

Notes of City Sustainability Partnership Meeting – 14 May 2012

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

Public Services:

Councillor Pete West (PW) - BHCC
Alistair Hill – Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust (AHill)
Mark Brunet – Eco Schools - Blatchington Mill School (MB)
Zoe Osmond – University of Brighton (ZO)

Community and Voluntary Sector:

Chris Todd – CVSF – Friends of the Earth – **Chair** (CT)
Stuart Derwent – Brighton & Hove's Wildlife Forum (SD)
Vic Borrill – Brighton & Hove Food Partnership – **Vice Chair** (VB)
Mark Strong – CVSF – Hanover Community Association (MS)
Cat Fletcher - Waste Advisory Group (CF)

Agencies:

Phil Belden – South Downs National Park Authority (PB)
Chris Wick – Environment Agency (CW) – **Vice Chair**

Business

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

Council Officers:

Thurstan Crockett – Head of Sustainability – **Partnership Manager** (TC)
Geoff Raw – Strategic Director of Place (GR)

Guests:

Ed Dearnley
Lewis Merdler
Anthony Probert (Bioregional)
Shelaine Siepel (Sustainability Consultant, BHCC)

Meeting Notes:

Sarah Jones – Senior Support Officer (SJ)

1. Apologies & Welcome to new members

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Leo Littman, Gill Mitchell, Tony Janio, Richard Tuset, Tony Mernagh, Will Clark, Dan Danahar and Patrick Pica. CT welcomed Mark Brunet from Blatchington Mill School and Danni Craker from the Chamber of Commerce, who will deputise for Charles Kingsley as a business representative. Pete West and Chris Wick apologised for having to leave early and Phil Belden for arriving late.

2. Minutes and Actions from the last meeting

- 2.1 PB asked for the Minutes of the CSP meeting of 12 March 2012 to be amended to say at 10.1 that the total the NPA had received was £600,000 and that £116,000 was approximately the amount for the Brighton area.
- 2.2 Mark Strong asked for the Minutes of the CSP meeting of 12 March 2012 to be amended to show that he was representing CVSF as a Hanover Community Association rep, and not to represent Transport Initiatives.
- 2.3 These changes were agreed.
- 2.4 Actions from last meeting:
 - 2.4.3 **Rich Howorth (RH) to inform partners which other thematic partnerships he would be updating on the Biosphere Reserve work: Carried forward.**
- 9.2 CM to ask MT when the LBAP will be going out for public consultation and circulate details to partners: MT had sent LBAP consultation document to this meeting for consideration.

3. Drought Presentation

- 3.1 CW and TC presented on the current Drought and the risks it was posing and took questions from partners afterwards. The presentation was to be made available on the City Sustainability Partnership website page.
- 3.2 Actions taken by council in response to the drought had included setting up an officer drought group to co-ordinate the council's response to the Drought in partnership with the Sussex Resilience Forum and the Environment Agency; raising the need for One Planet Living sustainable water targets for the city; communications work on water usage within the council and across the city; staging a Drought seminar for local businesses on 10.05.12 which featured presentations from Environment Agency, Southern Water and the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service followed by Q&A sessions.
- 3.3 The council had been focusing on water conservation as a long-term strategy for dealing with the more frequent droughts forecast as a result of climate change. The city is vulnerable to drought as our water is taken from groundwater and not reservoirs or rivers.
- 3.4 PW said council's activities in response to the drought included water-saving measures at Brighton Centre, limiting bedding plant display to two sites watered by its own non-potable water supply and not switching on the fountains in the city. The council had also been liaising with Southern Water on their response to drought. This had included negotiating re-use of water on allotments and also water conservation practices. The council had also specifically requested an earlier date for Southern Water's universal water metering

programme rollout in the city, currently planned for 2013.

- 3.5 VB asked if embedded water was to be included in the council's One Planet Living sustainable water targets. TC confirmed that this would be considered with Bioregional.
- 3.6 It was suggested that the CSP's role in the current Drought would be to promote sustainable water management by building adaptive capacity.
- 3.7 CF said rainwater harvesting can cut water consumption by 40%. She also asked if the use of river water could be an option. TC confirmed that this option would be very energy intensive for the city.
- 3.8 CK asked how progress on water conservation would be tracked. CW confirmed that the Environment Agency was to be tracking progress in the city through the Water Framework Directive.
- 3.9 CW left the meeting at this point.

4. Air Pollution Campaigns - presentation

- 4.1 Guest speakers Ed Dearnley and Lewis Merdler presented on the Healthy Air Campaign and the Black Carbon Campaign. The presentations were to be made available on the City Sustainability Partnership website page.
- 4.2 Members felt that the campaign's educational focus was particularly good and they would have liked to see it employed in the city, particularly to engage those most affected by air pollution and to affect behaviour change. MS cited opposition to the Lewes Road transport improvements as an example of where this could be successfully employed and suggested that they make a presentation to the Transport Partnership.
- 4.3 In response to a question from SD, the speakers confirmed that regarding health and social issues, a national summit is being planned to bring government departments' responses together.
- 4.4 It was asked what the consequences were of local authorities' failure to address European air quality targets. The speakers confirmed that the UK government had been receiving fines from the EC under their "Duty to work towards air quality." One member pointed out that Government had included a clause in the Localism Act which allowed them to pass these fines on to local authorities.

5. Updates and Information

5.1 Biosphere Reserve

Chair advised the meeting that the Biosphere Reserve project team would be meeting the UK Man and Biosphere committee on 21.05.12. There was to be a public launch event and a debate on 22.05.12, to which CT had invited members. Other launch events were an excursion to the Castle Hill core site on 26.05.12 and a Sussex Nature Festival on 24.06.12.

