

## Notes of City Sustainability Partnership Meeting – 10 September 2012

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

Present:

### *Public Services:*

Alistair Hill – Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust (AH)  
Councillor Lizzie Deane – Brighton & Hove City Council (LD) substituting for Pete West  
Councillor Ollie Sykes – Brighton & Hove City Council (OS)  
Dan Danahar, Dorothy Stringer School (DD)  
Patrick Pica, University of Sussex (PP)  
Will Clark – Sussex Community NHS Trust (WC)  
Zoe Osmond – University of Brighton (ZO)

### *Community and Voluntary Sector:*

Cat Fletcher – CVSF Environmental Rep - Waste Advisory Group (CF)  
Chris Todd – CVSF Environmental Rep – **Chair** (CT)  
Roger Carter – Brighton & Hove's Wildlife Forum (RC)

### *Agencies:*

Chris Wick – Environment Agency (CW)  
Phil Belden – South Downs National Park Authority (PB)

### *Business*

Charles Kingsley – Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce (CK)  
Danni Craker, Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce (DC)  
Damian Tow – Sustainable Energy Working Group (DT)  
Tony Mernagh, Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership (TM)

### *Brighton & Hove City Council Officers:*

Dean Austyn – Performance Analyst (DA)  
Geoff Raw – Strategic Director - Place (GR)  
Sarah Jones – Senior Support Officer – **Meeting notes** (SJ)  
Steve Foster – Project Manager (SF)  
Simon Newell – Head of Partnerships & External Relations (SN)  
Thurstan Crockett – Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy – **Partnership Manager** (TC)

### *Observers included:*

Christine Gent – Brighton & Hove Fairtrade Steering Group (CG)  
Elona Hoover - University of Brighton (EH)  
Mike Creedy – Starlings Housing Trust & Magpie Co-operative  
Nicola Gunstone – Eco Technology Show  
Susie Howells – Greenmetrics (SH)  
Tom Chute – Brighton & Hove 10:10 (TCh)

## **I. Apologies**

I.1 Apologies were received from councillors Denise Cobb, Gill Mitchell and

Pete West of Brighton & Hove City Council; Vic Borrill, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership & Vice-Chair; Stuart Derwent, Brighton & Hove's Wildlife Forum; and Mark Brunet, Blatchington Mill School.

- 1.2 Chair passed on to the meeting a message from Stuart Derwent, that he would be standing down from his role as representative of Brighton & Hove's Wildlife Forum on the Partnership. Chair expressed his thanks and those of the whole Partnership to Stuart, for all his work on the CSP.

## **2. Minutes and Actions from the last meeting**

- 3.5 AH advised that this minute was inaccurate and should be reworded: "...AH confirmed that Sam Rouse of the council's Air Quality Team had contributed to the JSNA." **Action: SJ to amend the minutes of the last meeting accordingly.**

- 4.9 Action completed: TC will advise the One Planet Living Board of the CSP members' request that development funding be made available to city leads for SAP work, in a similar way to the Big Lottery bid preparation.

- 4.10 **Action carried forward: TC will circulate the OPL Board Terms of Reference and the Bioregional paper outlining 10 key milestones to endorsement, which include community engagement and participation.**

- 4.11 Action completed: SJ will make Middlesbrough and Sutton councils' Sustainability Action Plans available on the CSP web page.

- 4.12 Action completed: In response to a question from ZO, TC will check with BioRegional if they have modelling tools like the Carbon Trust's and if they will be ranking the effectiveness of the Sustainability Action Plan against those of the other boroughs. Thurstan had found that there was none.

## **3. Air quality in Sussex & actions to improve it**

- 3.1 Nigel Jenkins (NJ) of the Sussex Air Quality Partnership (Sussex-Air) presented on air quality in Sussex and actions to improve it. Of concern to partners were levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and fine particulates (PM10 and PM2.5) and the possibility of government fines for poor air quality. NJ flagged up NO<sub>2</sub> and ozone as of particular concern to the city. The presentation was to be made available on the CSP page on the council website.

- 3.2 AH asked if there was a benefit to raising awareness of air quality in Brighton & Hove and if so how to communicate this. NJ is awaiting evidence from the Health Authority demonstrating the extent of the link between public health and poor air quality.

- 3.3 CK asked if Sussex-Air's work made a difference. NJ confirmed that Environment Agency data showed major improvement in air quality in the

region, although ozone remains difficult to tackle. In Brighton & Hove NO<sub>2</sub> emissions had not reduced; however as more, new low emissions vehicles come onto the roads NJ believed that reductions would begin to be seen.

