York Climate Commission

Trustee Group Meeting – Minutes

Wednesday 14 October 2026, 18.00-20.00, Patch, York

Present

Jennifer Potter (Co-chair); Henrietta (Hetty) Stock (Co-chair); Vicky Blakey-Archer (Trustee); Will McDonald (Trustee); Peter York (Trustee); Ollie Brown (Trustee); Marco Sakai (Trustee).

Apologies

Eugenia Obeng-Akrofi (Trustee)

1. Welcome and Check-in

Each attendee spoke briefly to how they were arriving.

2. Co-chair update

Hetty provided an update across the key activities of the commission:

- Application for charity status is still in progress with a projected timeline of January before we hear any feedback on our application from the Charity Commission.
    - Currently there is no Chair of Trustees. At the point of becoming a registered charity we will need to appoint a Chair. There was a discussion of options including that of the Co-chairs becoming Co-Chairs of Trustees. This would not be possible without the Co-chairs becoming Trustees. It was felt that this would be asking too much of the Co-chairs and there was a desire to keep the Chair of Trustees separate, and able to support the Co-chairs.
- The Doughnut Economics strategy workstream is making good progress both with engaging the community on their future vision for York and analysing metrics that represent current status.
    - Hetty explained that on the metrics part of the work, the team have been deliberating whether to select one or two metrics that represent a particular area of the doughnut or whether to take an average of several applicable metrics.
    - Marco offered to provide resource from the university to assist with metric analysis.
    - Marco also reiterated his offer to present on Doughnut Economics for the wider commission members. A date and time is to be arranged.
    - It was suggested that the co-chairs meet with Jenny Kent to discuss engagement with other community groups as she is working on adaptation with sports groups.
- Each of the working groups has been taking forward ideas and activities that fit with the doughnut and with our strategy to champion, collaborate and challenge.
    - Proposed projects have been mapped on to the doughnut.

    - In general, working groups are finding that there are many volunteers on their group mailing lists who don't want, or don't have the time, to take any actions for their group. This is making it challenging to move from talking shop to action.
- The comms working group has disbanded. Unfortunately the lead was unable to continue and the group has struggled to attract volunteers willing to get involved. New roles to lead and be involved in the comms group have been advertised and some applications have been received.
- Meetings have been held with several external stakeholders including Richard Webb, the new CYC Chief Executive and Jane Gibson, the Chair of the Stakeholder Action Group for York Central.
    - The chairs have also been engaged in the various fora organised by the Council although it was noted that the Council have been struggling to convene the City Leaders' Forum.

3. Consultations

- The governance working group successfully organised a YCC response to the YNYCA consultation on their Strategy for a Sustainable Future and expressed a desire to co-ordinate more responses to consultations.
    - This supports our desire to challenge others.
    - We need to understand the process for how we respond and who speaks on behalf of YCC.
    - It was agreed that we should:
        - Keep responses at a strategic level
        - Act as convenors and encourage individual members to respond.
    - The action was agreed to ask the governance group to review historic discussions/consultations and think about how we would have come to a position (the process rather than what the actual position would be).
- The Trustees discussed the need to influence politics earlier in the process rather than only by responding to consultations. The doughnut economics work should help identify areas where we might wish to do this more.

4. Political Changes

- The Trustees discussed the need to ensure the Commission remains politically neutral and ensure its sustainability as an independent body representing York. Will McDonald took the action to think about how the commission might need to prepare for a potential change of council.

5. Comms Messages

- There was a discussion of key comms messages which an agency has offered to turn into social media posts for us.

6. AOB

- The intention is to hold the next YCC Annual Event in the Spring, rather than in the usual January slot. A venue is being sought.
- Future meeting dates – Jennifer and Hetty to circulate.

7. Actions

Owner	Action	Timing
Marco	Identify resource to support the Doughnut Economics team identify the right metrics to use to measure York's current progress.	
Marco	Marco to organise a session on Doughnut Economics for broader YCC.	
Co-chairs	Meet with Jenny Kent	
Hetty	Speak to Katie Thomas (governance working group lead) regarding process to respond to consultations.	
Will McDonald	Think about how we ensure YCC is robust to a change in political leadership at CYC and/or YNYCA.	
Co-chairs	Circulate future meeting dates	