

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

25 MAY 2005 AT 5.00 PM

COMMITTEE ROOM 2/3, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Edmond Smith (Convenor), Councillors Cobb, Davidson, Forester, Hazelgrove, Kemble, Mallender, Oxley and Mrs Theobald (OS)

Also present: Erica Gray, Environment Agency; Mark Strong; Chris Todd

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1a Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 There were no councillor declarations of substitutes. Councillor Battle sent his apologies. Erica Gray attended as the representative of the Environment Agency.

1b Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were no declarations of interest.

1c Exclusion of Press and Public

1.3 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 and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

2. MINUTES

2.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2005 be approved and signed by the Convenor, subject to amending a typing error in paragraph 52.2: Ms Brace (not Ms Bruce).

3. CONVENOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 The Sustainability Action Plan Progress Update 2005 had been circulated to members and was available on the council's website. The Convenor requested that hard copies be made available for public inspection at local libraries.

3.2 The Convenor advised that the council was reviewing all cycle parking across the city and advised members to contact Dean Spears, Walking and Cycling Officer, if they had comments.

3.3 The Convenor congratulated Mr Robert Brown on his achievement as Adult Learner of the Year.

3.4 It was noted that two officers were currently attending the sustainability conference in Rouen.

4. FARMERS MARKET

4.1 Katharine Rayner, Common Cause, updated the Commission on progress regarding the Farmers Market. Common Cause had experience of running the Farmers Market at Lewes and were working towards a regular monthly Farmers Market in George Street, Hove. Ms Rayner responded to members' questions about the provision of parking for traders, co-ordinating the dates so that they do not clash with other market days in Sussex and the scoring system used to determine which producers should participate.

5. DRAFT FOOD STRATEGY FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE

5.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment concerning the draft Food Strategy for Brighton & Hove. The Policy and Resources Committee had approved the report on 13 April 2005 (see minute book). The Convenor emphasised that this was an overall strategy for the city and not just applicable to school meals.

5.2 Joy Dillon, Food & Health Consultant for Brighton & Hove City Primary Care Trust, made a presentation. She informed members about the consultation exercise, which would be launched on 14 June and end on 30 September, and about two new posts in the PCT, of School Food Co-ordinator and Community Food Development Manager.

5.3 Members considered that the wording on page 23 of the agenda was misleading. Individual children's lunchboxes would not be inspected but guidance would be drawn up for parents on providing a balanced 5 days' lunches. A member stated that council contracts with caterers should require a good nutritional balance. It was noted that a School Food Action Group had been set up and members asked for details of its remit and of decisions reached.

5.4 The Commission also requested that information about hiring allotments

should be provided to all housing tenants and was concerned that land used for allotments at Patcham should not be lost.

5.5 The Convenor requested that the full strategy should come before the Commission again after the consultation exercise.

5.6 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

6. SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSSEX

6.1 The Commission considered the draft Proposal for a Sustainable Energy Partnership for Sussex (see minute book).

6.2 In addition the Commission received a verbal update from Ian Manders of the Surrey & East Sussex Energy Efficiency Advice Centre. He described the advantages of setting up a Sustainable Energy Partnership and how it could help address fuel poverty, meet the household energy efficiency targets set for 2010, provide renewable energy and reduce road transport carbon emissions.

6.3 **RESOLVED** – That the Sustainability Commission notes the proposal from the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre to create a Sustainable Energy Partnership and recommends the Policy and Resources Committee to support joining, in principle. A final decision to be made on receipt of a satisfactory business plan.

7. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT AND DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL: SHOP FRONT DESIGN

7.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment advising members on progress on producing a Supplementary Planning Document on Shop Front Design and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (see minute book). The Design and Conservation Team Manager attended the meeting and would pass the Commission's comments to the Environment Committee meeting of 26 May.