- 3.4 CF asked for an overview of the success of the partnership. NJ felt there was room for improvement. The Sussex-Air website shows real-time data [www.sussex-air.net](http://www.sussex-air.net)
- 3.5 CT asked why PM10 is not on Sussex-Air's radar for Brighton & Hove, particularly as modelling done around London Road when road layouts were changed highlighted particulates would become a problem. NJ said that PM10 levels tend to follow NO<sub>2</sub>, although not always, and that their sites in the city for measuring PM10 do not demonstrate levels of concern. CT pointed out that the particulates monitoring was being done on section of road that was more open.
- 3.6 OS asked if the city can reach air quality limits by 2013.

#### 4. **One Planet Living Sustainability Action Plan**

- 4.1 TC updated the partnership on the One Planet Living draft Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). (Presentation was available on the website.)
- 4.2 DT asked how the £250k One Planet Living funding had been spent. TC advised that the OPL Board had decided to prioritise only projects essential for the endorsement of the SAP, specifically water metering and energy surveys. Other bids would be commissioned once the draft SAP had been completed and the gap analysis done.
- 4.3 CF asked if the action plans fit with the Future Cities bid. GR confirmed he is focusing on achieving endorsement first and foremost, but the draft SAP would be available to consultants.
- 4.4 Consultation period would be at least 12 weeks starting in December 2012.
- 4.5 PB counselled that drawing together political consensus was key to the process.

#### 5. **CSP meeting days and times**

- 5.1 SJ asked members for their views on the proposal to change the meeting weekday and time.
- 5.2 Members agreed that they would like the meeting to fall on a Thursday from 5pm-7pm.
- 5.3 **Action: SJ to schedule meetings for the period January to May 2013, to fall on a Thursday from 5pm-7pm.** Meetings for the period June-December 2013 will be arranged once the 2013-14 council calendar is published.

- 5.4 AH left the meeting.
6. **CSP induction sessions**
- 6.1 TC gave feedback from the discussions at the induction sessions he held in August 2012 for most recently joined members of the partnership. Five key recommendations came out of these discussions.
- 6.1.1 A key recommendation was to change the CSP meeting day and time. New arrangements are discussed in point 5 of these minutes. This was agreed by CSP members.
- 6.1.2 A key recommendation was for Chairs to re-issue the Big Asks to Strategic Director, Place. This was agreed by CSP members. **Action: SJ to upload Big Asks to council website.**
- 6.1.3 A key recommendation was for CSP to set up a sub-group to develop a new partnership work programme and consider a themed meeting. This was agreed by CSP members.
- 6.1.4 A key recommendation was for CSP to set up a sub-group to set up a Health & Sustainability Working Group. This was agreed by the CSP members and would be a focus for the next partnership meeting.
- 6.1.5 A key recommendation was to recommend to BHSP that other partnerships and bodies run induction sessions for new/recent members. **Action: TC to feedback to B&HSP and raise with Simon Newell.**
- 6.2 Participants in the induction meetings came up with other suggestions and ideas for the CSP to consider:
- 6.2.1 Gather information on and work with other Sussex sustainability organisations and people, especially for cross-boundary work such as the Biosphere Reserve. **Action: SJ to research and report back.**
- 6.2.2 Move the city towards sustainable tourism; consultation on the eco tourism strategy was suggested. TM counselled defining the concept of eco tourism first. **Action: MP to get more information on this for the partnership.**
- 6.2.3 Focus more on developing programmes and projects for implementation, rather than plans, strategies and consultation work, as a practical way of supporting the Big Asks. **Action: Chairs to consider, and discuss with GR.**
- 6.2.4 PP suggested CSP members contribute more to agenda setting,

with a work programme to theme meetings. **Action: SJ to set up a meeting for WC, PP, TC, CK, ZO, CF, DT.**

6.2.5 Develop a project to spread environmental management in city businesses. **Action: TC to raise with GR and Cheryl Finella, Economic Development Manager, Brighton & Hove City Council.**

6.2.6 Request for shorter agenda and fewer papers. **Action: TC to discuss with Chairs and work programme sub-group.**

6.3 Further to minutes 6.2.4 and 6.2.5 above, CK asked if the partnership could meet to develop a strategic work plan and focus on its delivery, meeting at longer intervals. He agreed to join the work programme group meeting.

