

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

10 SEPTEMBER 2003

5.00 P.M.

COMMITTEE ROOMS 2 & 3, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Edmond-Smith (Convenor), Councillors Mrs Cobb, Mallender, Meadows, Norman, Peltzer Dunn, Pennington, Mrs Theobald and Tonks.

PART 1

10. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

10A Declaration of Substitutes

10A.1 Councillor For Councillor
 Pennington McCaffery

10B Declaration Of Interests

10B.1 There were none.

10C Exclusion Of Press And Public

10C.1 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings.

10C.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the agenda.

11. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

11.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2003 be agreed.

- 11.2 Members noted (min 2.3) that the Global Action Plan launch was imminent and was due to start on 19th September.
- 11.3 Members noted that (min 5) a report was planned for the October Policy & Resources meeting in respect of the Fair Trade City.
- 11.4 Members noted that (min 9) the Schools Bio-Diversity Audit would be launched on 22 September.
- 11.5 Members noted that (min 6) the Hanover Car club was due to be launched on 22 September.
- 11.6 Members noted that (min 8) the GM food debate had been successful and attracted over 85 attendees. Two Notices of Motion would be raised at Council in respect of GM foods.

12. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 12.1 Convenor noted that Mark Strong had been appointed by the Local Strategic Partnership to the Sustainability Commission. Unfortunately these meetings clashed. Chair requested that this be taken into consideration when the new council timetable was prepared.
- 12.2 Members were invited to a guided tour of Stanmer Organics on Sunday 14th September.
- 12.3 The 'Head of Sustainability' post was yet to be recruited too, Convenor would be pursuing this outstanding appointment.
- 12.4 The Sustainability Conference had been very successful and the feedback positive. It was hoped that there would be another conference next year, focussing on a different aspect of sustainability.

13. ONE STEP AT A TIME PROJECT

- 13.1 Convenor reminded the meeting that the One Step at a Time project had been commissioned to examine ways of reducing waste, energy use and transport. Three pilot schemes had proved to be successful, but the data for monitoring and 'rolling out' the initiative appeared lacking. Convenor would be pressing for this information and examining the possibility that the Commission carry out the monitoring role.

14. FOOD STRATEGY / FOOD MATTERS

- 14.1 Convenor informed the meeting that there would be an open meeting of the Food Partnership on 1st October at 2.00pm at the Wellsbourne Centre.
- 14.2 Members welcomed the report from the Food Partnership but were critical of some of the detail and assumptions made about the City of Brighton & Hove.
- 14.2 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

15. STAFF TRAVEL PLAN- PHASE 1

- 15.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Human Resources that updated the Commission on the progress towards the development and implementation of an integrated Staff Travel Plan for Brighton & Hove City Council, in keeping with the Council's Sustainable Transport agenda.
- 15.2 The Director of Human Resources (DHR) commented that there were further details to be examined in relation to the current use of the car pool. For instance, the need for adequate cover for childcare emergencies and an examination of who was using the cars (with a view to widening the pool of potential users).
- 15.3 Councillor Mrs Theobald asked if staff were allowed to have a bus pass and claim allowance for cycling. And were there any rules regarding insurance in relation to cycling?
- 15.4 DHR commented that insurance was the responsibility of the individual cyclist. However the council did have a duty of care. If staff were claiming both cycle allowance and has a bus pass it might be that they needed to split their journey between cycle and bus. Staff could buy monthly bus passes at a 10% discount, but this was not paid for from public money. The council could afford to do this because they passed on their 10% bulk discount direct to staff.
- 15.5 Members were concerned that all new cycles should be fitted with a bell.
- 15.6 DHR commented that pool cars were powered by petrol, however DHR accepted that it was desirable to move towards 'dual fuel' at the very least.

- 15.7 Councillor Mallender noted the 'Powershift' grant from Government; this had been used by Royal Mail to convert their fleet to electric power.
- 15.8 A member from the public gallery commented that the County Council had the infrastructure to charge electric vehicles. He suggested that it might be possible to tap into this resource. Convenor added that it might be possible to make use of the Hanover Car Club.
- 15.9 DHR commented that the imminent staff survey would be asking questions about travelling to work. Data from the survey would help in determining the development of the staff travel plan.
- 15.10 Councillor Peltzer Dunn was concerned that the issue of insurance cover for cyclists was unclear. DHR would investigate this and respond.
- 15.11 A member from the public gallery made four points; a) He recalled that a previous council resolution had suggested that all newly purchased vehicles should be dual fuel. b) He hoped that the loan for buying a cycle had the flexibility to allow it to be spent on appropriate cycle clothing (Gortex etc.) c) He wondered if it was possible to add, appropriately modified mopeds to the car pool. d) 'Hot-Desking' was a viable alternative to working from home, though it did demand a level of investment in IT.
- 15.2 **RESOLVED** – That the report be endorsed.

16. TOURISM STRATEGY

- 16.1 The Commission considered a report of the Acting Director (Environment) that offered a response to the proposed Tourism Strategy.
- 16.2 The meeting were generally in accord with the proposed response. However they wished the response to reflect their view that the Tourism Strategy should encourage visitors to the City but also be mindful of the impact on the local community. The impact of visitors should not degrade the quality of life for residents.
- 16.3 Members were particularly concerned about the lack of recycling at major events and the provision of adequate public toilets. Standards of street and public cleanliness should be equitable across the entire City and not just at destination points.

16.4 The provision of litter bins on the seafront was poor and must be improved. The litter on the seafront gave a very poor impression to tourists and was depressing for residents.

16.2 **RESOLVED** – That the response to “Your Future, Your Say”, the draft Tourism Strategy be approved with amendments as outlined above.

The meeting concluded at 6.50pm

Signed

Chair

This

day of

2003