7.2 The Convenor considered that the use of sustainable materials should be an indicator but was advised that the guidance did not allow the council to monitor this. The Convenor recommended that the SPD should be amended in all cases where the Sustainability Appraisal made positive suggestions. The Commission considered that it was desirable for shops to show their street number and to allow developers to install a new side door to provide access to a flat above wherever possible.

7.3 It was noted that there would be a further draft SPD on Construction & Demolition Waste with a deadline for consultation before the Commission's next meeting. This would be e-mailed to members for their comments.

7.4 **RESOLVED** – That the Environment Committee be asked to note the Commission's comments as follows:- The Commission welcomes the SPD. The Commission considers the Sustainability Appraisal very complete in its assessment, endorses the appraisal and agrees option 3 as the preferred option, and the one that will best meet sustainability objectives. The commission recommends that the SPD be amended to secure further improvements as recommended in the appraisal. The commission also asked that further consideration be given to increasing the number of indicators (see Table 7 of the report) against which proposed shop fronts might be measured.

8. WILDLIFE ADVISORY GROUP

8.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment about the Wildlife Advisory Group (WAG), which was established in November 1999 to advise the council on nature conservation issues (see minute book).

8.2 It was noted that it might be necessary to consider whether the WAG should report to the Sustainability Commission or the Environment Committee in due course.

8.3 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Wildlife Advisory Group should report to the Sustainability Commission.

(2) That the minutes of WAG meetings should be appended to the agendas of future Sustainability Commission meetings so they can be formally responded to, as the Commission considers appropriate.

9. PROCUREMENT CODE OF PRACTICE ON SUSTAINABILITY

9.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Finance & Property submitting the revised version of the Procurement Code of Practice – Sustainability, which assists the council in meeting its Sustainability Strategy and has been updated to include the Procurement Scrutiny recommendations (see minute book). By reason of the following special circumstances, which shall be specified in the minutes, the Chair of the meeting was of the opinion that this item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency because of the importance of the code of practice in supporting the delivery of the Council's Sustainability Strategy and implementing the recommendations in the Procurement Scrutiny Review. The special circumstances for non-compliance with Section 100B(4) of the 1972 Local Government Act and Procedural Rule 19.1 of the Constitution (items not to be considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five clear days in advance of the meeting) are that consultation was on-going.

9.2 The Director of Finance & Property noted members' concerns. A member expressed concern about timber treatments affecting children's health. One member regretted that the council still used portable heaters and asked that notices should ask people to turn them off when leaving the room. Another member stated that the air-conditioning at Hove Town Hall was set at too low a temperature. A member of the public requested that the council should not buy vehicles with diesel engines.

9.3 It was noted that the document would be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee in June. The Convenor recommended that the Procurement Code of Practice – Sustainability might be sent to the LGA as an example of good practice.

9.4 **RESOLVED** – That the Sustainability Commission notes the Revised Procurement Code of Practice – Sustainability and recommends its acceptance and council wide implementation.

10. 'SECURING THE FUTURE', THE NEW UK SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

10.1 The Commission noted a report of the Director of Environment informing members about the Government's recently published new strategy for sustainable development and the key role of local authorities within it (see minute book).

11. 'CLIMATE CHANGE: CREATING AN ACTION PLAN FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE' ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE 2005

11.1 The Commission noted a report of the Director of Environment informing members about the feedback from the recent sustainability conference held on 27 April 2005 in Hove Town Hall (see minute book).

12. "SUSTAINABILITY - TAKING ACTION" CONFERENCE, 15-16 JUNE 2005

12.1 The Commission noted a flyer for a conference due to take place at the University of Brighton on 15 & 16 June 2005 (see minute book). Members interested in attending should contact the Sustainability Co-ordinator.

13. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

13.1 Chris Todd updated the Commission. He advised that Paul Curtis of Sussex Police is the new Chair and that Sue John and Chris Todd are the new Vice Chairs of the LSP. He suggested that members contact Simon Newell for information about Neighbourhood Renewal. The Convenor requested that Commission members receive a list of members of the Public Service Board.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2005