

Notes of City Sustainability Partnership Meeting – 10 January 2013

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

Present:

Public Services:

Councillor Denise Cobb (DC)
Councillor Gill Mitchell (GM)
Councillor Ollie Sykes – Brighton & Hove City Council (OS)
Councillor Pete West – Brighton & Hove City Council (PW)
Dan Danahar, Eco Schools / Dorothy Stringer School (DD)
Mark Brunet – Eco Schools / Blatchington Mill School (MB)
Zoe Osmond - University of Brighton (ZO)

Community and Voluntary Sector:

Cat Fletcher – CVSF Environmental Rep (CF)
Chris Todd – CVSF Environmental Rep – **Chair** (CT)
Mark Strong - CVSF Environment Rep (MS)
Roger Carter – Brighton & Hove's Wildlife Forum (RC)
Vic Borrill – Brighton & Hove Food Partnership – **Vice Chair** (VB)

Agencies:

Chris Wick, Environment Agency

Business

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

Also Attending

Brighton & Hove City Council:

Cheryl Finella – Economic Development Manager (CF)
Francesca Iliffe – Sustainability Officer, Planning Projects (FI)
Sarah Jones – Senior Support Officer – **Meeting notes** (SJ)
Steve Foster – Project Manager, One Planet Living (SF)
Thurstan Crockett – Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy (TC)–
Partnership Manager

Presenters included:

Rachel Espinosa - Re-Consult (RE)
Conor Moloney – BioRegional (CM)

Observers included:

Jon Patmore – Ecologist
Simon Hickmott - Member of the Public
Christine Gent – Brighton & Hove Fairtrade Steering Group (CG)

I. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Tony Mernagh, Economic Partnership; Councillor Tony Janio, Brighton & Hove City Council (substitute: Denise Cobb); Alistair Hill, Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust; Geoff Raw, Brighton & Hove City Council; Patrick Pica, University of Sussex; and Phil Belden, South Downs National Park Authority.

2. Actions and matters arising from last meeting

- 6.2.1 SJ to gather information on other Sussex sustainability organisations and people, especially for cross-boundary work such as the Biosphere Reserve. **Action: SJ had drafted a list and would circulate it to members for their additions and make final version available on CSP webpage.**
- 6.2.4 **SJ to convene a meeting between WC, PP, TC, CK, ZO, CF, DT to set up a work programme to theme CSP meetings. Carried over. This would be organised for Feb.**
- 6.2.5 *TC to discuss with GR and B&HCC Economic Development, the development of a project to spread environmental management in city businesses. This would be considered during imminent business planning by the newly formed City Regeneration department of the council.*
- 4.3 *Will Clark and TC to establish Health working group. Will Clark is currently working with Mita Patel to set this up.*

3. City Energy Study

- 3.1 FI made a presentation to members on the City Energy Study produced by environmental consultants AECOM. She had circulated a report to members before the meeting. Both the report and the presentation were to be made available on the City Sustainability Partnership web page.
- 3.2 FI recommended in the accompanying report that members attend a joint council and city key stakeholder workshop to agree: strategic priorities for actions and recommendations from the study; and amendments to the Zero Carbon section of the One Planet Living Sustainability Action Plan. The workshop would be held in February 2013. **Action: SJ to advise members of the workshop date when it is announced.**
- 3.3 AECOM's study will be made available on the Planning pages of the council website. **Action: SJ to circulate link to the document when it becomes available.**
- 3.4 Members agreed that the Green Deal should be encouraged as a means of meeting carbon reduction targets.

4. **Community Owned Anaerobic Digestion – an Opportunity?**

- 4.1 RE gave a presentation on this proposal for a community owned Anaerobic Digestion facility. RE is working on the project with DT. It is in its early stages and will require £4m-£5m capital outlay. The presentation was to be made available on the City Sustainability Partnership page on the council website. ZO suggested a potential feasibility funding route with the University. Members asked questions about the omission of an AD site near Horsham and about the methodology used in the feasibility work; they were told that any development might be five years off.

