

ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Tuesday 9 August 2011
2:00pm – 4:30pm, Guildhall

Present:

Philip Crowe (PC)	York Environment Forum
Kate Lock (KL)	York Environment Forum
Cllr Dave Merrett (DM)	CYC
Neil Redfern (NR) Chair	English Heritage
John Carr (JC)	Quality Bus Partnership
Hugh Cripps (HC)	Yorkshire Energy Partnership

Observers:

Barry Otley (BO)	Environment Forum
Denise Simms (DS)	CYC
Jacqui Warren (JW)	CYC
David Warburton (DW)	CYC

Apologies:

Mike Slater	CYC
-------------	-----

1. Welcome and apologies / Minutes and matters arising

- NR welcomed those attending the meeting and stated he was standing in as Chair of EPB for Mike Slater who was unable to attend the meeting.
- He introduced Hugh Cripps who is replacing Jenny Jenson
- Apologies – as above.
- DM asked if there had been any progress in a delegate being appointed from Natural England. BO said he had been in contact with Brian Davies. But there is capacity issue nationally to support LSPs. BO advised that issues could always be referred to Brian Davies on an ad hoc basis when required.
- All approved the previous minutes from the 4th March 2011. All outstanding matters were addressed or will be picked up as agenda items in this meeting.

2. Subgroups Update

- BO advised that a new Sustrans cycle route between Rufforth and York has been funded.
- KL advised that the Forum was working with the Open Planning Forum to hold on 27th September 7-9pm a renewable energy public debate with speakers. Dr John Whitelegg from SEI and JW will be speaking. The Environment Forum now had an Energy sub-group. The existing Tremendous project is also going well.
- HC introduced himself as the new Managing Director and new representative on EPB from Yorkshire Energy Partnership and gave a brief

resume of his previous work in Peterborough at the Peterborough Environment City Trust.

- JC said the Quality Bus Partnership were still fire-fighting in the light of the spending review. Current work includes feasibility of introducing smart cards / an integrated-ticketing scheme on all buses in York.
- NR said EH were still working with CYC on the post actions from the Central Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal (CHCCAA)
- NR welcomed Councillor Merrett as a new EPB representative.

3. Update from the WOW Partnership

- DW said there had been a workshop session of the future of the LSP with Cllr Alexander briefed.
- DS update all on the Healthy City Board that will cease to exist due to revised responsibility. It may reform in the light of new targets and agendas. Healthy City had achieved all targets set.
- Drafts of the WoW's The Strategy for York (2011 – 2025) and Action Plan (2011 – 2015) had been discussed at the last meeting.
- DM expressed concerned of the lack of environmental issues in the drafts.
- DS updated all that the WOW Board expects discussion around thematic partners to inform discussion at their next meeting – October 2011. There will be no alteration to the structure until objectives agreed. Sir Ron has had helpful meetings with all the Chairs. WOW Board may have stronger focus on fewer Boards.

4. Revised Sustainable City Strategy (2011-2025) and Prioritised Delivery Action Plan (2011-2015)

- DS advised that the WOW Board met 27 June to discuss this and all partners had been sent a summary. Comments from the EPB are required by 30 September. The Strategy has almost identical vision with 6 guiding principles. The Action Plan has a main focus of creating, promoting and sharing growth. The next WOW meeting is end of October.
- Specific comments / issues raised from the EPB on the Strategy (2011-2025) included:
 - Difficult to navigate without page numbers
 - Need to work with neighbouring authorities.
 - HC: are the 'givens' still givens and how are they tested.
 - BO: Utilise skills of people who have the time.
 - JC: can local communities actually deliver
 - NR: York should not be defined as a mediaeval city as only 5% actually is.
 - HC: vision not specific enough should be just 2 lines
 - NR: No 4 keeps getting watered down. It is in danger of losing the compactness of the city. The expansion of York could become too great for the walled city.
 - DS: was asked to send out full text for amendments
 - KL: Environment Forum is working on a vision will send to JW
 - NR: needs to ensure priorities are clear.
 - DM: Guiding principles re carbon reduction needs to be about reduction as well as efficiency. Also include congestion & AQ
 - The 2020 climate change target should be included as well as 2050

- NR: How do EPB interests cross over into the work of the other Boards?

