

### City Sustainability Partnership Meeting - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Hanover Room, Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton, BN1 1YD

#### *Public Services:*

Councillor Tony Janio

Councillor Gill Mitchell

Councillor Paul Steedman

Stuart Laing, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) University of Brighton – **Chair**

#### *Business*

Jan Jackson – Sussex Enterprise/Business Link

Charlie Allsebrook – Brighton & Hove Business Community Partnership

#### *Community and Voluntary Sector*

Chris Todd, Friends of the Earth – **Vice Chair**

Vic Else - Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

Phil Belden - South Downs Joint Committee

#### *Agencies*

Jo Addis – Environment Agency

Phil Belden – South Downs Joint Committee

#### *Guests*

Marie Harder - University of Brighton

John Patmore - Eco-Logically

Amyas Gilbert - Food Partnership

Martin Grimshaw - Transition Brighton & Hove

John Kapp - Transition Brighton & Hove

Emma Hiscock - FAIR

Ian Chisnall - Churches Together in Sussex

Ross Gilbert - QED Property

Susan Wilson

Tanja Schmutzler

#### *Council Officers*

Emma McDermott - Central Policy Development Team Manager

Thurstan Crockett - Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy - Partnership manager

#### *Meeting notes*

Sarah Costelloe - Administrator, Sustainability

## 1. Apologies

Councillor David Watkins

Sharon Philips, University of Sussex  
Mike Creedy - Brighton Peace & Environment Centre  
Lorraine Bell – Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce  
Alison Hadfield - Eco Schools

## **2. Minutes and Actions from the previous meeting**

- 2.1 Minutes of previous meeting were agreed.
- 2.2 Senior Support Officer for CSP (item 3) - advert goes out shortly with a view to interviewing and recruiting by mid-April.
- 2.3 OPL plan subgroup held a meeting in which significant changes were recommended, including a tighter focus.

**Action: subgroup to reconvene and consider revisions to proposal for work on the Plan. Report to next meeting**

- 2.4 Final CSP comments on Sustainable Community Strategy have been submitted. Strategy goes to Cabinet on Thursday.
- 2.4 Comments on habitats and biodiversity (item 7) have been passed to Bioregional.

## **3. 10:10 City Campaign update**

- 3.1 Thurstan Crockett and Jan Jackson updated the partnership on the success of the 10:10 business campaign launch. Some good engagement with particular businesses. All partners can encourage colleagues to sign up via the website.

**Action: Jan will try to find out which are the 10 biggest businesses in the city that have signed up before next meeting.**

## **4. Food waste presentation (agenda item 5)**

- 4.1 Vic Else gave a presentation on joint working between Food Partnership and Cityclean on a campaign to minimise food waste, communication clear messages regarding the economic and environmental benefits of reduction. The campaign will start with focus groups meeting in May to consider how small-scale (less than 1 tonne) community composting can be developed in response to revised EA legislation.

- 4.2 Vic said that while targets hadn't changed in the Waste Strategy, partnership comments about an advisory group, community engagement and more recycling had been taken on board and this was welcome.
- 4.2 She said the Food Partnership would continue to lobby for municipal collection of household food waste, particularly for residents in households where composting is impractical. Vic noted that recycling performance figures hide the relatively poor performance of the city regarding food waste recycling (composting).
- 4.3 In response to questions regarding the responsibility of food retailers, it was noted that work is being done in this area at a national level and that retailers are responding well. Food Partnership is concentrating on working with smaller organisations as there is a clear need to develop solutions at this level.
- 4.4 In response to Jan's inquiry regarding the hotels' pilot hydrator programme run two years ago with Magpie Environmental Trust, Marie Harder explained that the technology simply hadn't worked, observing that there are no easy solutions to the problem of food waste.
- 4.5 Cllr Paul Steedman asked how much food waste could be dealt with, after minimisation, without council collection. Vic noted that there would be little point collecting food waste if uses for it had not been identified in advance and that reducing the quantity of food thrown away was the priority.
- 4.6 Cllr Tony Janio sought clarification on the creation of methane in the composting process and was assured that if enough oxygen is mixed in during the process, little methane would be created, unlike in landfill.
- 4.7 Some discussion was held regarding space restrictions in the city. Vic observed that whilst allotments are ideal spaces to develop composting, the lack of available physical space in Brighton & Hove is another reason why work can most effectively be done on a small scale.
- 4.8 Cllr Gill Mitchell expressed support for the reduction/ money saving campaign focus as a good place to start but suggested that the council should start with specific projects, perhaps focusing on a particular block of flats, in order to be most effective.
- 4.9 Ian Chisnall asked that Fareshare, an organisation delivering surplus retail food to the vulnerable and needy, be considered as a part of the solution.

- 4.10 There was discussion about the need to look for good case studies from other local authorities. Vic noted that WRAP will be able to input what they have seen working well. Marie suggested looking at the work of West Sussex County Council who, with 80 volunteer waste minimisation advisors are beginning to achieve some of the best results in Europe, whilst East Sussex County Council have been trialling rocket composters with some success.
- 4.11 Stuart highlighted that the partnership has a clear role drawing connections between different organisations that will need to work in partnership if a coherent food waste strategy is to be effective. Phil Belden suggested that the partnership could be used to facilitate joined up thinking on the issue, observing that all agencies want the same outcome but are often blocking each other from achieving this. CSP may be able to unblock bottlenecks preventing progress.

