

August 2008

www.yorklets.org.uk

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Community Newsletter



YorkLETS AGM 7th July 2008

Eight YorkLETS members attended the Seahorse Hotel for the AGM which was a low number, especially as we had ordered food for a dozen... but it was a good meeting with the usual format for AGMs, starting with a review of the past year by John Cossham, who chaired the meeting. The core-group has become smaller as some members have stood down as they had served the system voluntarily for several years in a row. Longest serving was Ann Ciechanowski, our Yorky accountant, with 8 years... and we all thanked her for her hard work, dedication and good humour. Chrissie Thomas had spent some of the year as our social secretary but left to enjoy motherhood, so we are without a social secretary. Also important for the group to function is a mail-out co-ordinator, which had been Rakesh Aggarwal until he resigned due to pressure of paid work. We thanked Rakesh for his time with the core group.

The AGM saw the following volunteers re-elected: Liz Sibthorpe (to continue with Sterling Accounts); John Cossham (publicity); Stephen Jennison Smith (Membership); Helen Mitchell (will continue to serve, doing directory compilation but after 6 years, would be happy to stand down); David Bellis (Newsletter); and Ben Weaver (Website). Both Adrian Lovett and Will Miles had expressed an interest in joining the core group and were elected onto it subject to their agreement. The core group is now at a minimum number to continue running YorkLETS.

We discussed a number of issues including electronic distribution of literature, which would

make some of the jobs easier, quicker and cheaper. It was decided after a convoluted discussion to go for an opt-into electronic distribution system, with members strongly encouraged to use this format if possible.

There had been a proposal to increase admin fees from Y1 a month to Y2, to help the admin account move out of its huge deficit, but this was rejected and the monthly admin remains the same. However, the annual membership fee is now Y5 or £5.

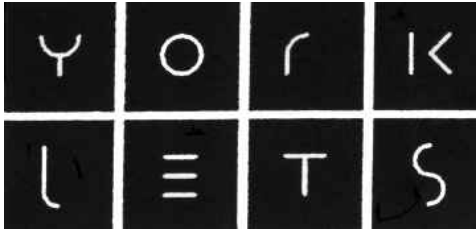
Finally, an old rule was debated, which is that core group members should stand for no longer than 3 consecutive years, and after this time should have at least 1 year 'fallow', allowing 'new blood' to come in and revitalise the group. However, in exceptional circumstances, members could continue if leaving would mean the system closing down.

In 'Any other Business' it was sadly realised that there were not enough volunteers to look after a stall at York Green Festival on 31st August in Rowntree Park, so we won't have a stall.

Ben suggested that to make handing over jobs/roles to new volunteers, a 'standard operating procedure' document could be drawn up, and we agreed to revisit this when we could.

We all enjoyed the food and company and thought it was a good AGM, despite the low turnout and potentially difficult times ahead.

John Cossham



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Core Group

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York In Transition

York In Transition is a new initiative to help the people of York develop resilience to the twin threats of climate change and peak oil. We will be developing solutions to achieve a greener healthier future, and are looking for creative, practical ideas and involvement from people in the York area. The Transition Towns movement started in Kinsale, Ireland, and Totness in Devon and is spreading all over the world, see www.transitiontowns.org. If you would like to be kept informed and become involved, send an email to yorkintransition@talktalk.net and you will receive not more than one email per week.

LETS is one example of how local communities can work together to recycle and reuse items, to make use of local goods and services, cutting 'food miles' and other transport costs, and make things more easily available to those on low incomes, helping to cut poverty and social exclusion. YorkLETS features in the 'mapping' exercise which YiT volunteers are undertaking of existing structures which are part of the solution and can help us move from the current unsustainable situation towards a better one. Please continue to trade using LETS and subscribe to the YiT email list.

John Cossham

Electronic Distribution

If in future you would like to receive your Yorklets literature via email, which would save us time and money, please could you email me at dwfbellis@tiscali.co.uk and let me know. Thanks.

David Bellis

New Yorky Accountant

We are very pleased to announce that we have a new Yorky accountant, who has saved us from having to put the system on 'freeze', which was looking like a distinct possibility recently with our significant losses to the core group. But all is now well and you can send your Yorky checks to Will Miles at: 7 Sutton Way, York, YO30 6JF.

Why not advertise your services in our Newsletter.

Very reasonable rates paid in Yorkys.

Eighth Page Y3
Quarter Page Y5
Half Page Y10