

Notes of City Sustainability Partnership Meeting – 22 January 2014

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

Present:

Public Services:

Becca Melhuish, University of Brighton
Mark Brunet, Blatchington Mill School
Susie Vernon, Sussex Community NHS Trust

Community and Voluntary Sector:

Cat Fletcher, Community Works (CF)
Chris Todd, Community Works. Chair (CT)
Robert Stephenson, Community Works
Roger Carter, Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum (RC)
Vic Borrill, Food Partnership, Vice Chair (VB)

Business Sector:

No attendees.

Brighton & Hove City Council:

Councillor Ollie Sykes (OS)
Councillor Pete West (PW)
Councillor Tony Janio (TJ)
Dean Austyn, Performance Analyst (DA)
Jeremy Dresner, Carbon Management Project Officer
Sarah Jones, administrator and note taker (SJ)
Thurstan Crockett, partnership manager (TC)

Observers

Conor Moloney, BioRegional
Henry Unwin, BioRegional
Siobhan Wilson, Fairtrade Steering Group (SW)

Presenter

Rachel Espinosa, Re-Consult (RE)

1. Introductions and Apologies

- 1.1 Chris Todd welcomed the new members to the Partnership.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Zoe Osmond, University of Brighton; Nick Hibberd and Geoff Raw, Brighton & Hove City Council; Damian Tow, Sustainable Energy Working Group; and Will Clark, Sussex Community NHS Trust.

2 Minutes and Actions from last meeting

- 2.1 The Minutes of the last meeting on 21 November 2013 were approved.

- 2.2 The Chair went through updates on the following actions from the last meeting:
- 3.4 NH to advise LEP members of CSP's concern at the decision not to include CVSF representation in the consultation with area partners. This had been done.
 - 3.10 TC to draft CSP response to LEP consultation. PB, JC, CT, OS, and HW to feed into the draft response to TC; and CT to submit it. This had been done.
 - 5.2 ZO to ask University colleagues for an update on the University of Brighton's Thermal Energy storage project. This had been done, though the details were still not available.
 - 6.2.4 **Action: DA and TC to present Sustainability Action Plan projects' performance against KPIs at a following meeting.**
This was carried forward to the next meeting.

3 Election of Partnership Chair and Vice Chairs

- 3.1 TC advised members that he had received two nominations in the election. One was for Chris Todd as Chair and the other was for Vic Borrill as Vice Chair. Both were duly re-elected.
- 3.2 TC advised members that there was still one Vice Chair post vacant. He asked for nominations from all sectors. CF nominated herself and she was duly elected with members' agreement.
- 3.4 VC and CT were thanked for their commitment and CF for stepping forward.

4 Anaerobic digestion project feasibility study – presentation

- 4.1 RE presented to members on the above. The presentation was to be made available on the CSP page of the council website.
- 4.2 The study had calculated that approximately 30,000 tonnes of food waste from the business and public sector were produced every year. This figure was projected to increase to 52,000 tonnes p.a. by 2033.
- 4.3 The next step of the project was to produce a fully costed business plan. There was a suggestion that maybe a smaller pilot might be a good way of testing the market and business model, before going for a large and expensive set-up.
- 4.4 RE would check the statistical data backing up the study's modelling of growth at 0.5% p.a. **Action: SJ to ask RE to update her presentation if necessary for the CSP webpage.**

5 Waste House update

- 5.1 CF updated members on the history and progress of the Waste House being constructed at Grand Parade in Brighton. It was very well received and Cat was congratulated on her efforts, which she had often carried out for little or no reward.

6 Sussex Energy Savers Partnership (SESP) Green Deal update

- 6.1 TC spoke to members about the SESP Green Deal update report submitted by Miles Davidson of Brighton & Hove City Council.
- 6.2 He drew members' attention to points 3.1 to 4.2: the council is an affiliate partner and will provide homes; local jobs will be provided via Carillion; programme will focus on public and commercial buildings at first. The Green Deal offer depends on government policy changes.

7 Updates

7.1 Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum

- 7.1.1 B&HWF had provided minutes of their latest meeting on 03.12.13.
- 7.1.2 Dave Larkin was invited to attend B&HWF meetings on behalf of the council starting 2014.
- 7.1.3 The forum wanted to see mapping of planned food growing on uncultivated sites. VB advised that landowners decided what would be grown and supplied.
- 7.1.4 RC expressed the Forum's concern about the increase in dog mess in the city's parks which was perceived to be a result of professional dog walkers. PW advised that dog walking agencies signed up to a voluntary code of conduct. It was agreed that evidence collection to present to council would be valuable; RC would take this suggestion back to BHWF.

7.2 City Plan – Planning Inspector's initial conclusions

- 7.2.1 Planning Inspector had ruled that because the number of proposed houses in the City Plan fell well short of the 20,000 homes that were needed in the city, more effort needed to be made to find more. The only way of meeting this shortfall would be to significantly increase the density of existing housing estates and / or develop the urban fringe.. Concern was expressed about the impact of this and re-convening the partnership's Sustainable Cities Working Group to look into the alternatives was suggested. It was agreed that this would be a good idea.

Action: CT/TC to liaise with City Planning to re-convene a meeting of the SCWG to look at opportunities within and

around the city and the impact this would have. There would also be a look at how the housing need figures are calculated. Partners will be invited to engage in this process.

7.3 Fair Trade Steering Group

- 7.3.1 SW advised that Fair Trade Steering Group's recent work had included the Christmas Fairtrade Trail in November 2013, promoting Fair Trade products on sale across a range of outlets in Brighton & Hove.
- 7.3.2 SW advised members about a forthcoming debate on The Fashion Revolution and Rana Plaza – the eight storey building in Bangladesh which collapsed in April 2013, killing more than 1,100 workers and injuring 2,000 more. The panel would discuss how the disaster had happened and how to prevent similar disasters in the future.
- 7.3.3 Fair Trade Fortnight was planned for 24 February – 9 March 2014. There would be an exhibition at Jubilee Library looking at how Brighton & Hove is engaging with Fair Trade.
- 7.3.4 SW expressed the Steering Group's concern that locally, non-food Fair Trade businesses seem to be relatively unknown and asked for suggestions on how to promote them. It was suggested they use positive mainstream media and engage with those who are not environmentally conscious.

7.4 Sussex Energy Working Group

- 7.4.1 TC reported on behalf of DT.
- 7.4.2 Brighton Energy Co-op has concluded research and produced a financial model to support a proposed community owned anaerobic digester based in a shipping container. The capital cost was about £250,000.

7.5 Sustainable Community Strategy – Summary Introduction

- 7.5.1 The Summary had been circulated before the meeting for members' information.
- 7.5.2 CT advised that the Partnership had not been involved with the drafting of the summary of the SCS before it was agreed at the last LSP meeting. He emphasised that One Planet Living principles should be embedded in the strategy. **Action: CT asked members to provide any feedback to him, by the end of the evening.**

8 **Any Other Business**

- 8.1 Biosphere update: CT advised members of the timeline until decision: UNESCO will request any more information they require by the end of March; the decision on whether the area would be granted Biosphere status would be announced in Sweden on the 11th or 12th June 2014.
- 8.2 TJ advised members that he had been made the Woodland Trust's Tree Champion for the city. **Action: members with ideas for tree planting sites in the city to contact TJ.**
- 8.3 VB advised members that Spades & Spoonfuls was now available. This was a publication setting out the Food Partnership's progress over the past 18 months.

Next meeting: 6th March 2014, 5pm-7pm in Committee Room 1, Brighton Town Hall