

## **Notes of City Sustainability Partnership Meeting – 26 September 2013**

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

### **Present:**

*Public Services:*

*Community and Voluntary Sector:*

Cat Fletcher (CF)

Chris Todd (Chair)

Roger Carter (RC)

Vic Borrill (Vice Chair)

*Business Sector:*

Damian Tow

*Brighton & Hove City Council:*

Councillor Ollie Sykes (OS)

Councillor Pete West (PW)

Thurstan Crockett, Partnership Manager and note taker (TC)

Geoff Raw, Strategic Director (GR)

*Observers*

John Kapp, Hove civic Society (JK)

Myrtle Cooper, BPEC (MC)

Peter Friedman, Fair Trade Steering Group (PF)

Henry Unwin, BioRegional (HU)

Lukas Grancic, Intern at Brighton & Hove City Council (LG)

### **I. Introduction, Apologies and actions from the last meeting**

- I.1 Apologies were received from Danni Craker, Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce; Mark Brunet, Blatchington Mill School; Zoe Osmond, University of Brighton; Sarah Jones, Brighton & Hove City Council; Phil Belden, South Downs National Park; Mark Strong, CVSF.
- I.2 The Minutes of the last meeting on 4 July 2013 were approved.
- I.3 The Chair went through updates on the following actions from the last meeting.
  - 6.2 One or two suggestions for potential growing land had been forwarded
  - 7.1 Only two proformas had been received. It was agreed that this would not be pursued further.
  - 1.3 Zoe Osmond's presentation on Green Growth Platform would now be in November, as she was poorly.
  - 2.2 DT to cover this under Agenda item 5.

## **2 Green Growth Platform update - presentation**

- 2.1 This item was postponed to November, as Zoe Osmond was ill and not able to attend the meeting.

## **3 City CO<sub>2</sub> emissions update**

- 3.1 TC introduced his report, emphasising that the figures showed only a partial picture of city CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; nonetheless, by this measure, the city was back on target, although this could have been because of the mild winter that year – 2012 was another cold year. CF asked if a more up to date measure was available, but TC said not. It was pointed out that the UK was looking to reduce per capita emissions from 10 to 2 tonnes per person by 2050.

## **4 OPL progress report and behaviour change campaign update**

- 4.1 DT updated partners, saying roughly two thirds of actions in the Sustainability Action Plan were progressing as green: on target, with almost another third on amber; and only a total of eight on red as not progressing. He said a decision had been taken by the Board to put the whole £30K assigned for a Behaviour Change campaign into cutting carbon emissions over two years; further progress would be reported to October Board and Leads meetings'; a number of funding bids were being submitted, including one to DECC's district heating fund for local authorities; and to the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities fund. JK said he hoped some of the DECC fund money could be spent on a feasibility study for using the waste heat from Shoreham Power Station. BioRegional was said to be looking into producing an up to date ecological footprint for the city. VB said there was good work coming out of Oxford on Foodprinting that was worth exploring too.
- 4.2 PF said Ruth England had been appointed local co-ordinator for schools on the DfID-funded Global Learning Programme, with Cardinal Newman acting as the centre for secondary schools. The focus was on helping teachers focus on the relationships between this country and the developing world.

## **5 Food Partnership presentation**

- 5.1 VB gave a presentation about the 10 years of the Food Partnership and the 4 year Harvest programme which had been evaluated in detail; she also gave an update on the mapping of local food growing potential around the city. PW talked about the opportunities for getting more free school meals to infants and 16-18 year olds. VB emphasised now the number of families struggling to get enough food to eat, with a growing number of food banks in the city.
- 5.2 The allotment strategy they were working on included a survey of allotment holders which had had 800 responses – almost a third of all allotment holders locally.
- 5.3 VB said a full update of the Action Plan for the Food strategy was being prepared – though they were still waiting for feedback from Sustainable

Transport. **Action: GR agreed to raise this with the Transport Team within the council.**

- 5.4 VB said the Food Partnership was on a membership drive to get even more engagement with their work, looking to sign up 5,000 members by December, and she asked members to help. **Action: All partners to consider joining the Food Partnership and to promote to their networks individual membership, which is free <http://www.bhfood.org.uk/join>**
- 5.5 DT asked if the success of the Food Partnership as a model for systemic change couldn't be replicated for the sustainable energy and sustainable materials/waste reduction sectors. Vic said there was something special about food and its connection for everyone, but they had achieved an enormous amount through all elements of the Food Strategy through connections across policy, community engagement, health work, and social value – they are regarded as a national leader and instrumental in the formation of the Sustainable Food Cities Network.
- 5.6 OS asked if the FP could work at a greater scale and influence supermarkets. VB said this was a challenge but the Sustainable Food Cities Network made this more possible.
- 5.7 GR said the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership had a focus on food production in coastal West Sussex and there was an opportunity to focus work on a sub-regional level across Greater Brighton. **Action: VB to take this up with Coast to Capital LEP.**

## **6 CSP annual meeting and election of Chairs**

- 6.1 TC invited partners to consider standing, especially those from sectors other than the community and voluntary sector. Given the timing of CVSF's rep elections in the autumn, he recommended postponing the CSP's annual meeting from November to January. This was agreed.

