

**YORK ENVIRONMENT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING 8th.Oct. 2019**

Present:

Philip Crowe	York Tomorrow
Penny Bainbridge	Edible York
Caroline Lewis	YEF/Clean Air York
Barry Otley	Treemendous York
Rose Hilton	Heslington PC
Phil Bixby	YEF/unaffiliated
Rich Hearn	unaffiliated
John Cossham	Extinction Rebellion York
Tom Waring	St.Nicks
Audrey Miller	Treemendous
Andy d'Agorne	Green Party
June Tranmer	Wellbeing in York
Roger Pierce	Friargate Quakers
Adrian Lovett	Good Food York
Graham Collett	York Bus Forum
Angela Blackwood	CYC
Cllr.Tony Fisher	CYC
Cllr.Paula Widdowson	CYC
Cllr.Christian Vassie	CYC

Chair Penny Bainbridge

1 WELCOME to Cllr.Christian Vassie, Cllr. Paula Widdowson

2 APOLOGIES:from Mick Phythian,Ron.Healey,SaraRobin, Elspeth Wrigley
Jeanine Conley(Bishopthorpe PC), Cllr.Martin Rowley,Ivana Jakubkova

3 CYC ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES- Cllr.Widdowson

CYC strategies under the new Council Plan were to be published within six weeks.The waste fleet was under review; there was to be an emphasis on public realm improvements, including verge treatments and trials of weed control methods; a start was to be made on an overall tree survey; the network of vehicle electric charging points was to be extended; the rate of housing insulation was to be increased.

Members thanked Cllr.Widdowson for her overview of these CYC priorities, and looked forward to seeing the details of how they were to be implemented in due course.

4 USING SOCIAL MEDIA -Audrey Miller

The selective use of social media can be useful in reaching those who might not otherwise be aware of the environmental and social consequences of the rapid changes now taking place. Positive policies and actions can be promoted rather than taking a negative approach which implies taking no action to effect change. Equally important was the need to counter mis-information messages which sought to downplay or even deny the need for a change in attitudes. Social media can be used

to disseminate ideas and knowledge, particularly to hard-to-reach groups. Concerned individuals and groups, such as the YEF and its members, have a part to play.

Members thanked Audrey for her contribution. Does the YEF need to develop a coherent policy here? Food for thought!

5- CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY- Cllr. Christian Vassie

The role of the Climate Change Scrutiny Committee was explained. It was clear that CYC had no coherent plan across the board to tackle climate change issues. There was no data available which allowed effective evaluation of any carbon reduction measures already undertaken and planned. CYC had now no sustainability officer who could undertake this work. The Stockholm Institute at York University could be approached to see if they could assist. All stakeholders across the city need to be brought on board and persuaded of the need to take action. A programme of public engagement should be developed involving all types of easily accessible media. Bristol was quoted as an exemplar. While it was unwise to attempt to prioritise the threats to the current situation, which were of global significance, this may be the only way that the Council could formulate a plan of action which could be carried through without further delay. The views of the Scrutiny Committee could be put directly to the full Council, rather than to the Executive, as a way of eliciting a list of responses on which the Council could report back to the Executive with recommendations for action to be taken. As CYC had already recognised the importance of the climate emergency in its resolutions, this would seem to be a reasonable way forward. What is abundantly clear is that CYC needs to pro-actively take a lead in this, if it is to maintain credibility.

Members thanked Cllr.Vassie for his enthusiastic overview of the current state of play, and suggested that the YEF should be represented at future Scrutiny Cttee. meetings. Cllr.Fisher hoped that a full cross-party approach could be adopted.

4 YEF BUSINESS

a approval of minutes: item(3) for "Passive House" read "Passivhaus".Item4(d) delete "Local Transport Plan" add "Civic Trust transport survey". Otherwise agreed.

b matters arising not on the agenda: none

c membership update : none

d subgroup reports:

BO reported slow progress on confirmation of CYC involvement in the Northern Forest programme. The Wildlife Trust has launched a "Crowdfunding" appeal for the Askham Bog inquiry.

RP noted the lack of pedestrian/cycle priority in public transport consultation issues. GC noted that transport visitor data was not yet available, although residents and commuter data had been collected. The proposals for the station may be split due to funding problems. Arup were to re-design plans for pedestrians and buses. Cllr.Ad'A stated that the Queen Street bridge demolition was the CYC priority.

JT reported that One Planet York funding was to be stopped from the end of October. Fee levels were to be decided under the new independent structure, together with a constitution. The YEF resolved to ask the new organisation to come to some conclusions as soon as possible, if it were to influence CYC policies.

e Further meetings:

Nov. 12th. Woodlands and the role of the Woodland Trust - Derek Utley

Dec 10th. Farming and the rural economy - James Copeland (NFU)

f AOB : none

5 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Climate Change Scrutiny Cttee. next meetings-15th.Oct. 12th.Nov. 5.30pm.

NEXT MEETING

Date Tue.Nov.12th.2019

Venue West Offices

Agenda as circulated

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