

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

29 October 2003

5.00 P.M.

COMMITTEE ROOMS 2 & 3, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Edmond-Smith (Convenor), Councillors Mrs Cobb, Mallender, Norman, Peltzer Dunn, Mrs Theobald and Tonks.

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

PART 1

17. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

17A Declaration of Substitutes

17A.1 Councillor For Councillor

None

17B Declaration Of Interests

17B.1 Mark Strong noted an interest in item 23 'Bid for Department of Transport's Sustainable Travel Demonstration Town' in respect of his work for English Regional Cycle Development Team. Advice was given that this did not prejudice his taking part in the debate.

17C Exclusion Of Press And Public

17C.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.

17C.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the agenda.

18. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 18.1 Convenor noted that the Policy & Resources Committee (22 Oct. 2003) had approved that Fairtrade be supported and that the Council commits to promote Fairtrade to the people of Brighton and Hove. And that the Sustainability Commission be allocated responsibility to work in partnership with a local Fairtrade Steering Group.
- 18.2 Members noted that the waste minimisation pilot had begun in two council buildings. Staff at Oxford Street Neighbourhood Office and Hove Town Hall would be carrying out an audit of waste produced and then developing a campaign on how best to reduce waste and improve recycling rates.

19. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 19.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2003 be agreed.
- 19.2 Councillor Peltzer Dunn was concerned that no feedback had been provided in respect of Staff Travel Plan (min 15.10). Officers would address this.

20. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK

- 20.1 Chair noted the difficulties in finding a suitable way of sharing information and with and from the Local Strategic Partnership. Members were also concerned that the route was not clear.
- 20.2 **RESOLVED** – To invite Simon Newell to a future meeting to address members on the route available to share information with the Local Strategic Partnership.

21. CENTRE FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT - PRESENTATION BY DR ANDREW MILLER

- 21.1 The Commission received a presentation from Dr Andrew Miller of Brighton University on the recently established Centre for Sustainability of the Built Environment (see appendix 'A' for précis). Supporting this presentation were documents from council officers on INTERREG funding, the councils' proposed 'sustainability checklist' for new developments and a guidance note on supplementary planning guidance (SPG) on energy efficiency and renewable energy (for copy see minute book).
- 21.2 A member of the public suggested that Dr Miller make links with David Saunders (ESCC) regarding the use of bio-fuels and also take

the opportunity to strengthen links with the Brighton wood recycling project.

- 21.3 Following mention of the proposals for the Black Rock site, Convenor noted that the Sustainability Commission would have an input (via the Sustainability Team) on all new developments and would be able to utilise the (developing) 'sustainability checklist' to ensure that developers were making use of sustainable methods.
- 21.4 Convenor was keen to foster links between the council and the Centre for the Built Environment, suggesting that a meeting be convened between senior officers and academic staff.
- 21.5 Councillor Mallender asked about the funding for the proposed MSc at Brighton University. Dr. Miller explained that the funding came from an independent stream and that the management of the proposed MSc might be based on various sites including partners at Rouen University.
- 21.6 Convenor asked about the case studies carried out by the Centre. Dr. Miller explained that the studies could be of a complete building, a discrete part or an entire project, the brief was very flexible.
- 21.7 Members suggested that Preston Barracks and Westgate House (Westgate Rd) would be ideal case studies.
- 21.8 Members welcomed the 'sustainability checklist' for new developments and the SPG on energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- 21.9 Mark Strong noted that SEEDA had also produced a sustainability checklist and asked why the councils' checklist could not be SPG? Convenor suggested that this might be because the checklist covered a wider remit than an SPG. (Senior Planning Officer would present this and seek comments from the Commission at the next meeting).
- 21.10 **RESOLVED** – That the presentation and supporting papers be noted.

22. STANMER ESTATE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE SURVEY AND RESTORATION MANAGEMENT

- 22.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment that gave a brief on progress with the Stanmer Estate Historic Landscape Survey and Restoration Management Plan and seeking the Commission's views on its implementation (for copy see minute book).

22.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Management Plan, in principle be welcomed.

(2) That the comments of the Sustainability Commission, as follows be noted:

- a) Concern that the proposals at M1 and M2 (administrative facilities and Gateway Centre) appear to be at odds with the rest of the scheme. In that they appear to attract vehicle use into and within the park without discussing sustainable alternatives.
- b) That further consideration be given to V6 (Bus Routes) with regard to the provision of an appropriate, continuous and sustainable shuttle service within the park (preferably using an electric vehicle).
- c) That further consideration be given to the proposals for car parking throughout the park and support for the proposal that car use within the park be discouraged.
- d) That the needs of persons with mobility problems or sensory loss be considered in relation to parking and access to the park and its buildings.
- e) Concern regarding the proposals to remove a number mature trees (C8 onwards) and request that (C9) the cherry orchard be allowed to clear through a ‘policy on non replacement’
- f) That NU1 (Nurseries Complex) be welcomed. The Commission request this to be retained in situ. The Commission support the environmental technology aims of some projects at Stanmer Organics.
- g) That overall objectives regarding conservation be welcomed.
- h) That unresolved issues in relation to the lease in this area be resolved as soon as possible.
- i) Concern regarding the omission of cycling throughout the document and a request that an access study be undertaken in respect of provision for cyclists.

23. BID FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTS SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL DEMONSTRATION TOWN INITIATIVE

[Mark Strong declared an interest in this item in respect of his work for English Regional Cycle Development Team].

23.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment setting out the reasons for the initiative, the requirements that bidders need to fulfil and the principles that would be included in a bid for the city (for copy see minute book).

23.2 **RESOLVED** – To note the report.

24. DRAFT CONSULTATION PAPER ON NEW PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 7 (PPS7) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS

24.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment consulting Members on the changes proposed in the draft Consultation Paper on a new Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS7) - Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (for copy see minute book).

24.2 **RESOLVED** - (1) That the changes and implications outlined in the report be noted.

(2) That recommendations to the Environment Committee include the following views of the Sustainability Commission:

'In respect of the draft consultation paper on new planning policy statement 7 (PPS&) the Sustainability Commission:

- a) Welcomes the statement, particularly objective (iv) '*...to promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors... etc.*'
- b) Supports, in principle, the points raised in relation to **Farm Diversification** but requests that more imaginative ways of re-using farm buildings are considered and that the link between the urban and rural economies and communities are considered.
- c) Supports, in principle the points raised in relation to **Tourism & Leisure**, noting that the '*conversion of suitable existing rural buildings to provide hotel and other serviced accommodation should be allowed where these uses can be justified.*'
- d) Notes the lack of comment regarding affordable housing for local communities and workers.
- e) In respect of **Buildings in the Countryside**, the Commission welcomes the proposal to remove the specific policy exception in paragraph 3.21 of PPG7, which allows large, high quality houses to be built in the open countryside (4.8 of report).

The meeting concluded at

Signed

Chair

This

day of

2003