

Notes of City Sustainability Partnership Meeting – 16 May 2013

Committee Room 2, Brighton Town Hall, Bartholomew Square, Brighton, BN1 1JA

Present:

Public Services:

Councillor Gill Mitchell – Brighton & Hove City Council (GM)
Councillor Ollie Sykes – Brighton & Hove City Council (OS)
Councillor Pete West – Brighton & Hove City Council (PW)
Mark Brunet – Blatchington Mill School (MB)
Zoe Osmond - University of Brighton (ZO)

Community and Voluntary Sector:

Chris Todd – CVSF Environmental Rep – **Chair** (CT)
Roger Carter – Brighton & Hove's Wildlife Forum (RC)
Vic Borrill – Brighton & Hove Food Partnership – **Vice Chair** (VB)
Phil Belden – South Downs National Park Authority (PB)

Business Sector:

Damian Tow – Sustainable Energy Working Group (DT)
Danni Craker – Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce (DC)

Brighton & Hove City Council:

Thurstan Crockett – Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy - **Partnership Manager (TC)**
Nick Hibberd - Head of City Regeneration (NH)
Cheryl Finella – Economic Development Manager (CF)
Rich Howorth – Biosphere Reserve Project Officer (RH)
Sarah Jones – Senior Support Officer – **Meeting notes** (SJ)

Speakers

Christine Gent – Brighton & Hove Fairtrade Steering Group (CG)
Rowan Wallis – West Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership (RW)

Observers included:

John Kapp, local resident

I. Introduction, Apologies and actions from the last meeting

- I.1 Apologies were received from Alistair Hill, Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust; Becky Ritchie. Sussex Community NHS Trust; Cat Fletcher, CVSF; Geoff Raw and Dean Austyn of Brighton & Hove City Council; Tony Mernagh, Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership, and Cllr Tony Janio
- I.2 The Chair announced that Ruth England, CVSF representative, would be standing down as a member. Mark Strong will take her place again.
- I.3 The Chair went through updates on the following actions from the last meeting.
 - 6.2.1 SJ had put the final version of Sussex Sustainability Networks document available on the CSP homepage on the council website.
 - 2.2 SJ had amended point 9.1 in the minutes of the meeting of 10 January

2013 to show that Brighton & Hove 10:10 were one of the partners to secure DECC funding for Green Deal Pioneers scheme.

- 3.4 VB was to brief CSP members on the Economic Strategy consultation.. This was covered as an agenda item in this meeting.
- 9.2.3 Chair had asked members to identify what resources they can allocate to the agreed CSP priorities for 2013. This would be discussed at Agenda item 6 in this meeting.
- 9.2.4 **TC/SJ to liaise with Dean Austyn to bring a report on performance and indicators to this meeting. Carried over to the next CSP meeting 04.07.13.**

2. Economic Strategy update

- 2.1 CF briefed members on the update report she had provided. The recommendation of the report was that the Partnership notes the progress of the Economic Strategy Refresh 2013-18 and provides feedback along with contributions to the proposed list of transformative projects and initiatives.
- 2.2 Brighton & Hove is considered by the Centre for Cities to be the third fastest 'recovering city' in the UK. Strongest growth has been seen in the creative sector, environmental industries and the knowledge sector. It is an attractive city for investment due to its highly qualified workforce and its residents' reputation for entrepreneurialism.
- 2.3 CF drew member's attention to the Action Plan Project Proforma. It was key that proposed projects fit the criteria set out in the Strategy in order to attract funding.
- 2.4 NH talked through the City Deal proposal the Greater Brighton area had submitted to government, its timetable and how this related to the strategy. and future funding streams. He explained that the City Deal would add £3bn to economy over 10 years; our economy's strength is its digital sector.
- 2.5 TC recommended including projects agreed previously by the CSP as priorities for the economy in its "Big Asks" of the council and city leaders - plus any other big programmes identified in the Sustainability Action Plan. Members agreed, and felt a resource efficiency programme to help improve environmental performance of existing businesses, plus a focus on Eco Tourism should also be strongly considered.