6.4 Further to setting up a Health & Sustainability working group in the city (minute 6.1.5 above), WC offered to ask the NHS national Sustainable Development Unit to present to the next meeting. **Action: Chairs to consider this proposed agenda item for the next meeting on 12 November 2012.**

6.5 Councillor Ollie Sykes left the meeting.

## 7. Updates and Information

### 7.1 CSP constitutional position re City Council

7.1.1 SN advised that the CSP on the advantages to remaining as part of the local authority's constitution:

7.1.1.1 help to achieve consensus on local authority priorities;

7.1.1.2 support and resource for partnership from local authority.

7.1.2 SN recommended that the partnership remained in the local authority's constitution and **this was agreed.**

### 7.2 Biosphere Reserve

7.2.1 CT advised that there would be a consultation on the strategy before the bid was submitted to UNESCO. This would run from January to April 2013.

### 7.3 Waste Advisory Group

7.3.1 Personnel on this group as changed, a new lead is being sought and therefore the group has not met for a while. This group may now become a delivery group for the Waste and Materials OPL Action Plans, meeting quarterly and with a focus.

## **7.4 Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum**

- 7.4.1 The last meeting of the BHWF was on 21.03.12 and a copy of the minutes was sent to the meeting.
- 7.4.2 BHWF had organised a photo exhibition in Booth Museum in September.
- 7.4.3 BHWF had contributed to the LBAP consultation and requested plain language. Their request for the consultation to be extended to key stakeholders was acted upon.
- 7.4.4 BHWF has concerns about the environmental impact of the proposed community orchard at Whitehawk and the sustainability of the development of Toad Hole Valley.

## **7.5 Sustainable Energy Working Group**

- 7.5.1 SEWG has circulated their carbon plan for comment.

## **7.6 Economic Strategy Refresh**

- 7.6.1 £20k contract to refresh strategy to achieve a low carbon economy based on OPL principles. The City Investment prospectus, an online resource, will be available by October 2012.

## **7.7 Fairtrade Steering Group**

- 7.7.1 EH has input to the SAP section on Equity and Local Economy outlining a 3 year plan. She advised that resource would be needed to enable the B&HFSG to undertake any of the actions proposed.
- 7.7.2 CG invited all present to B&HFSG's Annual General Meeting on 19 September.

## **8 AOB**

### **8.1 Volks Solar Trees project**

- 8.1.1 SH and TCh asked the CSP for a letter of support to their funding application to turn the Volks Railway into the world's first solar powered railway. The aim is to deliver a high profile demonstration project, which will engage schools and colleges and stimulate the tourist trade and the environmental industries sector. They are developing plans in partnership with Toni Manuel, the council's Seafront Development Manager.
- 8.1.2 In response to a question from the Chair they confirmed that funding is not available to extend the track although this may well be a possible later development.

- 8.1.3 In response to a question from PB they confirmed that the businesses in the vicinity would not be receiving solar energy from the array supplying the track. SH and TCh reported overwhelming support for the project from traders in the Madeira Drive area and SH will be encouraging those businesses to take up renewable energy options.
- 8.1.4 CF and DD commended the educational aspect of the project, particularly the planned classroom on the train.
- 8.1.5 **CSP members agreed to write a letter of support for the bid.**
- 8.2 TM left the meeting.
- 8.3 **Council tax support consultation**
  - 8.3.1 CSP members were invited to submit their views on a preferred Council Tax support scheme for Brighton & Hove – the Brighton & Hove Low Income Discount Scheme. The consultation had been extended to 5 October 2012.
- 8.4 **Elections for CSP Chairs**
  - 8.4.1 Elections will take place at the next meeting on 12 November 2012.
  - 8.4.2 Chair invited members to put their names forward or nominate another member for the election of one Chair and two Vice Chairs.
  - 8.4.3 **Action: TC to circulate details of the role and information on how to nominate.**
- 8.5 **Future Cities bid**
  - 8.5.1 GR briefed members on the bid. GR briefed members on the Future Cities bid. The council had secured £50k funding for a feasibility study to be submitted by 14.11.12. This will support a bid for £25m for Future Cities funding.
  - 8.5.2 The council had invited submissions of proposals for integrating city systems for projects of any value and had many expressions of interest. Project ideas will be kept for future use if the bid if unsuccessful.
- 8.6 **Waste house project**
  - 8.6.1 CF briefed the meeting on a cross sector (public, private and third sector), fully funded project to build a house out of waste on the

University of Brighton campus off Grand Parade near the Sallis Benny Theatre. The finished structure will be used as a community centre; it will have thermal and sustainable qualities that will be monitored and modified as necessary over time. The construction will be filmed for a television programme.

**The next City Sustainability Partnership meeting will be held on 12 November 2012 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm in Committee Room 1, Brighton Town Hall, Bartholomew Square, Brighton BN1 1JA.**