

YEF meeting via Zoom, 11th Feb 2025

Present:-

Penny Bainbridge (chair) - for Edible York

Adrian Lovett – for Good Food York Alliance, also acting as the food sub group of the York Climate Commission

Phil Bixby - independent but connected to YoCo - <https://www.yoco.uk/>

Chris Copland – Co-ordinator of York Friends of the Earth

Vicky Blakey-Archer – for St Nicks

Adam Myers , for York Environment Weeks Festival, York Allotments, York Climate Commission working group on Green Spaces

Sarah Wilson – Cllr, also York Bike Belles (Spring programme incl a free urban gardening/ hedges workshop with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) starts on 15th March).

Angela Blackwood - individual but also CYC officer in active travel

Dave Merrett – Individual member

Graham Collett – York Bus Forum

Tim Larnar – NY Climate Coalition

Apologies

Cllr Christian Vassie

Lisa Hilder

Notes:-

Discussion re compact between NYCC and YEF, before and after Tim Larnar's arrival.

Tim:-

NYCC has short history of around 10 months; formed to liaise with councillors and candidates over climate issues. An informal, unconstituted group but exploring constitution as CIO. Steering group drawn from 26 member organisations. "Discussions round a table rather than in a theatre".

Compact is very much a first draft for discussion with YEF, no rush nor timescale. Although towards the end Tim said that NYCC would become constituted and incorporated in a month or two.

Noted govt white paper of devolution which proposes strategic role for Mayoral Authorities with local authorities becoming delivery agents. Important to have clear voice with these bodies (and welcomed by them). Very definitely not a takeover by NYCC but a suggested approach that allows collaboration without treading on each other's toes.

Questions:-

Debby:- NYCC seems very much comprised of action groups; very different to YEF. Tim:- Want to empower local groups to do more, but want them to be informed too, so we can reflect their views back to government.

Debby:- Feel YEF has lost its way. Penny:- There's a lack of resources but there's a group of people reviewing what the Forum is able to do.

Tim:- There needs to be discussion and common consent, and in any case the process of incorporation means NYCC can't make commitments until that is settled. It might be a compact, or a Memorandum of Understanding, or something else.

Vicky:- a comment – the two partners in any agreement need to have values which are completely aligned. Operating models may be different. Tim:- NYCC and YEF have the fundamental difference that NYCC members often have geographic patches whereas YEF members tend to all operate within the city but have different interests. This needs to be considered.

Tim:- existing lines of communication would be unchanged – *Added explanation follows about the initials, where the point is about the respective Local Authorities> Climate Coalition and North Yorks County Council and YEF with City of York Council* NYCC will talk to NYCC officers, YEF would continue relationship with YCC. There may be

times when it's useful to exchange intelligence. We have a member survey which you might want to be shared with YEF (not for wider circulation though)?

Chris:- Wants to express the view that YEF isn't just a talking shop – it's been doing a lot of thinking about how it can move forward and have a useful role – active within the city. Also wondering how groups relate to the Mayoral Authority as it is *York* and North Yorkshire combined authority. There are diverse voices, representation within York will need to go beyond the Forum, and we need to consider how that might work (and whether NYCC shows a model for this).

Penny:- YEF could use March meeting to further discuss the compact proposal. Phil:- suggested that we need to to continue the discussion about future role of YEF alongside that as the two are related.

Angela:- Haven't been able to be involved in discussions around future of the Forum but support that work as things are very different now to when I first got involved.

Links posted in chat:-

From Debby:- <https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Economic-Framework-3rd-October-2024.pdf>

<https://www.nyclimatecoalition.org/news/save-the-date%3A-inspiring-community-action-in-north-yorkshire>

From Adrian:- A big new report about food resilience (or the lack of it!) came out last week. It's by Prof Tim Lang of the national Faculty of Public Health. The link to it is <https://nationalpreparednesscommission.uk/publications/just-in-case-7-steps-to-narrow-the-uk-civil-food-resilience-gap/> There's a useful briefing about it by the Agrifood Network, which includes a link to a webinar Tim gave just before the report came out. It's at: <https://www.agrifood4netzero.net/resources/tim-lang-civil-food-resilience-and-uk-preparedness-for-food-system-shocks/> I'm hoping to get a joint meeting of the food sub-group with the health sub-group, which is chaired by Dr Peter Roderick, the CYC Director of Public Health, to look at Tim Lang's report and what Y&NY might do about it, within the very limited resources currently available, and within the broader regional (i.e. 'Yorkshire') approach Tim Lang recommends, so that we don't all have to do everything individually.

CHAT transcript.

Participants were invited to type in their names, and if they were a rep for a member organisation.

16:07:26 From Deborah Cobbett to Everyone:

Debby Cobbett Beyond Drax: A Real Green Future for Yorkshire and the Humber

Sarah Wilson - Cllr: 

16:08:59 From Sarah Wilson - Cllr to Everyone:

Apologies, I will also have to leave around 5pm to see a resident.

