing as a CIC, to cover areas including administration, marketing, finance and funding. Volunteers are sought for each.

### **5. A SUGGESTION**

A possible festival – an Environment Week for York.

Kate Hignett explained that as COP 26 was taking place in Glasgow in November 2020 it would be timely to hold a city-wide programme of events. The format proposed would be to follow the York International Women's Week approach. A group of anyone interested (not just from YEF) would 'curate' the festival but would not organise any events. The events mounted would be put on by existing groups, agencies, small businesses etc. The 'curating' groups would provide guidelines for these bodies to follow, would gather the proposals and put the events into a programme. Depending on funding available the group would publicise the programme in print form and online.

The meeting agreed this should be followed up, initially to identify people to volunteer to join an organising group, Penny will ask the membership initially. It would be possible for YEF to hold any funding raised and to settle outgoings through the bank account.

### **6. YORK CENTRAL CO-OWNED**

Thanks to Phil Bixby for his presentation. His summary is attached at the end of these minutes.

### **7. YEF BUSINESS**

Penny proposed that the subs for 20-21 remain the same ie £5 for individuals and £10 for groups. This was agreed.

She also suggested that members who are currently joined as individuals were also from groups and the group could be the member. The person could act as the intermediary between the group and YEF, which would aid communication about the issues YEF covers.

The last AGM was in March 2019. The March 2020 cannot accommodate the AGM, so this will be in April this year.

### **8. MARCH MEETING ARRANGEMENTS.**

Details of the venue and timings had been circulated. The event is part of the York International Women's Week programme. Ideally members will encourage women they know to attend. We hope to recruit new members to YEF.

### **9. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Date Tuesday 10th March

Tuesday 14th April: Annual General Meeting; York Community Energy leading the topic of retrofitting houses with insulation.

To contact the chair phone 01904 659574 or 07726 904 456.  
email [yorkenvironmentforum@gmail.com](mailto:yorkenvironmentforum@gmail.com).

## **Phil Bixby presentation on York Central Co-Owned.**

Project came out of York Central Masterplan and My York Central public engagement. Engagement resulted in public vision and big ideas, some of which made it into the masterplan and planning application, some of which didn't. Some of these ideas were explored using events and visits – what does a hub or exchange look like (event at Friargate)? How do we build high-quality affordable housing (visit to Citu, Leeds).

First public event to look at community-led neighbourhoods held during York Design Week last October. Resulted in a lot of positive energy and Post-Its.

My Future York approach swings into action:-

- Build a collective brief
- Explore complex challenges
- Make change together

Further events where people did narratives about their future York Central – builds up a brief describing a place which looks and feels different, sounds and smells different too, and very much built on the community who live / work / learn there.

Group beginning to explore complex challenges:-

- How to build an economic model which works – looking at Yorspace and Mutual Home Ownership, and Headingley Development Trust using community share offers to bring investment into collective things that local people want.
- How these can be combined in a mixed-use co-owned neighbourhood.
- Exploring possible realities – red-lining a chunk of the site, working out what could be built within height restrictions and length of available frontage – somewhere around 120-150 units of accommodation / workspace / social etc space.
- Thinking about walkable neighbourhoods and buildings, and mix of public and private space, and buildings which are “layered” – David Sim book “Soft City” as an inspiration.

Acknowledging that this will only work with partnerships – discussing project with Citu (Leeds Climate Innovation District) and TOWN (Marmalade Lane co-housing in Cambridge and mixed-use projects elsewhere).

But also using local creativity – ideas of streets which are green enough for an urban Parkrun, leading to a workshop on Wild and Playful Streets (12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020).

Get on our email list for future events

Read blogs/updates on the My Future York website ([www.myfutureyork.org/blogs/](http://www.myfutureyork.org/blogs/))