
MEETING	EDIBLE YORK AD HOC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	1 FEBRUARY 2011
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS FUNNELL, D'AGORNE AND GALVIN
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR WAUDBY
IN ATTENDANCE	DAVE MEIGH – HEAD OF PARKS & OPEN SPACES JUDITH WARD – ALLOTMENTS OFFICER LIZZIE FREEMAN – EDIBLE YORK

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Councillor D'Agorne be appointed as Chair of the Edible York Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting, any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on the agenda. The following interests were declared:

- Councillor D'Agorne declared a personal interest as an active volunteer of Edible York.
- Councillor Funnell declared a personal interest as Chair of St Nicholas Fields Environment Centre and an allotment holder at Scarcroft.
- Councillor Galvin declared a personal interest as a member of the Society of York Florists.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there were no registrations to speak under the council's Public Participation Scheme.

4. EDIBLE YORK: "CREATING FOOD GROWING SPACE ACROSS THE CITY" - REMIT, SCOPE AND TIMETABLE

Members received a report that asked them to agree a remit, scope and timetable for the Edible York: "Creating Food Growing Space across the City" Scrutiny Review.

Consideration was given to the Scrutiny Topic Registration Forms that had been submitted by Councillor D'Agorne.

The Head of Parks and Open Spaces outlined some of the initiatives that were already in place in the city, including:

- British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- The Gateway project in Acomb
- York Multicultural

The representative from Edible York gave details of the work that the group was carrying out.

The Allotments Officer updated Members on some of the initiatives that were taking place in schools to promote food growing

Members noted the work that was taking place in Todmorden under the Incredible Edible Todmorden initiative.

The Chair had provided information on Grow Zones prior to the meeting and this had been emailed to Members.

The following comments were made:

- Members agreed that, although there were a number of local organisations who were involved in growing food, a key issue was the need for there to be a co-ordinated approach in terms of raising public awareness of the opportunities that were available. This should include a database of organisations and resources.
- It was noted that the voluntary sector were likely to play an increasingly important role in communities under the “Big Society” initiative but that there were uncertainties regarding funding.
- Members suggested that the council had a role to play in providing information to encourage and facilitate more food growing in the city and that information should be made available on the council’s website.
- It would be helpful if food-growing sites were mapped.
- It was important that the council’s processes were not a barrier to those wishing to participate in food growing. Officers stated that they had received a copy of the document that was used in Todmorden in respect of the licensing of council land for food growing initiatives.
- The representative from Edible York suggested that articles should be included in ward newsletters to promote food-growing initiatives.
- Encouraging children and young people to become involved would be a key factor in increasing food-growing activities and sustaining initiatives in the long term.
- Members agreed that, although concerns had been raised regarding allotment provision, it would not be appropriate to look at these issues as part of the current review.

Aim of the Review

Consideration was given to the aim of the review. It was agreed that the aim should be “To improve how City of York Council supports community food growing”.

Remit of Review

Members considered the remit of the review. The following remit was agreed:

1. To develop an information page on City of York Council's website which provides information and links to organisations involved in food growing initiatives.
2. To identify the barriers to communication between City of York Council and voluntary organisations.
3. To identify potential areas of land in the city suitable for food growing.
4. To consider how best to enable and encourage individuals and groups to grow food.
5. To encourage schools to participate in local food growing initiatives.

Timescale

Members gave consideration to the timescale for carrying out the review. It was agreed that the review should be completed by the end of the municipal year. In order for this to be achieved it was agreed to hold several informal meetings but to which the public would be welcome to attend.

The following initial timescale was agreed:

Date	What will happen	Who will be there
Tuesday 15 February at 10:15am (to be held at St Nicholas Fields if available)	Informal meeting to seek the views of organisations currently involved in food growing.	Invitations to be extended to representatives from groups including: Edible York/Incredible Edible groups British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, St Nicholas Fields, the Gateway Project, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Growzone
Monday 28 February at 2:00 pm.	Discussions with CYC officers	
Tuesday 8 March at 5.00pm	Informal meeting. Formulation of draft recommendations	
Tuesday 22 March at 5:00pm	Formal meeting. Approval of Final Report	

The final report would be considered by the Executive at their meeting on 12 April 2011¹.

RESOLVED: (i) That the objective and remit of the review be as agreed.

(ii) That the timetable for the review be as agreed.

REASON: To progress the review.

Action Required

1. Include item on Forward Plan

TW

Councillor D'Agorne, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 6.45 pm].