

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

3rd December 2003

5.00 P.M.

COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Edmond-Smith (Convenor), Councillors Mrs Cobb, Davidson, Mallender, Meadows, McCaffery, Norman (OS), Peltzer Dunn, Pidgeon and Tonks.

Co-optee: Mark Strong (Community Voluntary Sector Forum)

PART 1

25. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

25A Declaration of Substitutes

25A.1 Councillor For Councillor

Pidgeon Mrs Theobald

25B Declaration Of Interests

25B.1 Councillor Tonks and Councillor Norman declared an interest in item 34 'Black Rock Site' as members of the Planning Committee.

25C Exclusion Of Press And Public

25C.1 The Commission 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.

25C.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the agenda.

26. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 26.1 Convenor had attended the opening of the environment centre at Dorothy Stringer School, this was an excellent project. It was suggested that the Commission receive a report on 'Eco-Schools' at a future meeting.
- 26.2 Downs Junior School were involved in the 'Zoom' project and their contribution would be presented at the climate conference in Milan.
- 26.3 The 'Environment Champions' project (examining the amount of waste produced by sections of the council) was in operation. An audit was now complete and the action team would be identifying target areas once the audit had been analysed. A report would be brought to a future meeting.
- 26.4 Convenor suggested that a report be brought to a future meeting regarding the 'carbon footprint' for the south east of England. Recent studies suggested that to sustain the current levels of resource consumption the equivalent of three and half planets would be required. To 'balance' the CO² emissions produced, an area the size of France would need to be planted with trees.
- 26.5 Members noted the 'Green Calendar' produced by local schools and suggested that council buildings might be used to sell it. The Resort Services Manager offered to speak to the lessees in the Artists Quarter on the seafront regarding this.

27. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 27.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2003 be agreed.

28. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK

- 28.1 2020 Community Partnership Officer outlined the responsibilities and current projects of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) (see appendix 'A').
- 28.2 Members discussed the links between the LSP and the Sustainability Commission and in particular how to strengthen the reporting route and information flow. There were also concerns about agenda planning and the responsibilities and relationships for Mark Strong and his relationship to the Community Voluntary Sector Forum and the LSP. There appeared to be different perceptions of the relationship and responsibilities.
- 28.3 **RESOLVED** – (1) That Commission members meet with Local Strategic Partnership officers to determine the relationship of the CVSF, the LSP and the Sustainability Commission.

(2) That Convenor of the Sustainability Commission and the 2020 Community Partnership Officer meet to determine the reporting route and relationship between the LSP and the Sustainability Commission.

29. 'ECOSYS' - PRESENTATION

29.1 This item was deferred to the New Year.

30. RECYCLING AT MAJOR EVENTS

30.1 The Commission considered a briefing note from the Resort Services Manager (for copy see minute book).

30.2 Members discussed the challenges of recycling at major events and made the following suggestions:

- a) That consideration be given to the areas *surrounding* the event site (lead in roads and streets) as well as the site itself.
- b) That re-use or recycling / collection of waste be carried out *during* the event as well as following it.
- c) That further consideration be given to the idea of charging a £1.00 deposit for all drinks *containers* sold by concessions. This to include consideration of who gets any profit from non-returned containers, how to manage 'mass-return' of containers and the logistics of identifying the containers.
- d) To liaise with other authorities and bodies to identify best practice (i.e. 'Green Buddha', Big Green Gathering', 'Woodcraft Folk').
- e) That the speed of clearing any event site not be impeded by re-use or recycling initiatives.
- f) That any re-use or recycling initiatives adopted be easy for event attendees to access and appreciate. And that the impact of 'onlookers' (i.e. of the Pride Parade) be considered.

30.3 Events held on Madeira Drive were cleared by City Clean, this was part of their contract, currently there was not a clause in the contract to deal with recycling.

30.4 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the issues noted above be considered by Safety meeting and the Operational Event Planning meeting and that recycling at major events be an item on their agenda.

(2) That part of the agreement for any major event be that re-use / recycling be a condition of the contract.

(3) That a condition of grants to small groups for events include the request that their events use recycling /re-use.

31. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE NOTES: BRIGHTON & HOVE SUSTAINABILITY CHECKLIST AND RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

31.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment that informed and consulted Members on the proposed Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance notes and Sustainability Checklist (for copy see minute book).

31.2 Members welcomed the guidance notes and checklist, they would be particularly useful when considering planning applications. They would also focus the minds of developers on the importance of sustainability, to many this was still an ill-defined concept.

31.3 Senior Planning Officer explained that the guidance was presented to the Commission as work in progress. Any individual comments they wished to make could be passed to him. The Environment Committee would consider the guidance note on 11 December and determine if it should go out to consultation. The guidance note itself was a 'live' document currently being piloted to be refined through feedback and could be expanded and updated to reflect current thinking and process.

31.4 The guidance note would be applied to major applications (developments over 10 residential units or 1000sqm), and where appropriate to minor applications just below this threshold.

31.5 **RESOLVED** – That the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes be and sustainability checklist be noted.

32. FAIRTRADE - EXTRACT FROM POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE OCTOBER 2003 - FAIRTRADE CITY

32.1 The Commission considered an extract from the Policy & Resources Committee of 23 October 2003 (for copy see minute book).

32.2 **RESOLVED** – That the extract be noted.

33. UPDATE ON FAIRTRADE

33.1 Christine Cronin (from Fairtrade) explained that the Brighton & Hove would become a 'Fairtrade' City once it had met the following two criteria; (1) The establishment of a steering group, (2) The employer using Fairtrade products.

33.2 Christine stressed that it was important that staff knew they had the option of buying or ordering Fair Trade goods and that the possibility that this might cost more was made clear to them.

33.3 Officers explained that the catering contract would soon be going out to tender. Part of the pre-tender agreement demanded that any company making a bid would have to ensure that a Fair Trade choice was included.

33.4 Once the new catering contract had been established all relevant staff would be informed. Currently all staff had been made aware of the Fair Trade City project using the councils internal communications. This would be further reinforced once the catering contract was determined.

33.5 **RESOLVED** – That Fairtrade be featured in a forthcoming edition of City News.

34. EXTRACT FROM POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE OCTOBER 2003 - BLACK ROCK SITE

34.1 The Commission considered an extract from the Policy & Resources Committee of 23 October 2003 (for copy see minute book).

34.2 **RESOLVED** – That the extract be noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.10pm

Signed

Chair

This

day of

2004