

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

10 March 2004

5.00 P.M.

COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Edmond-Smith (Convenor), Councillors Mrs Cobb, Davidson, Mallender, Norman (OS), Mrs Norman, Older and Tonks.

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

PART 1

35. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

35A Declaration of Substitutes

35A.1 Councillor For Councillor

Mrs Norman	Oxley
Older	Mrs Theobald

35B Declaration Of Interests

35B.1 Councillors Tonks, Norman and Older expressed personal interests in item 42 as members of the Planning Applications Sub-Committee.

35C Exclusion Of Press And Public

35C.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.

35C.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the agenda.

36. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

36.1 The Farm Review was in progress, dialogue had begun with local farmers and a forum created where farmers were represented.

36.2 A Sustainable Development Commission for the South East was to be formed. It was proposed to run for 18 months and report its conclusions. Convenor had responded on the proposals for its' initial themes (for copy see minute book).

36.3 Brighton & Hove City Council had been represented at 'Seedy Sunday' a community seed swap and Eco-friendly event in February 2004.

36.4 Fairtrade Fortnight was currently running, stalls and information were being held in council buildings. The new catering contract would include Fairtrade choices.

36.5 Convenor would be speaking to the Chamber of Commerce later in the evening, her theme would be sustainable business.

37. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

37.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2003 be agreed.

38. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK

38.1 Simon Newell (2020 Community Partnership Officer) informed the meeting of the recent work of the LSP.

38.2 At its' 4th December 2003 meeting the LSP had focussed on transport issues. It had requested that a site for a park and ride scheme be identified as soon as possible. The LSP had also discussed Neighbourhood Renewal targets.

38.3 At its' 19th February 2004 meeting the LSP had focussed on housing issues, Dr. Nancy Holman had addressed the meeting. The LSP had expressed its support for 40% affordable housing on new developments (in response to the planning inspectorates' decision that the percentage be 25% or 30% in exceptional cases).

38.4 The LSP had also discussed strategic planning, with particular reference to the local development framework and the area investment framework.

38.5 The Sustainability Conference would be a joint one between the LSP and the Sustainability Commission.

38.2 **RESOLVED** – That the verbal update on the Local Strategic Partnership be noted.

39. TAKING STOCK

39.1 Nick Hutchinson (Project Consultant, Ecosys) addressed the meeting on a project that had examined managing the impact of materials flow and the ecological footprint in the South East (see appendix 'A').

39.2 Members were keen that the information be disseminated to schools around the city and felt the Children, Families and Schools Sub-Committee might benefit from a presentation.

39.3 Nick informed the meeting that as well as the South East, the project had been carried out in the Isle of Wight, London and Wales. The intention was to cover the whole of the United Kingdom, though this and the dissemination of the findings were dependent on future funding.

39.4 Convenor suggested that the Sustainability Conference could debate the subject.

39.2 **RESOLVED** – That Officers identify ways of disseminating information on the 'Taking Stock' project through local schools.

40. SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLANS 2004-2006

40.1 The Commission considered a briefing note that updated Members as to the progress of the Sustainability Action Plans 2004-2006 (for copy see minute book).

40.2 **RESOLVED** – That a detailed report on the Sustainability Action Plans be brought to a future meeting.

41. RECYCLING AT MAJOR EVENTS

41.1 The Commission considered a briefing note from the Resort Services Manager regarding the progress made on recycling at major events (for copy see minute book).

41.2 Resort Services Manager (RSM) informed the meeting that discussions had taken place regarding 'Party in the Park' and the event organisers were keen to get involved with recycling.

41.3 RSM showed samples of biodegradable food containers that might be used at public events. These were made of maize husk and could be composted after use, breaking down completely within 12-14 weeks.

41.4 Members raised concerns about the waste generated at the conclusion of the London to Brighton Bike Ride. RSM would speak with the British Heart Foundation about making this more Eco-friendly.

41.5 Members were concerned about the state of some grassed areas following their use for public events. RSM and the Assistant Director of Environment informed the meeting that the damaged areas were being re-sown and in some cases specially treated (rubberised earth) grass was being used to prevent deterioration happening.

14.6 **RESOLVED** – That the verbal update on recycling at major events be noted.

42. MAJOR PROJECTS - SUSTAINABILITY TEAM INPUT

42.1 Project Manager addressed the meeting on the work of the Major Projects Team and their links and co-working with the Sustainability Team (see appendix 'B')

[Councillors Tonks, Norman and Older expressed personal interests in item 42 as members of the Planning Applications Sub-Committee.]

42.2 **RESOLVED** – That the information regarding the work of the major projects team and sustainability team be noted.

43. FOOD PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

43.1 The Commission considered a briefing regarding work of the Food Partnership and an update on the Brighton and Hove Food Strategy (for copy see minute book).

43.2 **RESOLVED** – That the information regarding the Food Partnership and an update on the Brighton and Hove Food Strategy be noted.

44. uPVC WINDOWS

44.1 The Commission discussed the councils use of uPVC window frames throughout its' housing stock. Members were concerned about the environmental impact of using uPVC frames. Members suggested that using timber frames would be more ecologically friendly and sustainable.

44.2. Officers commented that technical developments had reduced the environmental impact of uPVC frames. The use prohibitive cost and difficulty of maintaining timber frames and the popularity of uPVC were factors in determining the councils use and procurement of uPVC.

44.2 **RESOLVED** - That a report be prepared for the Housing Management Sub-Committee considering the ecological impact of the use of uPVC window frames throughout the councils housing stock.

The meeting concluded at 7.15pm

Signed

Chair

This

day of

2004