**Action - specific item updating partnership on campaign launch in May to be included in future agenda.**

## **5. CSP funding bids and Local Climate Impacts Profile proposal (agenda item 6)**

- 5.1 One proposal was received, from EA, to fund a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP). Jo Addis explained that this is a tool to help identify Climate Change Adaptation priorities.
- 5.2 Cllr Mitchell offered strong support for this, particularly in the context of current Climate Change Scrutiny Panel work. Phil found the case studies useful, putting figures to the costs associated with adaptation but felt that there was a need to make them more personal. EA has expertise here and can work with BHCC to feed actions into Climate Change Action Plan.
- 5.3 Marie noted the need to consider the city in context with its neighbouring areas.
- 5.4 Cllr Janio felt that the process would be of real value if it can be made relevant to local decision-makers and used to clearly illustrate potential savings. He supported the funding proposal.
- 5.5 Chris Todd expressed the view that it would be crucial to maintain momentum after the 6 months LCLIP post had expired. Thurstan explained that a Climate Change Action Plan steering group will be set up to cover this.

- 5.6 Other comments on this proposal included the suggestion, from Susan Wilson, that the 'media trawl' which is part of the LCLIP process be extended to include a focus on changes in public attitude towards climate change. John Kapp suggested that the rise in the cost of oil be factored into to LCLIP TOR, although it was felt that this might be beyond the immediate scope of the assessment.
- 5.7 Other potential bids were briefly discussed. Thurstan informed partners that 90% funding may be available for heat-mapping work through the ELENA EU technical assistance programme and that a social enterprise company has been identified who may be able to work on the bid.
- 5.8 It was agreed that the LClip proposal should be funded up to £26,000 and that the option be kept open to fund the heat/energy mapping project and the centre for sustainable development education proposal if any projects underspent.

**Action - revisit potential heat-mapping bid later in the year.**

**Action – Thurstan to keep the Partnership updated with a project spending profile.**

## **6. Climate Change Action Plan update (agenda item 4)**

- 6.1 Thurstan talked through the contents of the update paper and proposed a CSP working group be set up to look at the detail of the plan, and to take a leadership role in pushing this agenda forward.
- 6.2 Jo Addis and Susan Wilson volunteered for the group. Marie will look for someone suitable to propose from Brighton University. Paul Steedman also agreed to join the group.

**Action: Thurstan to set up working group.**

## **7. Fair Trade Steering Group**

- 7.1 Ian Chisnall briefed the partnership on the work of the new steering group. They are hoping to take Fairtrade products into new areas such as wedding fairs, Pride etc and aspire to persuade people that supporting Fairtrade is affordable and attainable, as well as pushing those who are already persuaded beyond what they do intuitively. They are working on an updated website, as well as an online map traders map (via Visitbrighton).

- 7.2 Phil voiced concern about the 'city' focus - does this fully reflect the complexity of the global vs. local issues at play. He illustrated this with the example of a cup of Fairtrade coffee (good) he had recently consumed, which had been served with a packet of UHT milk of dubious provenance (not good).
- 7.3 Cllr Steedman suggested a future item on procurement. This should tie in with national work in the same area, taking advantage of such resources as the free procurement training offered by SEEDA.
- 7.4 Martin Grimshaw asked if the council had a sustainable procurement policy. Thurstan explained that there is a voluntary code of practise for sustainable procurement. Cllr Steedman questioned the efficacy of this, saying that when he tabled a question to Sustainability Cabinet Committee asking for detail on purchasing policy, he felt the council was unable to respond satisfactorily.
- 7.5 Jan Jackson felt that Action for Sustainability could help the Partnership begin to explore the complexities of sustainable procurement.
- 7.6 The Chair said the Partnership should continue to receive notes from the Fairtrade Steering Group.

**ACTION – It was agreed that an item on sustainable procurement should come to a future Partnership meeting.**

## **8. W.A.G. update**

- 8.1 The Chair reported that he has discussed the issues surrounding the efficacy of the W.A.G. with John Patmore and Martin Robinson. He recommends that the CSP receive notes from the group for a year to see if they are helpful.
- 8.2 There were several comments on the impressive range of organisations represented at the meeting.
- 8.3 The group will change name to reflect a new focus, becoming the Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum. The chair confirmed that this 'new' organisation will have the same status as the Wildlife Advisory group as a member of the CSP.
- 8.4 Vic noted that the minutes reflect some strong statements re: land use that misrepresents what the Food Partnership is trying to achieve. The Chair recommended that Vic and John use the partnership as an opportunity to discuss these issues frankly.

## **9. Any other business**

- 9.1 Stuart announced his intention to stand down as Chair in the near future, due to work commitments. The Terms of Reference meant an election was due.

**Action: discuss process and elect new Chair at next meeting.**

- 9.2 Business & Sustainability Conference 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> March: members should contact Sarah Costelloe if they would like a free delegates pass. For more information please visit [www.baseshow.co.uk](http://www.baseshow.co.uk) .
- 9.3 Transition South East Conference Saturday
- 9.4 Next meeting: **Monday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 5.30pm, Hanover Room, Brighthelm Centre**

