

City Sustainability Partnership Meeting – 10th May 2010

Hanover Room, Bright helm Centre, North Road, Brighton, BN1 1YD

Members

Public Services

Councillor Gill Mitchell

Councillor Paul Steedman

Councillor Fallon-Khan

Stuart Laing, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) University of Brighton – Chair

Tom Scanlon, Director of Public Health

Alison Hadfield, Eco-schools

Debbie McGuchan, University of Sussex

Business

Jan Jackson – Sussex Enterprise / Business Link

Community and Voluntary Sector

Chris Todd, Friends of Earth – Vice Chair

Vic Else – Brighton and Hove Food Partnership

Mike Creedy – Brighton Peace & Environment Centre

Agencies

Phil Belden – South Downs Joint Committee

Chris Wick – Environment Agency

Others

Marie Harder – University of Brighton

John Patmore – Eco-Logically

Martin Grimshaw – Transition Brighton & Hove

Chris Tomlinson – E.ON

Danny Shaw – E.ON

Tom Chute – 10:10 City Campaign

Ross Gilbert – QED Property

Tom Shaw – Hyde Group

Council Officers

Richard Davies – Project Manager, Major Projects & Regeneration

Lisa Shaw – Policy Development Officer (Local Climate Impact Profile)

Tracey Wallace – Policy Development Officer (Climate Change Action Plan)

Thurstan Crockett – Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy –
Partnership Manager
Catherine Miller – CSP Support Officer (Minutes)

1. Introductions & Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Watkins and Lorraine Bell
- 1.2 A round of introductions was made.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

- 2.1 No nominations for either position had been received.

ACTION – The Partnership decided to postpone the election until the next meeting. Nominations would be sought in the meantime.

3. Minutes and Actions from the previous meeting

- 3.1 Item 5 update, Thurstan Crockett advised the Partnership regarding the appointment of Lisa Shaw as Policy Development Officer. This appointment is for a 12 month period during which time she will be working on Intelligent Commissioning first and then developing a Local Climate Impact Profile, focussing on the climate impact work from November.
- 3.2 Amendment to 8.3, WAG stood for Wildlife Advisory Group rather than 'Action'.

ACTION – To alter the minutes from the previous meeting.

4. E.ON Offshore Wind Farm Presentation

- 4.1 Danny Shaw from E.ON gave a powerpoint presentation detailing E.ON's proposed offshore wind farm project.
- 4.2 Phil Belden inquired as to how the project would connect to the National Grid, and what the implications were in terms of the environmental impact to the city. He was informed that this element of the scheme would involve extensive excavation as an underground cable would have to be laid through a built up area and through the South Downs National Park. The route would be a key consultation issue.
- 4.3 Councillor Steedman noted that project offered potential for the creation of jobs within the region and inquired as to the possible level of employment for local people. DS informed the partners that there would be approximately 100-120 jobs created directly by the E.ON project but there would be further job creation due to secondary service needs needed to support the project.

- 4.4 Gill Mitchell asked which port would probably be used for the project and was informed that this decision was yet to be made and that it was likely to be either Shoreham or Newhaven.
- 4.5 The output levels and efficiency of the proposed generators was queried. DS answered that at full capacity the generators would replace traditional power sources megawatt for megawatt, though as output is governed by wind speed, in real terms this would mean an average output of approximately 10% of total consumption. Marie Harder questioned the suitability of the site for commercial purposes given that output levels are higher in the north of the country.
- 4.6 The partnership agreed that more consideration needed to be given to the various stakeholders affected by the proposal and time should be allocated to further debate the various issues raised. Chris Tomlinson informed the partnership that the communications plan would be made available and that he is now based in Brighton and would be happy to supply further information as required.

ACTION – Members agreed to discuss the proposal again at the September meeting, with particular focus on stakeholder engagement.

5. 10:10 City Campaign

- 5.1 Thurstan Crockett updated the Partnership on the progress of the 10:10 campaign. He stressed the importance of engaging with the mainstream and reported that there had been good feedback and comments regarding the need to signpost initial steps for signing up to the scheme and the potential usefulness of relating the campaign to existing information resources and networks.
- 5.2 Members discussed the need for reliable and current information sources regarding carbon emissions and stressed that the campaign was promoting a more serious understanding of environmental data by the public.

ACTION - CSP members commit to getting their own organisations signed up to 10:10 if they are not already, and consider also signing up as individuals.

6. Seas Conference Feedback

- 6.1 Thurstan Crockett informed the Partnership of the positive feedback regarding the Sustainability Conference, stressing that it had been

very successful and had covered a wide range of environmental topics relating to the sea.

- 6.2 The partnership discussed the potential for the CSP to link-up with the Marine Management Organisation. It was felt that there needed to be more clarity regarding responsibility for marine conservation and how this is affected by the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)

7. Progress Update on the review of the Climate Change Action Plan and results of the Partners Consultation Exercise

- 7.1 Tracey Wallace briefed the partnership regarding the response rate and type of data gathered from the initial survey. There was particular emphasis on the work being done by Blatchington Mill and Brighton and Hove Junior Schools She reported that nine respondents had said they had implemented a travel plan and others reporting that they were looking to reduce travel time.
- 7.2 In the 'Influencing Others' section of the report The University of Brighton and Legal and General were marked out as being particularly involved in various activities.
- 7.3 Responses to the 'Adaptation' section included four positive responses and 10 reported that they had not started. Half the respondents maintained that there was no reason to adapt for climate change whilst 12 thought that they could not have an affect. So this looks an area for more attention.
- 7.4 Responses to Q9, 'What do you have problems with?' of the plan included concerns regarding lack of resources and how to achieve effective waste management and recycling practices.
- 7.5 Tracey Wallace reported to the partnership that a copy of the draft plan introduction had been sent to the working group. Gill Mitchell added that the Climate Change Adaptation Scrutiny Panel Inquiry had met to discuss its input and would be making about 10 recommendations.
- 7.6 Stuart Laing suggested that the Legal and General model could be applied to other businesses.
- 7.7 The partnership discussed the low response rate to the survey and how this would affect the representative nature of the results. Chris Todd suggested that phoning each partner would perhaps have resulted in a larger response rate.

