

York Environment Forum meeting held on 14th March 2023:

Summary of the meeting held on Zoom.

Most of the members present had written in their names and relevant group they represent in the chat.

**Guest Speaker:** Srish Jain, who spoke on Sustainability and Disability, which is the subject of her PhD.

**York Environment Week for 2023.**

At the February meeting it was decided to have a recruitment drive to see if there were people offering to join a team / core group to run YEW this year. The team would need at least 6 members, and collectively would need to offer the range of skills to cover all the tasks need to organise a good quality programme. If this team was not assembled York Environment Forum would not be able to organise YEW 23. Deadline was such to allow for many months planning required,

**Report back on the recruitment drive:** Unfortunately there were not 6 people who together would cover all the skills and tasks.

And a suggestion was made by a YEF member (by email, in Feb) to ask Extinction Rebellion York if their group would be interested in organising YEW. Penny wrote to XR. A response from XR would be made after their meeting on the evening of 14th March.

And there was one person who got in touch offering to join in with a one off Environment Fair.

**Discussion points raised by YEF members:**

YEF could run YEW again by seeking people to fill in the skills gaps mentioned above.

There could be collaboration with another organisation so that it was a joint venture.

YEF has never committed to run YEW as an annual event, and the format could be different, altered year by year.

YEW as a concept has never been incorporated into the constitution etc,

YEF wants to improve the natural and built environment for people in York, which would guide us in deciding about working / collaborating - to work with others with similar aims and values.

Is XR York a suitable organisation to organise YEW? In the past the direct action strand was not supported by some YEF members present, and if this is what residents associate with XR then residents may be alienated. Policy changes take a while to be understood by the general public.

As things stand any organisation could decide to run something called YEW, and YEF would do 'due diligence' to decide if resources could be shared / made available such as website (not personal data).

Next step will depend on response of XR York.

Lastly, Cllr Melly said she might not remain a rep on YEF as the election is in May and posts are reallocated.. She wished YEF well.

Next meeting is the Annual General Meeting, 11.4.2023, plus the normal monthly meeting, held at West Office.