

Notes of City Sustainability Partnership Meeting – 16 July 2014

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

Present:

Public Services:

Phil Belden, South Downs National Park Authority (PB)

Mark Brunet, Blatchington Mill School (MB)

Community and Voluntary Sector:

Cat Fletcher, Community Works and Vice Chair (CF)

Chris Todd, Community Works and Chair (CT)

Rob Stephenson, Community Works (RS)

Stuart Derwent, Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum (SD)

Vic Borrill, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (VB)

Business:

Emma Houghton – Chamber of Commerce/Emma Haughton Coaching and Consultancy

Brighton & Hove City Council:

Councillor Gill Mitchell

Officers:

Cathie Doyland – note taking (CD)

Dean Austyn – Performance Analyst

Thurstan Crockett, Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy and partnership manager (TC)

Observers:

Rachael Durrant – University of Sussex

Siobhan Wilson – Fair Trade Steering Group

1 Introductions

1.1 Chair led introductions around the table.

2 Apologies/Minutes and Actions of the last meeting

2.1 Apologies were received from: Pete West, Tony Janio, Sarah Jones, Nick Hibberd and Geoff Raw Brighton & Hove City Council, Richard O'Callaghan - Environment Agency, Matthew Arnold – University of Sussex, Zoe Osmond – University of Brighton/Green Growth Platform.

2.2 The Minutes of the last meeting on 21 May 2014 were approved.

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

2.2 / 7.2.1 Reconvene SCWG meeting to discuss city planning opportunities. This had been re-organised for the following Monday.

5.3 TC suggested that Mita Patel talks to VB regarding City Tracker and the possibility of adding questions.

5.6 The first two action points would be discussed at item 4. The third action: **CF / DT will draft a survey to send to absentee members.** A draft survey has not been done yet.

3 City Plan Urban Fringe Assessment and Sustainable Cities Working Group meeting

3.1 TC asked that people confirm attendance with SJ asap.

3.2 CT outlined the purpose of the meeting and the opportunity to discuss the City plan and housing issues in more detail.

3.3 GM updated the meeting on the Inspector's feedback on the City Plan. As there was not sufficient support from members, the item was removed from the P&R Agenda so there was no debate.

3.4 RS bought up the issue of city farmland being made available for smallholder food growing to take pressure off competing demands for urban fringe sites. CT apologised for this issue not being on previous CSP meeting notes when it was initially raised.

3.5 The meeting discussed the Housing Strategy and whether it will change if the housing numbers are increased in the City Plan

3.6 TC said a separate meeting on the Housing strategy would be easier to set up than combine it with the Strategic Housing Partnership (SHP) which had not worked.

3.7 RD enquired about the deadline for replying to the Inspector. GM advised that the modified City Plan needed to be completed by December 2014. MB asked if softer issues are to be considered, such as schools' capacity. GM advised that school information can be added. The meeting discussed the commercial sensitivity of some sites and how the local authority would not want these sites be disclosed.

3.8 The meeting discussed the geographical area on the urban fringe and how it could be used.

4. Biosphere Governance

4.1 CT welcomed the recent UNESCO designation of Biosphere status for Brighton & Lewes Downs. He opened discussion on duplication, with having the Biosphere Partnership, One Planet Living and CSP. There is a need to ensure best practice is taking place, the political aspect is taken into consideration and issues are discussed and followed up.

4.2 BHCC to work up a revised proposal with Biosphere, CSP and OPL Board chairs. BHCC propose a workshop in September 2014.

4.3 SD asked what will happen next as people will want to see something happening.

Action: CT asked for a date to be fixed for the workshop meeting. BHCC to send out a doodle with options. CT asked that a revised Governance proposals paper is circulated before the CSP meeting in September.

5 City Snapshot

5.1 TC provided a brief outline of the City Snapshot and how it could be useful for funding applications and updating members' awareness of changes to the city.

6 Annual Performance Reports 2013/14

6.1 DA provided a detailed explanation of the City Performance Plan update, the list of indicators and the exception report.

6.2 The meeting discussed the results and how improvement can be achieved. The focus was off-target performance for: city carbon dioxide emissions reduction; groundwater status; nitrogen dioxide levels; and the domestic recycling rate, which was very poor. It was also argued that the target of 50 per cent for Wildlife Sites in positive conservation management should be much more ambitious, and that a result of 52% should be Red too. It was agreed that accountability for Groundwater status should be assigned to one person, rather than shared, and that the way targets are set and performance and activity are reported should be improved.

Action: CT to draft a letter to the Chair of Brighton & Hove Connected (the LSP) and the Chair of City Management Board, asking for action to be prioritised to improve performance across these indicators, and making several other points.

7 Updates

7.1 Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum (BHWF)

7.1.1 SD advised that the minutes of all the BHWF minutes aren't on the website and need to be retrievable.

7.1.2 The meeting discussed the reporting of incidents of firing guns on wildlife sites, Southern Water and council grassland mowing, the wildflower meadow at Preston Park and the Horsdean site not being called in by the Secretary of State.

7.2 Sustainable Working Group and Eco Tech Show

7.2.1 The meeting discussed the 2014 Eco Tech show, how the seminar programme and networking events were very good.

7.3 Fair Trade Steering Group

7.3.1 SW congratulated VB on the BHCC Policy and Resource Committee agreeing to adopt minimum buying standards for catering contracts over £75K, including fair trade products.

7.3.2 SW advised that the free trade shop Love That Stuff at the marina is closing.

7.3.3 SW updated the meeting on the events being organised as part of the Brighton Fashion Week. On 19 July 50 18 to 24 year olds are having a brainstorming session how to do more with less. The brainstorming will help to develop the messaging for the Brighton Fashion Week. The event will be 9 or 10 October and the Curator of London Fashion Week is attending and it is hoped she will launch the 2015 campaign. SW advised that they are also inviting Caroline Lucas and Tesco.

7.4 OPL City Sustainable Materials Work

7.4.1 CF advised that the Waste House will be open to the community every Wednesday and Sunday. The project has been reported widely and has gone viral.

7.4.2 A PHD student is overseeing the installation of energy monitors in the Waste House and will report on the results as part of his PHD project.

7.4.3 CT congratulated CF on behalf of the CSP.

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8 Any Other Business

8.1 VB advised that there is an official opening of the revamped Open Market on Saturday 19 July and encouraged people to attend.

8.2 TC advised that the Rampion Windfarm was approved. The meeting discussed how the farm would impact on the environment. I

8.3TC advised the meeting that the Public Health Report 2024 has been released.

8.4. LTP4 briefing

8.4.1 The meeting discussed the consultation process and how they could contribute.

8.4.2 The Chair said a recent consultation event had been very unsatisfactory

Action: CT to draft a letter to the Chair of the Transport Partnership about this, seeking improvements to the consultation process

8.5 CT advised the next CSP meeting is 11 September.