## **7 Updates and Information**

### 7.1 Sustainable Community Strategy review

- 7.1.1 TC said Mark Brunet had helped with this and the Environment and Sustainability section was being updated straight from the One Planet Sustainability Action Plan. It was recommended that a food section be added and that energy and climate change sections be combined.

### 7.2 Sustainable Energy Working Group and Eco Tech Show

- 7.2.1 DT said Brighton Energy Co-op was launching a new community share offer to fund 500kw photovoltaics, 350Kw of which would be at Shoreham Port and the remainder on two churches; 5% interest was expected.

- 7.2.2 The next Eco Tech show was applying for funding to the Greater Brighton Economic Board and would be staged on 26-27 June 2014. It would be business-business focused rather than on consumers.
- 7.3 Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum
- 7.3.1 RC raised key points from the Forum's minutes of 03 September 2013 meeting. CT said there had clearly been a problem with the process for designating Wild Park and it should be re-considered. **Action: PW to check and get a briefing on this with a view to resolving it.**
- 7.3.2 CT said re geodiversity in the Biosphere Reserve bid, etc that the Forum should engage more with the voluntary partnership and help deliver objectives, rather than seemingly just criticise.
- RC said the Forum involvement with the Food Partnership's mapping project was welcomed.
- 7.3.3 Re Japanese Knotweed, PW said the council's approach was to get on with dealing with this when notified, assuming it was on council land.
- 7.3.4 Dorothy Stringer elms – the chair said it was difficult balancing different needs but that the development was providing for a much needed local facility that would support sports activity and help reduce travel to facilities elsewhere. Also, the school was planning to achieve far more biodiversity gains from the development than would be lost by it.
- 7.3.5 Re council interim representation on the Forum, GR said it needed someone with expertise and he would look into this.
- 7.4 Waste and Materials Group
- 7.4.1 CF said following a meeting earlier in the year and meetings with City College about creating WAM, she was happy to launch and lead it, with some events over the next year; a small grant from the council had been secured to do this and a bank account was being set up, so it could be sorted out shortly. Meanwhile she'd organised a soft launch event with about 60 people attending.
- 7.4.2 A big issue was the measuring of re-use in the city and to establish a target. 5K had been secured through crowd funding for Give It for Good, enough to get the pilot underway in Brighton, and she'd started to contact local re-use organisations.
- 7.4.3 She had submitted another bid for £20K to Nominet which would help deliver the Sustainable Materials plan.
- 7.4.4 The Brighton Waste House was going well - windows were in and roof on and last of wall cavities being filled - with tooth brushes; their new use performance would be measured.

## 7.5 Fair Trade Steering Group

- 7.5.1 PF said a film had been produced, Fair Trade Journey - India to Brighton - which would be shown at the Fair Trade Steering Group AGM in late October. This had been produced by Cottesmore School and featured lots of the city's Fair Trade shops. It was to help educate local children in particular about how clothes are made and get into shops. The group had used part of their grant from the council for this.

## 7.6 Toads Hole Valley & Sustainable Cities Working Group meeting

- 7.6.1 CT said it had been a very useful meeting about THV. He said more generally that the City Plan inquiry inspector seemed sceptical about the city fulfilling its duty to find space for all the homes it needed.

## 8 Any Other Business

- 8.1 The Chair said the 20mph speed limit second stage consultation had drawn out lots of sustainability issues; it was not a blanket scheme, but had many health and environmental benefits. PW urged everyone to respond to the consultation, not just residents of the zones affected.
- 8.2 He also gave an update on the recent Transport Partnership meeting - the council was going for a demanding schedule to produce Local Transport Plan 4 within about a year's time and sign off by the end of 2014. He would look to get a presentation on it to the partnership as part of the consultation.
- 8.3 CF asked if a presentation on the Waste House could be factored in to a partnership meeting - it would be finished around Christmas and a launch event will be arranged too. **Action: Chairs to discuss when to put this on an agenda.**
- 8.4 The Chair said after two years' hard work, the Biosphere bid was finally being handed over formally to UNESCO in an event the next day at Preston Park. There had already been good feedback about the bid and a decision was due in summer 2014.
- 8.5 GR said there was likely to be an announcement imminently about the Green Deal delivery partner for Sussex, including Brighton & Hove and a report about this was being discussed soon at the council's Policy committee. He said it would be worth the partnership discussing the opportunities and its involvement after this. **Action: Chairs to consider this item for a meeting**
- 8.6 Next meeting: 21 November, 5-7pm @ Committee Room 1, Brighton Town Hall. **Action: Suggestions re agenda items please to CT, VB or TC**