Action Plan (2011 – 2015)

- NR: concerned that Environmental Impact is at bottom not top and that sustainability should be an overarching theme not underpinning theme
- DM: Sustainability should run thorough all aspects, especially in promoting growth – sustainable growth sector
- BO: value of green infrastructure should be utilised
- JC: There should be targets as over 4yr period
- JW: advised that she had devised a Sustainability Impact Assessment form to assess how plans/ policy etc will affect key sustainability objectives. JW is happy to meet with a few members to assess this document and to determine ways to improve the environmental sustainability of the draft.
- DM: felt that this was 1980's approach to growth
- PC: is growth needed?
- HC: Has there been a study to determine how much York can expand
- KL: to take drafts to Environment Forum on 6 Sept,
- JW to hold an SIA workshop – all EPB members welcome. JW to circulate invite for mid-September.

Action JW

- All members to collate responses from their organisations and send comments to JW to collate.

Action All

- NR to meet with JW to look at comments and finalise a coordinated EPB response on both the Strategy and Action Plan. JW will also circulate responses to the EPB for approval.

Action JW

5. A Tree Strategy for York - Esther Priestly CYC

- EP distributed some notes outlining the structure of the document.
- EP explained that the Tree Strategy has been ongoing for some years but was halted when the Local Plan was abandoned and has now been prioritised in the light of the progress of the Core Strategy. It will cover all CYC trees as well as those in private ownership. It will also deal with policy as well as management. The draft document will be consulted on internally before being made public as all officers need to agree the strategy. There will also be a series of information leaflets to support the document. The strategy will take note of other policy and inspirational documents.

The vision and aims are as follows

Vision

To protect, manage, increase, diversify and thereby enhance the City of York's overall public and private tree stock for the benefit of humankind and the natural environment.

Aims & Objectives

- Promote greater awareness of the value of trees

- Promote the planting and establishment of new trees including suitable after care.
- Promote appropriate management of existing trees.
- Improve procedures and understanding across the council resulting in a shared vision and a consistent direction for the organisation with regard to stewardship of the council's tree stock.
- Monitor tree cover within the authority's area through a comprehensive data base.
- Establish at least one new community woodland in the city.
- Encourage whole woodland eco-systems where appropriate.
- Identify the special characters embodied in the different types of tree cover in order to guide suitable management, enhancement, and perpetuation of the landscape character and to target spend.
- To improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York.
- To identify those areas of significant tree cover that contribute to the local green infrastructure and identify areas where new tree cover would provide missing links within the green infrastructure.
- DM said he believed there was a policy of locating services in the pavements to leave the verges free for trees. EP to investigate.
- EPB asked EP to return and provide further updates on this strategy.

Action EP

6. Local Sustainable Transport Fund update- Graham Titchener CYC

- GT advised that a successful bid had been made for just under £5m an achievement not equalled by any other authority.
- The main aim is to reduce CO2 and improve air quality. There is some programme refinement to be done and then a public launch will take place. The EPB congratulated CYC on securing the funding and also on the 10-15% increase in cycling through the Cycling City programme.
- PC asked if there would be any data evaluation as the programme is for 4 yrs. GT will be working toward this. GT also advised he hoped to secure 2FTE for the project.
- GT is working towards a one-stop website for the fund.
- DM said that the ruling administration are committed to setting up 20mph limits in residential areas and bus service improvement. DM asked GT to return to the Board when these projects were more advanced and said the Board would be keen to help where possible.

Action GT

7. Central Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal - Bob Sydes CYC

- BS introduced the document by explaining the format and aims. There are 24 character areas identified and a few boundary changes suggested.
- The consultation period has been extended until 5 September.
- BO is concerned that there is a suggestion that the mature trees around the walls should be removed.
- NR said he thought that ABA (consultants commissioned to carry out the work) had done an amazing job given the time and funding constraints.
- DJW said that due to the size of the document most people were concentrating on the management proposals or areas of particular interest.

8. Climate Change update - Jacqui Warren.

- Due to time constraints, this item was distributed to EPB members only. No discussion was held.

9. EPB membership review/work plans.

- BO said that natural environment should have greater importance but it was decided that this was not the correct forum. These discussions should take place at Natural Environment sub-group. JW to speak to Bob Missin. **Action JW**
- PC asked that the Draft National Planning Policy Guidelines be discussed. **Action JW**

Next meeting

- All agreed to meet at the end of October 2011 after the WOW meeting. JW to confirm dates and location **Action JW**