

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

26 MAY 2004

5.00 P.M.

COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

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

Councillor Mitchell attended for Item 7 on the agenda.

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

PART 1

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1A Declaration of Substitutes

1A.1 There were no substitute members.

1B Declaration Of Interests

1B.1 There were no declarations of members' interests.

1C Exclusion Of Press And Public

1C.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.

1C.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the agenda.

2. CONVENOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 The Convenor advised that a meeting of the Food Partnership had taken place on 25 May 2004. The Food Strategy and Action Plan for

Brighton & Hove (for copy see Minute Book) was attached for a preview but was not quite ready to release for consultation and therefore would be on the next agenda for discussion. There was a short discussion where Members suggested that officers should write on behalf of the Commission to relevant bodies requesting tax relief for producers/growers of organic produce with a view to reducing the price for consumers. Members also considered that locally-caught fresh fish should be better promoted. The Convenor suggested that these issues could be taken up in the general discussion.

2.2 The Convenor confirmed that an item relating to the King Alfred site would appear on the next agenda.

2.3 "Bike Week" would start at 8.00 a.m. on 17 June with a cycle ride from The Level to Lewes.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

3.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2004 be agreed.

4. SUSTAINABILITY TEAM - FUNDING SUCCESSES

4.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment informing of two recent funding successes that involved significant input from the Council's sustainability team (for copy see minute book).

4.2 A member requested that all schools should be encouraged to implement school travel plans. Officers replied that the information document was currently being updated with a view to this.

4.3 A member of the public stated that money should be made available to make all schools eco-schools and requested secure cycle racks at Falmer School. The Convenor advised that government funding was being put into the Travel to School Project.

4.4 **RESOLVED** – To congratulate Kim Jackson from the sustainability team in securing major funding for these two initiatives.

5. SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLANS 2004 - 2006

5.1 The Commission considered a report of the Chief Executive concerning ten Sustainability Action Plans to cover 2004 - 2006 and the progress report on these actions so far. The Chief Executive attended the meeting to present this item and respond to questions.

5.2 Members raised various concerns relating to the provision of cycle racks at council buildings and facilities, children's access to garden and

recreation space, and school grounds. They were concerned that although Environment Committee had resolved that Sports and Recreation was a planning issue, it was not referred to in the Action Plans. The Chief Executive confirmed that it would appear in future Plans.

5.3 Members noted that there were cross cutting themes such as air quality, energy and natural environment, and queried the extent to which there was integration in the Action Plans. The Commission was informed that integration would be progressed with the development of a cross-departmental team. The Convenor welcomed the report and agreed that whilst there had been significant progress there was a clear need to think ahead with a view to integrating departmental plans.

5.4 **RESOLVED** – (1) The Commission welcomed the Action Plans and progress towards integration .

(2). The Commission to monitor and be actively involved in the progress of these action plans and the next phase of integration.

6. RECYCLING AT MAJOR EVENTS

6.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment concerning plans to introduce recycling facilities at city events (for copy see minute book).

6.2 Officers reported that, at the event on 8 May, there was an internal misunderstanding and confusion about the supply of recycling bins on the spectator side of the event and therefore no recycling was carried out on the spectator side. However approximately 60% of waste was recycled behind the scenes/stage. The next event would be Party in the Park and it was hoped that Southern FM would advise the public in advance that the recycling facilities should be used. The Convenor requested officers to produce a press release if the event proved to be sustainable. A member of the public stated that people attending Pride in 2003 had not only left Preston Park untidy but also the beach and city centre and that this should be addressed with the organisers, with a view to recycling, before the event.

6.3 In response to a member's suggestion that the council should not only require recycling at large events, but also assist small community events to recycle, it was reported this was already done where groups were in receipt of council grants. Also grant conditions required recycling

6.4 In response to members' questions, officers advised that in future the council cleansing contract would require paper-recycling facilities for all of its meeting rooms.

6.5 Following a request from a member of the public, it was agreed that all new leases with traders should require them to provide recycling advice and facilities to the public.

6.6 Officers undertook to contact Councillor Mallender on progress made in persuading local vendors to use compostable maize containers.

6.7 **RESOLVED** (1) To note that recycling facilities will be available at the six events listed in table 1 of the report and to welcome the progress made.

(2) A press release to be issued on sustainability at Party in the Park.

(3) Future leases and lease renewals with traders to require them to provide recycling advice and facilities to the public.

7. DEALING WITH WASTE - PRESENTATIONS AND INFORMATION

7A. Kerbside Recycling Expansion 2004/005

7.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment that outlined the current performance of the council's recycling service and detailed the plans in place to develop and improve that service in 2004/05 (for copy see minute book).

7.2 Councillor Mitchell made a presentation (Appendix A). She stated that £2.7 million had been allocated for kerbside recycling and that Brighton & Hove Council needed to recycle 30% of waste to meet its target for 2005/6.

7.3 A member noted that the public would be informed about recycling when the scheme was introduced, but asked how the council intended to inform newcomers to the area thereafter, particularly in blocks of flats or houses divided into bedsits. Councillor Mitchell stated that it would be necessary to remind residents by articles in City News and circulating individual notices about collection days. Officers advised that when direct mail shots were sent out, they indicated on the envelope that they contained information from the council. There were also plans to circulate a calendar of collection dates each year.

7.4 Following members' questions, it was acknowledged that wheelie bins could not be installed in all premises and it would be necessary for officers from Development Control and Housing to consider what could be

done on difficult sites; it must be made possible for everyone to recycle waste.

7.5 **RESOLVED** - To welcome the roll out of the Council's recycling service and the plans to be implemented over the next year to deliver a more sustainable waste service.

7B. Alexander Hodgson - Living Soil

7.6 Alexander Hodgson made a presentation, during which the Living Soil method of turning domestic food waste into compost was demonstrated (see Appendix B). A scheme had been successfully introduced in Hackney with the help of the East London Community Recycling Partnership. Members felt that a similar scheme would have benefits for Brighton & Hove domestic waste service, particularly as putrecibles accounted for the major part of waste. They also hoped that the scheme could eventually be extended to commercial premises.

7C. Charlie Trousdell - T.J. Composting

7.7 Charlie Trousdell made a presentation about T J Composting work at Beddingham (see Appendix C). He stated that the main problem associated with setting up such schemes was public opposition to planning applications. However, he reminded members that the UK had to meet its targets for recycling. It was not always necessary to find a large site; there was scope for large and small scale operations. Members discussed the possibility of introducing composting into the contract with Sita.

7.8 A member of the public requested that those members of the Sustainability Commission who were also members of the Planning Applications Sub-Committee should always check that facilities for refuse/recycling storage and cycle storage were properly installed in completed developments, as these details were often incomplete on the plans submitted to the council.

7.9 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Director of Cityclean be requested to investigate the potential of systems of food composting, with particular reference to small scale community schemes.

(2) That the potential for composting be taken into account in the Farm Review discussions.

8. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2003/04

8.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment on the Commission's principal achievements for the year 2003/4 (for copy see minute book).

8.2 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE -
That the Commission's achievements since May 2003 be recorded.

9. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

9.1 Members noted a report on the recent work of the LSP (for copy see Minute Book). Mark Strong referred to forthcoming changes in the partnership which might mean that it could no longer send a representative to meetings of the Commission. The Convenor thanked him for his participation in meetings and the help he had given the Commission.

9.2 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

The Convenor thanked Martin Warren , who is changing responsibilities, for his work with the Commission and welcomed Estelle Woodcock who would be taking over his tasks.

The meeting concluded at 7.15 pm.

Signed

Chair

This

day of

2004