- 7.8 Chris Wick suggested that the plan should include a section regarding water usage and stressed that hot water usage should be of particular importance and that this was often overlooked.
- 7.9 Chris Todd also suggested that there should be a greater link up between planning and transport.
- 7.10 John Patmore suggested that mention should be made regarding HFC's as well as CFC's.

8. Open Market Presentation

- 8.1 Richard Davies from the City Council introduced Tom Shaw from the Hyde Group to give a presentation detailing its proposals for the redevelopment of the Open Market site.
- 8.2 Mike Creedy inquired as to the extent of the increase in size of the footprint of the new open market bid and questioned whether any of the unused buildings around the site could be incorporated. TS informed the Partnership that enquiries had been made regarding disused buildings, but as these are privately owned there was little scope for inclusion apart from the City College building that has been utilised in the proposal.
- 8.3 Mike Creedy inquired whether the site would be gated or could it be left open at night. TS replied that although the Market was intended to have extended opening times, due to security issues it would be impossible to have an unlocked and unattended site. He went on to state that there was scope to use the site to host managed events outside of trading hours.
- 8.4 Chris Todd raised concerns regarding the extent to which the proposal addressed environmental and sustainability factors. He expressed scepticism as to the usefulness of Sedum roofs in encouraging biodiversity, citing the city's planned bid for UNESCO Urban Biosphere status; he stressed the importance of encouraging biodiversity. He also questioned the extent to which the project had considered other factors which would further reduce carbon emissions, such as outside space for drying clothes, rainwater harvesting and the use of photo-voltaic panels. He also voiced concerns regarding appropriate designation of cycle parking spaces and cycle routing. Tom Shaw replied that much had been done to 'green' the site, particularly Francis Street and stated that a landscape artist had been consulted and that this was not a random approach. He also stated that some photo-voltaic panels would be installed but that it was too expensive to include more. Phil Belden commented that the project offered the potential to link, not block,

green sites, i.e. the green corridor leading from Brighton station to The Level.

- 8.5 Councillor Fallon-Khan questioned the level at which sufficient consideration had been given regarding loading and unloading of produce. He voiced concerns that 8 loading bays were not going to be enough and that Francis Street was not of appropriate size or suitability to serve as an access road to the site. He stressed the potential negative impact on carbon emission levels if vehicles were waiting to be loaded or unloaded and stressed that this was a residential area. TS replied that delivery to the site would have to be managed and stated that those traders with a larger volume of deliveries would be located closest to the bays thereby reducing loading / unloading timescales.
- 8.6 Richard Davies stated that the project was only at the pre-planning stage and that the planning committee was not committed therefore members should feel free to contact him by email with concerns and suggestions.
- 8.7 Councillor Paul Steedman said that as a member of the Planning Committee he had noted the details of the scheme but could not comment.

9. One Planet Living Plan Update

- 9.1 The partnership manager explained that the partnership's OPL sub group felt this work needed to be re-tendered. This was agreed. A brief would now be devised and signed off by the sub-group, inviting experienced consultants – including Bioregional consulting – to take work on the Plan forward

ACTION – The City Sustainability Partnership endorses the approach recommended by the sub group and delegates authority to it to agree and send out a brief.

10. New Partnership Support Officer draft work plan

- 10.1 Thurstan Crockett presented a proposed work plan detailing the schedule of tasks to be performed by Catherine Miller during her six month employment as Support Officer for the City Sustainability Partnership.

ACTION – The work plan was agreed with added Equalities Impact Assessment work strand.

11. Any Other Business

- 11.1 Local Area Agreement

- 11.12 The partnership was informed that a sub group would need to be look at this tabled set of key indicators for this financial year. As this was a matter of some urgency, it was suggested to use the same working group that had been formed for the Climate Action Plan.

- 11.2 Wildlife Forum Minutes

- 11.21 These were for noting. It was agreed that members should read the minutes and contact the forum by email if they had any queries or comments.

- 11.3 Dates of future partnership business.

- 11.31 Chris Todd informed the partnership of the Sustainable Community Strategy Launch which is due to be held on Wednesday the 19th May 2010, 8.30am at The Metropole Hotel, Brighton. All invited.

- 11.32 He also updated members of the progress of the UNESCO Urban Biosphere bid. He informed them that they were waiting for confirmation but that a visit from representatives of MAB (Man and Biosphere), who asses bids for Biosphere status, was likely in June and that he would report back to members at the next meeting in July.

ACTION – Members agreed to change the date of the September CSP meeting from the 6th of September to the 13th September.

- 11.34 Next meeting: **Monday July 5th, 5.30pm, Hanover Room, Brighthelm Centre.**