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| **Title:** | **North Yorkshire Reuse Collective initial meeting** |
| **Date** | **Wednesday 18 May 2023** | **Time:** | **9.30 – 11am** |

**Meeting notes**

**Attendees: If you were at the meeting and not listed below as attended or vice versa please advise and we can update the record.**

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| Angela Monaghan | Skipton Library of Things | Lee Wright | Essential Needs |
| Ann Harding | Settle Victoria Hall Ltd | Linda Shipley |  |
| Becci Blues | Community Furniture Stores N Yorks | Lou Smith | Animal Hostel Trust |
| Ben Aitken | Futureworks NY | Matt Fisher | Up For Yorkshire |
|  |  | Michael Bertram | FRADE |
| Carole Roberts | Community First Yorkshire | Michael Fletcher | Community First Yorkshire |
| David Stone | CaVCA | Panda Gledhill | North Yorkshire Youth Ltd |
| Deborah Jaffer | Harrogate Clothes Bank | Paul Norrington | Ryedale Environment Group |
| Emma Teasdale | Circular Coast Clothing  | Su Morgan | Tadcrafters CIC |
| Erin Wheeler | YNY LEP | Tom Clayton | North Yorkshire Coast Methodist Circuit |
| Fiona Protheroe | Craven District Council | Tracey Taylor | Chopsticks (North Yorkshire) Limited |
| Graham Mitchell | Community Furniture Store (Ryedale) Ltd | Philippa Dunn  | Harrogate clothes bank |
| Ian Newman | Ryedale Environment Group | Andrew Riley  | circular Malton and Norton cic |
| Jenny Lowes | North Yorkshire Council | Caroline ONeill | Community First Yorkshire |
| **Apologies**: Lynn Watkinson, Sue Jefferson |
| **Organisation and agreed contacts listed separately at the end of the notes** |

**Meeting Notes**

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| **Item 1: Welcome and Introductions** |
| Caroline O’Neill introduced Becci Blues from Community Furniture Stores and Michael Bertram from FRADE who have been instrumental in getting this meeting off the ground. Caroline, Carole, Stella from Community First Yorkshire introduced themselves. Thanked everyone for finding the time to attend. Attendees introduced themselves in the chat. The meeting was recorded and will be deleted after notes and notes from the chat will be included.Caroline introduced the background of the meeting and talked through the agenda. The topic in terms of economic and community development, with a huge range of reuse activity going on across all NY. Becci and Michael got in touch about bringing people together to look at the scope for a network and see what people would want from such a group. Good to have local authority and Local Enterprise Partnerships here. This is very much an exploratory meeting with discussion groups to come. |

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| **Item 2: Reuse Collective/Network: Context and Benefits** |
| Becci: Chief Officer at Community Furniture Stores in York, Selby and Scarborough, working with reuse for furniture and ITThe context is that about 6 months ago, attended a cost of living summit and discussions came out around the importance of reuse and the balance of this with the cost of living crisis. Lots of good ideas came out in terms of supporting the environment and people, however there were hardly any representation from the reuse community. This led to a need to build better links with people involved in reuse. Michael and Becci are part of a national network ‘Reuse Network’ and felt there would be real value in this at a local level.It feels like there is so much interest in environmental sustainability and supporting people – we should look at how we can do this in different ways. Most importantly, how do we do this in a collaborative way?Longer term goals will also include being able to offer a viable alternative to commercial organisations and to councils etc around procurement. The end goal would be that reuse VCSE organisations can work together to build a credible offer that is better for the environment and is cost effective. |

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| **Item 3: Aims and purpose** |
| Break out rooms: feedback = notes below |

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| **Item 4: Overview of Circular Towns initiative** |
| Erin from York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership presented an overview of the current [**Circular Towns initiative**](https://www.ynylep.com/initiatives/circular-yorkshire). Caroline thanked Erin for an excellent, inspirational talk |

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| **Item 5: Longer Term Aims to Come from Collaboration (whiteboard)** |
| Logistics, Advocacy, Collaborations, Operations – notes below |

