

Notes of City Sustainability Partnership Meeting - 06 March 2014

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

Present:

Public Services:

Mark Brunet, Blatchington Mill School

Phil Belden, South Downs National Park Authority (PB)

Community and Voluntary Sector:

Chris Todd, Community Works and Chair (CT)

Rob Stephenson, Community Works (RS)

Roger Carter, Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum (RC)

Vic Borrill, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (VB)

Business Sector:

Damian Tow, Sustainable Energy Working Group and Eco Technology Show (DT)

Brighton & Hove City Council:

Liz Hobden, City Planning - Local Development Framework(LH)

Councillor Pete West (PW)

Francesca Iliffe, Sustainability Officer

Sarah Jones, Sustainability Team and Administrator (SJ)

Thurstan Crockett, Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy and Partnership Manager (TC)

Observers

Ed Musa, Nviro

Paula Blunden, Nviro

Conor Moloney, BioRegional (CM)

Adam Lewthwaite, Forum For the Future Intern with BHCC

Siobhan Wilson – Fair Trade Steering Group

Rachael Durrant, University of Sussex (RD)

Presenter

Alan Phillips, Allotment Federation

1. Introductions and Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Nick Hibberd, Geoff Raw and Dean Austyn, Brighton & Hove City Council; Will Clark, Sussex Community NHS Trust; and Cat Fletcher, Community Works.

2 Minutes and Actions from last meeting

- 2.1 The Minutes of the last meeting on 22 January 2014 were approved.

- 2.2 The Chair went through updates on the following actions from the last meeting:

6.2.4 DA and TC to present Sustainability Action Plan projects' performance against KPIs at a following meeting. A performance item was now on this agenda.

4.4 SJ to ask RE to check the statistical data backing up the study's modelling of growth at 0.5% p.a. and update her presentation if necessary for the CSP webpage. This had been done.

7.2.1 **CT/TC to liaise with City Planning to re-convene a meeting of the SCWG to look at opportunities within and around the city and the impact this would have. There would also be a look at how the housing need figures are calculated. Partners will be invited to engage in this process.** This was in hand.

7.5.2 **CT asked members to provide any feedback to him, by the end of 22.01.14, for the Sustainable Community Strategy Summary**

Introduction. None had been received and CT said he was not able to get changes made to the summary. The main body of the Strategy was now up for approval and would be on the website

8.2 Members with ideas for tree planting sites in the city to contact Councillor Tony Janio, who had been made the Woodland Trust's Tree Champion for the city. This had been done.

3 City Plan; implications of Inspector's letter; partnership workshop

3.1 LH briefed members on the above.

3.2 In answer to questions, LH confirmed that: the National Planning Policy Framework only protects land with national designations; the majority of urban fringe land belongs to the local council and private developers will be advised to put any applications on hold until after the next City Plan consultation in May 2014.

3.3 CM advised that BioRegional were offering to support Code Level 5 at no extra cost to developers and LH expressed interest.

3.4 PB took issue with the Inspector's invitation to modify the Plan to ensure that "development is viable throughout the economic cycle." He expressed concern that the inspector's language emphasises that she values economic viability over sustainable development.

3.5 RS added that the Cliff line Policy was being changed as a result of the Inspector's requirements. TC advised RS to contact him if he wished to attend the Sustainability and Housing Strategy Solutions Workshop planned for April 2014.

3.6 PB proposed and it was agreed that the wording of the first proposed recommendation under this item be amended to read: "That the CSP notes

with concern the update on the progress of the city plan, in particular the initial conclusions of the Planning Inspector appointed to undertake an examination into the soundness of the Plan, *and the mis-match of these with the Sustainable Community Strategy*".

4 Food Mapping work and new City Allotment Strategy

4.1 VB presented to members on Brighton & Hove Food Partnership's (BHFP) food mapping work. The presentation was to be made available on the City Sustainability Partnership page on the council website.

4.2 BHFP had surveyed land around the city to produce a map for the One Planet Board. They had now made this map publicly available online.

4.3 Members raised the question of how the proposed development of urban fringe sites would limit the food growing sites identified.

4.4 CT suggested locating the map on the Biosphere website.

4.5 Alan Phillips presented to members on the new city Allotment Strategy which had involved hundreds of people and was being very positively received as a result by all stakeholders. The presentation was to be made available on the City Sustainability Partnership page on the council website.