16:09:45 From Adrian Lovett to Everyone:

Hi all, I'm Adrian Lovett, from Good Food York Alliance, also acting as the food sub group of the York Climate Commission

16:10:04 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Phil Bixby - independent but connected to YoCo - <https://www.yoco.uk/>

16:10:13 From Christopher Copland to Everyone:

Chris Copland - Friends of the Earth

16:10:16 From Vicky Blakey-Archer, St Nicks to Everyone:

Vicky Blakey-Archer - St Nicks

16:11:12 From Adam M to Everyone:

Adam Myers , York Environment Weeks Festival, York Allotments,

16:12:02 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

There's a "community drop-in" re York Central on Thursday 3pm - 7pm at the Guildhall run by the master developers - worth going if any interest in what's happening there...

16:12:43 From Adam M to Everyone:

ooooops forgot to say , I am also a member of Y Clim Comm working group on Green Spaces.

16:12:50 From Sarah Wilson - Cllr to Everyone:

Wearing my other hat, York Bike Belles Spring programme (incl a free Urban gardening/ hedges workshop with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) starts on 15th March.

Phil Bixby: 

16:15:33 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Compact between NYCC and YEF v3.pdf

16:17:32 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Apologies for repeatedly dropping the doc into chat but I need to do it whenever anyone new joins the meeting...

16:17:46 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Compact between NYCC and YEF v3.pdf

16:17:54 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Hello Angela!

16:20:53 From Angela's to Everyone:

Angela Blackwood - individual but also CYC officer in active travel

16:21:35 From Deborah Cobbett to Everyone:

Home | NY Climate Coalition members mostly action groups eg Thirsk FOE, Zero Carbon HG, Climate Action in various towns....

Sarah Wilson - Cllr: 

16:24:24 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Copy of the NYCC discussion paper for Dave...

16:24:24 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Compact between NYCC and YEF v3.pdf

16:25:17 From Sarah Wilson - Cllr to Everyone:

Replying to "Copy of the NYCC discussion paper for Dave...":

Phil, I can't see the doc? Is it the one Penny emailed to us?

16:25:28 From Deborah Cobbett to Everyone:

Economic Framework for York and North Yorks Combined Authority

Link here <https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Economic-Framework-3rd-October-2024.pdf>

16:26:38 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Replying to "Copy of the NYCC discussion paper for Dave...":

Hi Sarah - it should be in the chat box if you've got that open...

16:27:10 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Replying to "Copy of the NYCC discussion paper for Dave...":

I don't think it's been circulated previously as we only got it a couple of days back

16:27:34 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Replying to "Copy of the NYCC discussion paper for Dave...":

Here y'go...

16:27:34 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Replying to "Copy of the NYCC discussion paper for Dave...":

Compact between NYCC and YEF v3.pdf

16:28:26 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Replying to "Economic Framework for York and North Yorks Combin...":

Thanks for that Debbie - useful in all sorts of ways

16:30:44 From Sarah Wilson - Cllr to Everyone:

Replying to "Copy of the NYCC discussion paper for Dave...":

Sorry Phil - still can't see it in the chat! Was busy reading Debbie's link.

16:31:32 From Deborah Cobbett to Everyone:

Save the Date: Inspiring Community Action in North Yorkshire

16:33:16 From Christopher Copland to Everyone:

Has this Compact been shared prior to this meeting? If so, when?

16:34:08 From Sarah Wilson - Cllr to Everyone:

Replying to "Copy of the NYCC discussion paper for Dave...":

@Phil Bixby cllr.swilson@york.gov.uk

16:38:41 From Sarah Wilson - Cllr to Everyone:

Replying to "Copy of the NYCC discussion paper for Dave...":

Thank you @Phil Bixby

16:41:41 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Hi Tim

16:41:58 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Tim Larnar has entered the room

16:42:42 From Deborah Cobbett to Everyone:

Let's hear from Tim

16:44:51 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Compact between NYCC and YEF v3.pdf

16:55:16 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Hi Graham!

16:55:44 From Graham Collett to Everyone:

Hi Phil - just made it back from Ncstle!

16:55:58 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Graham - copy if you've not already got it...

16:55:58 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

Compact between NYCC and YEF v3.pdf

16:56:25 From Graham Collett to Everyone:

Thanks Phil. I read it on the train.

17:01:52 From Vicky Blakey-Archer, St Nicks to Everyone:

i have to head off now, thanks everyone

17:03:45 From Sarah Wilson - Cllr to Everyone:

Apologies, I have to leave now.

17:04:34 From Adam M to Everyone:

Sorry all I will have to leave in a few minutes

17:11:52 From Graham Collett to Everyone:

Surely the "compact" will be the forum for comms with the Mayor?

17:17:47 From Phil Bixby to Everyone:

We've only ever sacked two people (and I'm not naming names!)

17:25:18 From Christopher Copland to Everyone:

I think it would help to have time to read the Compact and the proposals for YEF and reflect on those before we discuss this further.

17:26:24 From Adrian Lovett to Everyone: Deleted as the text is copied above, page 2