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| **Item 6: Next steps and closing**  |
| Michael provided final comments on the meeting:Great to have Jenny and Erin with us today. It is important to ask if there is anything else we would like to achieve that hasn’t been covered. What we hoped to get out of today were the aims and actions – there’s a lot which impacts on the environment but more work to do to connect and collaborate. Many ideas for collaborations are already coming up and it is important to keep the conversation going: focus on collaboration, corroboration and communication.We will try and meet again in next 2 months to keep the energy going.Community First Yorkshire will send out notes, next meeting dates and agreed contacts. They will also look at broad terms of reference for the group. Any actions will be reviewed and followed up.Caroline thanked everyone for time and input and expressed excitement at the appetite for this work.  |
| **AOB** - if anyone has any substantive items please advise before the meeting, please **email Carole**  |
| **Next meeting: Wednesday 19 July 2023 2.30 – 4pm. (virtual)** |

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| **Becci:** | **Carole**  |
| one stop shop for reuse | excess clothing |
| sharing of resources | what are you throwing away |
| collaboration and sharing knowledge | raising awareness |
| sharing ideas | knowledge exchange |
| sharing challenges | circular towns conversation |
| good news stories | our zero Selby |
| NYC waste management | sharing efforts |
| NYC climate change team | learn from each other |
| Comms | how to engage those who don’t engage |
| wider resource | identify triggers barriers to engagement |
| case studies | cost of living crisis |
| knowledge bank | organisational structures and status |
| mentoring | funding |
| upward policy influence | commissioned services |
| wider networks | sustainable organisations |
| need people as well as money |  |
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|  | **Our Zero Selby** |
|  | What We Eat |
|  | How and When We Travel |
|  | What We Buy and Waste |
|  | Buildings We Live In and Buildings We Use |
|  | Our Natural Spaces |

**Break out room: Aims and purpose of a Reuse Network**

**Caroline**Aims

* Act as mentors for one another and share learning, to help new start-ups with guidance and resourcing, specific to particular areas of re-use
* Provide understanding of what is a repair café, library of things, how to identify local skills
* Raise awareness, share good news
* Position the network of organisations as a credible alternative to local authorities and the private sector
* Engage and raise awareness locally with schools, local businesses and communities
* Influence policy, locally and nationally, the network is the place to come to as a body to collate intelligence and provide a voice
* Create a network to share excess items, most charity shops get more items than needed and transferring items would avoid waste
* Handle low value surplus items, such as rags which can be costly to bag but better than going into tips
* Big message about upward policy influence, alongside ground level work.
* Rs - Reuse Repair Recycle
* Cs - Collaborate, Corroborate, Communicate

NYC previously operated Recycling Credits <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/north-yorks-cuts-recycling-credits/>

**Michael**

* Aims – networking, sustainability.
* Actions – sharing skills, develop of lists of skills, build a budding system.
* Upwards – policy influence [DEFRA]
* Mentoring – creating a buddy system.
* Develop – regional hubs [collaboration].
* Profile – raising reuse image.
* Work towards a carbon zero economy.
* Role of activists

**Whiteboard summary:**

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| **Collaborations** |
| just keep the conversation going |
| buddy system |
| regional networking in person - circular economy reuse conference |
| north Yorkshire rotters |
| linking waste to people who could use it |
| would like to network collaborate with other reuse collectives  |
| DEFRA waste prevention plan tbc government |
| working with established organisations such as community furniture |
| waste disposal sites are funded by council. Support is needed for organisations who are trying to reduce items being sent there |
| storage is vital for so many of our organisations |
| smaller networks ie all clothing banks , community fridges |
| Look at example Fife Big Hoose a collaboration of charities collecting goods of all sorts from people like Amazon and other large suppliers |
| working with those organisations that are in the same sector as you or complimentary |
| process for sharing wants and offer between the groups and organisations |

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| **Advocacy** |
| link with North Yorkshire Council Climate Change strategy |
| awareness raising and influencing policy |
| take it in turns to represent at strategic level |
| council should introduce brown bins for food kitchen waste |
| difficulty contacting the right people and getting help locally |
| most areas will have a recycling officer type person in the council who will support as much as possible. No budgets to help sadly |
| North Yorkshire council waste management |
| happy to offer support based on our operations |
| press release and link to media. Share successes |
| the clothing bank Ryedale. We need help |
| need to know where to turn for support |
| aligns with route map to carbon negative |