3. The Sustainable Business Partnership – Projects and Case Studies

- 3.1 Rowan Wallis of the West Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership (WSSBP) presented to members on the scope of their activities. They had asked Rowan what role the CSP could play in developing business resource efficiency work in the city.
- 3.2 The SBP is a Community Interest Company. Its activities include: promoting environmental industries projects; running training courses; site audits and staff engagement; Display Energy Certificates; free helpline to members; case study videos; publicly funded projects, e.g. how environmental businesses can better compete for work in public organisations; Sustainable Business Network's

breakfast events for SMEs; an online directory; and UTILISE, a programme of energy/utility management workshops for SMEs.. UTILISE was to run tendering masterclasses in Brighton and had planned masterclasses on the benefits of the Green Deal.

- 3.4 Phil Belden arrived.
- 3.5 WSSBP's future plans included Environmental Management Systems for small businesses; public sector supply chains; and partnering with University of Brighton's Green Growth Platform.
- 3.7 Rowan asked members to promote WSSBP's activities. He highlighted that the main barriers to the work were time and awareness, scepticism amongst SMEs and cost of measures/cashflow. ZO said its Community Interest Company status made it a natural partner to develop a bigger programme across the city.
- 3.8 CF left the meeting.

4. Fair Trade City Status and campaign

- 4.1 CG briefed members on her report which had been circulated before the meeting. The recommendations were agreed: **ACTION partners to measure Fair Trade in their organisation; supported Fair Trade businesses in the city; link with the Brighton & Hove Fairtrade Steering Group in their activities; and buy Fair Trade items**
- 4.2 CG clarified the distinction between Fair Trade and Fairtrade. Fairtrade refers to a product; Fair Trade is a working practice and a tool for changing the lives and opportunities for growth of small producers in the developing world. This is the term preferred by the Brighton & Hove Fair Trade Steering Group as it describes their activities and aims.
- 4.3 CG posed the question: how do we engage more with Fair Trade? She counselled questioning the origins of everything we purchase. Changing consumer behaviour is essential: CG identified the City Deal as having a lot of potential in enabling Fair Trade choices and promoting behaviour change.
- 4.5 BHFTSG had most recently developed a learning resource pack for primary schools on how Brighton businesses interact with global Fair Trade.
- 4.4 **Action: SJ to link to the Brighton & Hove Fair Trade Steering Group website from the CSP web page.**

5. Biosphere Reserve bid endorsement

- 5.1 RH briefed members on his report which had been circulated before the meeting. The recommendations of the report were for CSP members to formally endorse the proposed application in September 2013 by the Brighton & Hove and Lewes Downs Biosphere Partnership to UNESCO to be recognised as an international Biosphere Reserve, in support of our collective efforts to become a 'world-class environment'; also to recommend to the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership that they too endorse it in their subsequent meeting. These were approved.

- 5.2 The consultation on the Biosphere Reserve proposal and accompanying Biosphere Management Strategy had been extended from 12 to 16 weeks to finish 22 May 2013. This was because the biosphere area had been extended to include the Adur districts of Shoreham, Shoreham Beach and Southwick.
- 5.3 Responses received so far had shown broad support of the reserve and its objectives. Circa 90% level of support for the Biosphere, with 93.5% supporting the Biosphere and 95% supporting biosphere objectives. Respondents most valued the accessibility of the South Downs and the sea. The environmental improvements they would most like to see were: sustainable transport connections to the Downs; waste and recycling; and improved public awareness of sustainability. Technical inputs on the Biosphere Management Strategy had been limited.
- 5.5 To date, 1700+ responses had been received. RH asked members to each give the consultation a final promotional push through their networks.

6. Land Mapping update

- 6.1 This item was moved up the agenda from section 8 – reports and updates.
- 6.2 VB advised that OPL project funding had been allocated to identifying all pieces of land on the urban fringe that had the potential for food production. Examples of the kinds of land that are being mapped range from orchards thru allotments to beehives. ZO offered the university's GIS expertise to the project. **Action: members were asked to advise VB of any suitable pieces of land that they know about, by July.**
- 6.3 VB left the meeting.