5.2 Local Biodiversity Action Plan

5.2.1 **Action: SJ to circulate paper to CSP members.**

5.2.2 The paper said this consultation was to be separate from the Biosphere Reserve Management Plan one and to run from July to October 2012; the Environment & Sustainability Committee report was to be finalised 12.11.12 and go to the Committee meeting on 11.12.12.

5.2.3 PB asked why the consultation had not gone to the public as originally decided. He believed that the circulation list was unrepresentative of the city. He drew the meeting's attention to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the consultation paper regarding the focus of the consultation process, which he stated were contradictory. PB highlighted that the current circulation list did not satisfy MAB's criteria for "duty of engagement" and he was concerned that not enough public engagement may threaten the Biosphere Reserve status application. SD also said the consultation needed to be broad and inclusive and resolved.

5.3 Rampion offshore Windfarm consultation

5.3.1 A further consultation period of six weeks for named statutory organisations was approaching and there was to be a lot of information to consider. CT said this was an opportunity for the partnership to respond on some of the detailed issues.

5.3.2 TC advised that later in 2012 there was to be a local impact report to which local authorities were to be asked to contribute. As broad a view of the impacts as possible would be required: economic, educational, environmental, and more. TC counselled that this would be a key opportunity for the council to draw in many views.

5.3.3 GR said the council would welcome feedback from CSP members about broad areas of interest which it could then ask be addressed in more detail. **Action: anyone wishing to input should email Chris Todd who will collate and forward on.**

5.4 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

- 5.4.1 AH updated the meeting on the progress of the JSNA.
- 5.4.2 He advised that he had received detailed comments, e.g. from CT, VB. The first draft of the assessment was to go to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board; an agreed version was to be put out for consultation in July 2012 and was to be signed off later in the year.
- 5.4.3 AH was to bring the first draft to the next CSP meeting on 09.07.12 for review. GR endorsed the value of members' input to this assessment.
- 5.4.4 VB flagged up the need for education on the issues raised by the JSNA. She felt that the Healthy Air and Black Carbon Campaigns would be able to achieve more widespread engagement

5.5 New council structure and constitution and finalised CSP terms of reference

- 5.5.1 TC updated the meeting on the new council structure. A new council leader and constitution was to be agreed on 16.05.12 which would mark the move from a Cabinet to a Committee system of governance. This would mean that power would devolve from Council Leader to cross-party committees. The Environment & Sustainability Committee was to be chaired by Pete West with Ollie Sykes as Deputy Chair. The Policy & Resources Committee was to be chaired by the Council Leader who would have casting vote.
- 5.5.2 The main challenge presented by the new system would be getting consensus on issues.
- 5.5.3 TC then drew the meeting's attention to the fact that the City Sustainability Partnership had remained in the council's constitution when it was set up as an alternative to a Sustainability Commission. This had an impact upon the independence of the Partnership. He pointed out that these changes could be helpful in terms of leverage; the CSP would report to the Environment & Sustainability Committee. GR advised members to use their link with the committee soon, to input to its workplan for the year.
- 5.5.4 It was asked if, in view of the CSP's link to the council, members could expect to see three Party representatives or named substitutes on the CSP. TC believed that they could.
Action: TC to invite each political party represented

in the city to send a representative to the CSP.

5.5.5 TC said the council restructure was underway but would not be complete until October and in the interim, administrative support to the partnership would be at a basic level.

5.5.6 PW left the meeting at this point.

5.6 One Planet Living Framework

5.6.1 TC updated the meeting on the progress of the One Planet approach. On 19.04.12, Cabinet had agreed that the council would be seeking One Planet Living status, for the council and the city. Council would achieve this by drawing up a three year Sustainability Action Plan which would be considered for endorsement by independent sustainability organisation, Bioregional. They would also help the council and city partners do this.

5.6.2 The Sustainability Action Plan will show how the council and city can achieve extensive targets set out by Bioregional, according to international targets, and across the 10 One Planet Principles. The city's targets would be in the CSP's sphere of influence but not its control. TC requested the CSP's help in scoping the city targets for an autumn 2012 deadline; he advised that he could present further detail to the CSP meeting on 09.07.12.

5.7 Big Lottery Bid

DT advised the meeting that his three groups had collated raw material that was to be collated into a coherent narrative that met the Bid criteria. There was to be a management meeting on 15.05.12 and partners were working to an end of June deadline.

5.8 City Plan

Action: CT requested members respond to the invitation to attend a Sustainable Cities working group meeting on 14 June.

5.9 Corporate Plan

GR asked for input on Fairtrade to the Corporate Plan. Action: VB will follow up with City Fairtrade Steering Group.

5.10 Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum

SD advised the meeting that Patcham Place activity centre is currently home to a mound of earth that is affecting wildlife and poses a health

and safety issue. TC advised him to contact Robert Walker of Parks & Green Spaces Operations at the council. SD was also concerned at the impact of the practice of holding public meetings in public parks.

5.11 Sussex Energy Group

DT advised the meeting that Brighton Energy Co-operative's share launch was to be held on 16 May. The Sussex Energy Group was to meet in May.

5.12 Waste Advisory Group

CF updated the meeting on the activities of the Waste Advisory Group. The Waste Strategy had been published on the council website and CF advised that it had met OPL targets and had incorporated OPL principles. News was expected in July 2012 on the outcome of a funding bid for a food composting programme to start in 2013; and for a waste pilot for small businesses in the city centre, planned to start in October 2012.

6 AOB

- 6.1 CT advised the meeting of upcoming events including an Eco Tourism event run by the Brighton & Hove Sustainability Partnership and the Biosphere Reserve launch events scheduled in May and June 2012.

The next City Sustainability Partnership meeting will be held on 9 July 2012 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm in Committee Room 3, Brighton Town Hall, Bartholomew Square, Brighton BN1 1JA.