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| **Operations** |
| reuse network |
| need Yorwaste on board |
| keep meeting to Zoom to keep our carbon footprint down |
| some kind of online space to share contacts, what different groups do, offers for support |
| AWRP Allerton waste recovery park. The final destination |
| could we have a WhatsApp group to share excess |
| coming together to deliver services eg could we provide items for north Yorkshire local assistance fund |
| noticeboard |
| business and organisation structure |
| so much information is only available online. Digital poverty and skills prevents many people from using available skills |
| fit-for-reuse.org.uk advice on repairing white goods from Reuse Network |
| what funding is available |
| Promoting use of Freecycle and other reuse websites |

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| **Logistics** |  |
| Look at specific help for rural communities |  |
| Link to car sharing to enable attendance |  |
| waste collection with council and HRWC sites |  |
| sign up to North Yorkshire Councils [**climate newsletter**](https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/4BPJ-Q68/sign-up-to-our-climate-newsletter)  |  |
| a fuller understanding of local and central government policy and support |  |
| shared spaces and storage |  |
| link to North Yorkshire Council waste management for anything that can’t be reused through the HWRCs |  |
| best way to share good news stories, newsletters, podcasts |  |
| need a full understanding of what exists already in terms of projects and initiatives |  |

**Chat links:**

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| [**Our**](https://www.ourzeroselby.org.uk/) **Zero** [**Selby**](https://www.ourzeroselby.org.uk/) |
| [**Our Zero Selby; Generating a community led just transition**](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/61006edf41353c4b7d8504b0/t/6388c443eb945c103bdc338d/1669907554829/Our%2BZero%2BSelby%2BImpact%2BReport%2B-%2BJune%2B2022.pdf) |
| [**North Yorkshire Council ways to reduce and reuse**](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/reduce-and-reuse/ways-reduce-and-reuse) |
| [**Pass it on resuse leaflet**](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/Pass%20It%20On%20Reuse%20leaflet%20-%20Accessible.pdf) |
| [**Environment courses from the WEA**](https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/humanities-science/environment) **smorgan@wea.ac.uk** |
| Short term rentals/storage: Connected Communities. **jon@community-spaces.co.uk** |

**Connections:**

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| **Organisation** | **Contact****(agreed in the meeting that organisational emails only would be shared at this stage)** |
| Animal Hostel Trust | allforhorses@outlook.com |
| CaVCA | david.stone@cavca.org.uk |
| Chopsticks | tracey@chopsticks.org.uk |
| Circular Coast Clothing | circularcoastclothing@gmail.com |
| Circular Malton & Norton CIC | circularmaltonnorton@gmail.com |
| Clothes Bank Ryedale | theclothingbankryedale@gmail.com |
| Community First Yorkshire |  |
| Carole Roberts  | carole.roberts@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk |
|  Caroline O’Neill | caroline.oneill@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk |
|  Michael Fletcher | michael.fletcher@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk |
| Community Furniture Store  | Becci@cfstores.org,uk |
| Craven DC | fprotheroe@cravendc.gov.uk |
| Essential Needs | manager.essentialneeds@gmail.com |
| FRADE | ceo@frade.co.uk |
| Futureworks NY | ben.aitken@futureworksny.co.uk |
| Harrogate Clothes Bank | harrogateclothes@gmail.com |
| NY Coast Methodist Circuit | tom.nycmcircuit@gmail.com |
| NY Council | jennifer.lowes@northyorks.gov.uk |
| NY Youth Ltd | panda@nyy.org.uk |
| Ryedale Environment Group | ryedaleeg@hotmail.com |
| Settle Victoria Hall | ann.harding@settlevictoriahall.org.uk |
| Skipton Library of Things | skiptonlot@gmail.com |
| Tadcrafters CIC | tadcrafters@outlook.com |
| Up for Yorkshire | matt@upforyorkshire.org.uk |
| YNY Lep | erin.wheeler@ynylep.com |