

City Sustainability Partnership Meeting - Monday 23 February 2009

Jury's Inn, 101 Stroudley Road, Brighton

Public Services:

Councillor Denise Cobb – **Vice Chair**

Councillor Paul Steedman

Councillor Cllr David Watkins

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

Alison Hadfield – Eco Schools

Business

Eleanor Bell – Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership

Jan Jackson – Sussex Enterprise/Business Link

Thea Allison – Brighton & Hove Business Community Partnership

Community and Voluntary Sector

Chris Todd, Friends of the Earth – **Vice Chair**

Jacqui Cuff – Transition Brighton & Hove

Mike Creedy – Brighton Peace & Environment Centre

Vic Else, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

Angela Marlow – Brighton & Hove Wildlife Advisory Group

Agencies

Chris Wick – Environment Agency

Partnership manager

Thurstan Crockett, Head of Sustainability

Meeting notes

Amanda Fletcher, Senior Support Officer, Sustainability

1. Apologies

Jane Simmons, Lorraine Bell, Phil Belden, Cllr Mitchell, Sharon Philips

2. Minutes and Actions from the previous meeting

2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

2.2 Two induction sessions had been held. A small group of people are still due to have an induction session and should contact Thurstan to arrange.

2.3 **Action:** Simon Newell to send the CSP members the targets outlined in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Thurstan to progress this.

2.4 The first draft of the One Planet living plan had been circulated to the CSP for comment. CSP feedback has been passed to Bioregional and they are preparing a second draft, which would come back to the partnership.

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3. Future CSP meeting dates

- 3.1 **Action:** CSP members to note the amended dates for future meetings, all at Jurys Inn:

5.30 – 7.30pm	Monday 6 April
6 – 8pm	Monday 18 May followed by a social event*
5.30 – 7.30pm	Monday 29 June
5.30 – 7.30pm	Monday 7 September
5.30 – 7.30pm	Monday 19 October
5.30 – 7.30pm	Monday 30 November
5.30 – 7.30pm	Monday 18 January 2010

Please note: exact timings may vary depending on room availability. The CSP will not now be meeting in August as a number of people would be away.

- 3.2 **Action:** There will be a social event after the CSP meeting on Monday 18 May thanks to a kind offer by Jan Jackson to provide wine/refreshments. Please contact Thurstan if you have any ideas for the social.

4. Draft Sustainable Community Strategy consultation response

- 4.1 The CSP sub-group met twice to consider the draft Sustainable Community Strategy consultation. Thank you to all who were involved. Comments from the CSP reflect the breadth of topics and priorities and will inform the consultation document. Additional comments from today's CSP meeting will be added to the CSP response to the consultation document.

Action: CSP members to email Thurstan with any additional/more detailed comments by Tuesday 3 March. Thurstan to circulate the full draft response to all members in advance of the final submission deadline (now 13 March).

The revised version of the whole strategy (first draft of the refresh) will go out for a 12-week consultation, so there will be further opportunity for the CSP to comment.

4.2 Comments at the CSP meeting on the draft Sustainable Community Strategy consultation

- **Restructuring the themes**

CSP sub group agreed that the consultation document should be restructured to reflect the changed sustainability priorities. For example, climate change to be brought forward as a key issue, with other themes to flow into it. Climate change could be split into two sections, one focussing on emissions and the other about living with a changed climate. Consider links to eco-schools programme.

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- **Clarity of message and language**

Important to strike a balance between outlining the issues as they relate to climate change and making the Sustainable Community Strategy easy to understand by a general audience.

Need to encourage people to take ownership of environmental issues.

Ensure consistency with national policy and five principles of sustainable development.

- **Bold statements – Brighton & Hove an exemplar city?**

e.g. 'why should Brighton & Hove cut carbon emissions if we are only responsible for 2% of emissions?'

The 2% figure is based on emissions produced in the UK, but if you consider embedded emissions for products and services produced elsewhere then the figure is much higher.

Action: Thurstan to remove this 2% mention.

Brighton & Hove should state its current performance i.e. we have a much larger ecological footprint than other cities in the UK.

The Institute of Development Studies & Sussex University lead the way on initiatives for sustainable power in developing countries.

Need to have strong branding as an eco-city or exemplar.

- **Links to other strategies and targets**

Need for clear signposting from the Sustainable Community Strategy to other strategies and targets. Bioregional are to send targets for 2012-13.

Action: TC to send draft targets page to the CSP group for comment.

4.3 **Transport**

- Look at transport in terms of meeting needs, rather than in the traditional categories of bus, rail, bicycle etc.
- Travel plan partnership.
- Emerging LDF – links to core strategy.
- Need stronger links with planning, designing urban space is an equalities issue as space planned for children and people with mobility issues is good for everyone.

5. **Sustainability issues for business**

5.1 **Sustainability guidelines for small businesses?**

Retailers in the city are facing challenges especially in the current economic climate. Small retail businesses are often not well connected to the internet and it can be difficult to reach them to give information and change behaviours. There's an opportunity to offer very simple tools that organisations can use to become more sustainable, for example, standard text to include in contracts to ensure sound environmental policies. Need to communicate the business benefits of improved sustainable practice such as cost savings, improvement in staff retention and morale and good reputation. These

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messages should be conveyed in an easy to understand way and using plain English.

5.2 **Can or How can the CSP add value to businesses?**

The CSP should be prescriptive so that businesses have a model to follow. Business community partnership offers space to network, shared value system. Need to support businesses by creating more of these spaces. There may be an opportunity to incorporate sustainability themes into the business support package 'business lifebelt'. Business link goes into businesses and advises them – the baseline is an environmental review – but this relies on businesses putting themselves forward.

5.3 There was need in the economy section of the response to cover fair shares/equalities agenda/distribution of wealth. Businesses work to create opportunities.

5.4 There are opportunities for the CSP to champion the city's Social Enterprise Strategy.

6. **Wildlife Advisory Group** – the group received a presentation from Angela Marlow, Brighton & Hove Wildlife Advisory Group.

6.1 Angela described the role of the WAG and its relevance to the CSP. She highlighted the role of green infrastructure and the multiple benefits it conveys such as opportunities for education and awareness raising, green spaces for local people and the formation of green corridors for species movement.

Action: Bring actions/minutes to the CSP group.

Action: The 'Sustainability Pioneer' scheme for businesses is being run by Business Link and Sussex Wildlife Trust. If any of the group know a business that would be interested in becoming a sustainability pioneer please contact Jan Jackson on janjackson@businesslinksussex.co.uk

7. **Strategies and consultation programme draft**

Additional strategies:

Biodiversity Action Plan

Review of local transport plan

Rights of way improvement plan

Urban Biosphere

Water Framework Directive - Draft River Basin Management Plan

Action: Thurstan to research and amend plan. CSP members to email Thurstan details of any other strategies to be added.

8. **Waste issues – preparing for the city council strategy** – this will be carried over as an agenda item for the 18 May or 29 June meeting to coincide with the consultation period.

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9. Any other business

- 9.1 Climate Change Debate as part of Brighton Science Week.
7.30pm on 25 February in Friends Centre, Brighton.
- 9.2 Transition talk and discussion, 'Building more resilient local economies'
7pm on 26 February at the Brighthelm Centre, Brighton.