5. **Draft Economic Strategy Refresh & Consultation**

- 5.1 CF and CM presented on this to partners. The presentation was to be made available on the City Sustainability Partnership web page.
- 5.2 CF advised partners that there was to be a meeting to garner strategic input from key stakeholders on 15 January 2013 and all city partnership chairs and vice chairs had been invited. Input would be sought from CSP members to agree strategic objectives after the workshop had taken place. **Action: SJ to circulate draft Economic Strategy to partners after its release following the 15 January 2013 workshop.**
- 5.3 CM advised partners that the Sustainable Community Strategy and Climate Change Strategy were feeding the strategy's objectives and priorities. And they were using an OPL evaluation matrix with which to judge any projects proposed through the strategy development process.
- 5.4 The aim of the Strategy was to grow the business base in Brighton & Hove to develop a knowledge-based economy in response to the changed economic climate since 2008.

6. **Eco Technology Show 2013**

- 6.1 DT advised partners that 40% of stands had been sold, with 120 exhibitors booked. The conference would last for 2 days and there would be a Fringe event including Eco Open Houses, an electric vehicle rally; a Fotodocument exhibition; a potential Fairtrade fashion show; and a Hacker-thon. DT invited partners to suggest ideas for other Fringe events.

7. **One Planet Living update**

- 7.1 A communications and behaviour change project was being developed.

- 7.2 The consultation portal was open.
- 7.3 TC was continuing to present the draft Sustainability Action Plan to other City partnerships.
- 7.4 TC said they were looking to work more with the Environment Agency to develop an additional focus on adaptation and resilience in the Sustainable Water section.

8. Updates and information

- 8.1 Fair Trade Steering Group
 - 8.1.1 Fairtrade Fortnight 27 February – 10 March 2013 was to feature an exhibition at Jubilee Library, a Fairtrade event in Seaford and a screening of Town of Runners.
 - 8.1.2 Fairtrade Day 11 May 2013 with events running throughout the year. Theme for 2013 was Food, making links between small producers around the world with Brighton & Hove. VB asked for suggestions from partners of establishments serving Fairtrade food, for her to make contact.
- 8.2 Waste & Materials Group (formerly Waste Action Group)
 - 8.2.1 Meeting dates for the new group to be advised.
 - 8.2.2 CF advised partners that a waste exhibition was planned at Brighton Station.
 - 8.2.3 She had enjoyed major publicity with Freegle following national press coverage at the start of the new year, with a rapid increase in membership.
- 8.3 Rampion Windfarm
 - 8.3.1 TC advised partners that the consultation has been extended in order for Eon to consult with Hampshire and Surrey.

9. Any Other Business

- 9.1 DECC funding had been secured by Low Carbon Trust and Brighton & Hove City Council to target householders vulnerable to fuel poverty and for energy efficiency retrofit work. Partners could contact FI for more information.
- 9.2 CT advised partners of the Regency Society's public meeting on Toads Hole Valley redevelopment at 7pm on 14 January 2013 at City College.

- 9.3 CT advised partners of a public meeting on affordable energy with local MPs Caroline Lucas and Simon Kirby and from FOE: Paul Steedman. The event would feature a Question Time slot. 'Affordable Energy, Warmer Homes' would be held on 28 March 2013 @ Brighthelm.
- 9.4 CT advised partners that concerns had been raised about the Seafront Strategy; it focused on economic issues, largely ignored sustainability and made no mention of the Biosphere Reserve. The consultation runs until 28 March 2013 and CT encouraged partners to contribute. **Action: SJ to circulate link to consultation.**
- 9.5 VB advised partners that the Food Partnership had secured Esmé Fairbairn funding to implement Food Strategy projects re procurement minimum standards; food poverty; skills and employment in the local hospitality sector.
- 9.6 ZO had expressed an interest to the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFC) to develop a green growth platform for environmental industries and business support in knowledge and skills. This was to be a £3m project over 5 years. ZO asked members for suggestions of local initiatives that would match their application.
- 9.7 PW advised partners that the City Plan would be going to Council at the end of January. CSP was invited to lobby. All partners' responses and amendments were to be made available on the Planning section of the council website. **Action: FI to check if responses have been mailed out and advise partners.**
- 9.8 TC advised partners of two recommendations to be considered at the council's Policy & Resources Committee on 24 January 2013: to make Brighton & Hove a 'Frack-Free Zone'; and for the council to sign up to the European Commission Covenant of Mayors on Climate Change. The latter requires a detailed baseline and annual inventories on city carbon emissions and was relevant to the Zero Carbon city SAP section.

Revised date for next meeting

Wednesday 6 March 2013, 5.30pm-7.30pm in Committee Room 1, Brighton Town Hall, Brighton BN1 1J