7. Partnership Finance – priorities and partner resource commitments

- 7.1 TC explained that the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership had asked for all partners to identify what resources they can make available towards the CSP's agreed priorities for 2013/14. An example was FOE's support for the Biosphere through volunteer time at consultation events and CT's work as Chair. TC said he would circulate a proforma for members to complete.
Action: all partners to complete a resource proforma by June 7.

8. Sustainable Community Strategy revision

- 8.1 MB and John Kapp volunteered to help TC with revising the strategy.

9. Updates and information:

9.1 One Planet Living Sustainability Action Plan update

- 9.1.1 TC briefed members on his report which had been circulated before the meeting.
- 9.1.2 TC advised members that the Sustainability Action Plan had been unanimously approved by the council's Policy & Resources Committee and also by the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership. It had been endorsed by BioRegional, making Brighton & Hove the first 'One Planet City'. The

council's Chief Executive, Penny Thompson and Sue Riddlestone of BioRegional had signed a long term collaboration agreement.

9.1.3 One Planet City status would be profiled at the Eco Technology Show in June.

9.1.4 TC advised members that DT had been appointed as Senior Sustainability Officer in the council's Sustainability Team for three days a week for the next six months (covering Mita's maternity leave) to programme manage the One Planet Living plan. He would also continue as lead for the city Zero Carbon section.

9.1.4 TC advised members that BioRegional would be providing technical support and this could include work on Key Performance Indicators, especially ecological footprint updates.

9.2 Living Wage

9.2.1 DC briefed members on her written update which had been circulated before the meeting.

9.2.2 DC requested members promote the Living Wage website through their networks.

9.3 Sustainable Energy Working Group

9.4.1 DT updated members on the programme for the Eco Technology Show. To date, 15 speakers and 50 exhibitor stalls were booked. Registration levels were high and DT encouraged members to promote registration discount codes through their networks.

9.4.2 Brighton energy Co-op had been approached with an opportunity of installing a 500kw solar panel array at Shoreham Port.

9.5 Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum

9.5.1 RC briefed members on the minutes of the BHWF meeting of 23.04.13. He highlighted the Forum's concern that the council's selection procedure for wildlife sites in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan is unclear. He asked what the criteria were for selection? BHWF would like to review and revise the list using new criteria. BHWF asked what were the LBAP's priorities, objectives and targets for the future to take into account population growth.

9.5.2 RC cited recent examples of council bad practice: weed killer drift in Withdean Park; amphibians killed by pond drainage in Preston Park; vandalism in Patcham Park.

9.5.3 GM left the meeting.

9.5.4 PW advised that Children & Families department were formalising a project to engage local users of Patcham Park.

9.5.5 RC asked on behalf of BHWF what was to be the source of advice on local wildlife in the absence of a council ecologist? PW advised that ecological

input to planning applications will still be provided and that a Conservation Manager will be appointed to the council.

- 9.5.6 Chair expressed his disappointment at the lack of balance at item 4 in the BHWF minutes of 23.04.13. The LBAP had been brought to the 06.03.13 meeting post-adoption at the Council's Environment & Sustainability Committee and it was outside the CSP's gift to act in any other way. Chair asked RC to communicate this to the Forum and he agreed to do so. PB credited the CSP with raising the initial problems with the LBAP in 2011.

9.6 Waste and Materials Group

- 9.6.1 TC advised that the launch would provisionally be on 14.06.13.

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1 None was raised.
- 10.2 Partnership Manager apologised to those present for the noise levels during the meeting and lack of a projector. This had been caused by live band playing outside the Town Hall.

Date of next meeting: 4 July 2013, 5pm-7pm, Conference Rooms 2-3, Brighton Town Hall, Bartholomew Square, Brighton BN1 1JA.