5 Performance Update on the Sustainability Action Plan

5.1 TC briefly updated Members on progress under each One Planet Principle of Sustainability Action Plan projects against draft Key Performance Indicators, which were still being finalised

5.2 TC invited members who wished to input to the City Performance Plan, to complete the Action Progress Report Partnership template and return to Dean

Austyn by 31 March 2014. He requested a maximum of two KPIs each for City and Council, under each Principle.

5.3 TC presented to members on the results of the City Tracker Survey Wave 5. PB was concerned that the climate change question was vague and misleading and as such was a barrier to change. Other members agreed, however CT said he was also concerned at the way that the results were reported which made it seem like people felt enough was being done on climate change, whereas actually only 42% (not 59%) of people did. It was felt that benchmarking to other cities would also be helpful. **Action: TC offered to take CSP's concerns to Brighton & Hove Connected (formerly Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership).**

5.5 CT advised members that he had stepped down from the One Planet Board due to other commitments. Cat Fletcher had replaced him.

6 Sustainable Community Strategy - Environment Chapter

6.1 A draft of the Sustainable Community Strategy's Environment chapter had been circulated before the meeting for review and approval.

6.2 VB pointed out a typo on page 21: 'marinbe' instead of 'marine'. **Action: SJ to contact Simon Newell's office and request this be changed.**

6.3 With these changes the Partnership agreed the chapter.

6.4 CT reminded members of the launch of the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy at The Metropole on 3 April 2014.

7 Updates

7.1 Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum (BHWF)

7.1.1 RC updated members on the minutes of the last BHWF meeting on 11 February 2014.

7.1.2 David Larkin had joined the group as the council's representative.

7.1.3 Following a council consultation, grazing is to be included to improve Ladies Mile chalk grassland.

7.1.4 The Forum held that dog fouling in green spaces was still an issue. After discussion it was felt that public education was the way forward.

7.1.5 BHWF thanked BHFP and VB for producing the Land Map and making it publicly available.

7.1.6 RC on behalf of BHWF asked for status on the Horsdean Travellers site. PW confirmed that the government is considering calling it in.

7.1.7 RC asked if use of metal detectors on Benfield Reserve is legal.

7.2 Fair Trade Steering Group

7.2.1 CG reported that Fair Trade Fortnight was going on. The focus this year was Fairtrade bananas; their production cost had doubled yet their price had halved in the last 10 years. Events had included an exhibition at Jubilee Library and film screenings at the universities.

7.2.2 Fair Trade Fashion events planned for April were: Fashion Revolution Day on 24 April, when people would be encouraged to wear their clothes inside out for the day to raise the issue of where they are made; a debate on how the Rana Plaza disaster had happened and

how to prevent similar disasters in the future; the Sustain show at Brighton Fashion Week showcasing designers combining innovative fashion design and ethical thinking to produce unique and efficient collections.

7.2.4 CG advised members that this would be her last time at a CSP meeting as she is moving to Thailand. Her replacement was to be Siobhan Wilson of FAIR.

7.3 Sustainable Energy Working Group

7.3.1 DT reported that Brighton Energy Co-op had installed 240kw photovoltaics before Christmas. Fundraising was going ahead for the next 200kw.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Rachael Durrant of University of Sussex briefed members on the ARTS project (Accelerating and Re-scaling Transitions to Sustainability). This SPRU project comprises mapping the city's sustainability initiatives; selecting some for in-depth analysis followed by a series of stakeholder workshops to accelerate sustainability. Part of the Smart Cities programme, Brighton & Hove was selected as it was seen as a European city leader. More information would be available in the Sustainability Bulletin. Rachael asked members with suggestions for venues to place flyers to contact her on r.durrant@sussex.ac.uk. Chair advised Rachael to speak to Rich Howorth, Biosphere Officer.

8.2 TC advised members that the council was to meet with Cisco to discuss a proposed Smart Cities programme - ICT for Sustainability - on 15 March. Areas for inclusion were transport, health and social care, public services and

ICT and Entrepreneurship. Those members that wanted more detail were invited to contact TC.

- 8.3 TC invited members to see the Brighton Dome redevelopment project. Interested members should contact Sarah Jones for an invitation.