



Environment and Ecology Forum

Meeting: Thursday, 15th January 2015 at 6.00 pm in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP

Membership:	Cllrs. Bhaimia, Brown, Field, Lewis and Porter
Contact:	Stephen McDonnell Environmental Co-ordinator 01452 396209 Stephen.McDonnell@gloucester.gov.uk

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.
2.	CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME (Pages 7 - 8) Letter from the Chairman, Richard Trelfa.
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Members and Officers are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interest in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.
4.	MINUTES (Pages 9 - 12) To receive the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4 December 2014.
5.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (MAXIMUM 15 MINUTES)

6.	PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (MAXIMUM 10 MINUTES)
7.	FLOODING IN GLOUCESTER - A DISCUSSION Report by Jo Martin, Area Team Leader, Environment Agency.
8.	LETTER FROM ROBERT BURNS ON FLOOD MITIGATION PROPOSALS (Pages 13 - 16) Letter attached.
9.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS To receive any other business that may arise.
10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING 18.00 hours on Thursday 5 March 2015.

Our Ref: SMD

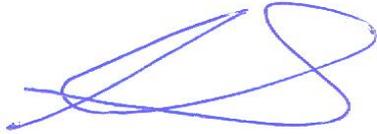
18th December 2014

Dear E&E Member

**Environment and Ecology Forum Meeting
18:00 on 15th January 2015 Gloucester**

Please find attached your papers for the next meeting. For the January meeting we are going to address one of the major environmental problems facing Gloucester City Flooding. Following on from the discussion at the December meeting we have invited Jo Martin Area Manager from the Environment Agency to give an experts view on the topic. We have also invited Robert Burns who has made some interesting proposals for flood mitigation through the creation of new Water Parks. It promises to be an interesting discussion.

Yours sincerely



pp Richard Trelfa
(Independent Chair of the City Council's
Environment and Ecology Forum)

REGENERATION DIRECTORATE

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GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY FORUM MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2014.

<u>Present</u> :	Richard Trelfa (Chair)	- Hempsted Residents Association
	Stephen McDonnell (Sec)	- Environmental Co-ordinator, Gloucester City Council
	Meyrick Brentnall	- Environmental Planning Manager, Gloucester City Council
	Barry Leach	- Gloucester City Centre, Resident
	Cllr Jim Porter	- Cabinet Member for Environment Gloucester City Council.
	Margaret Day	- Friends of Robinswood Hill
	Dawn Fearn	- Gloucester City Council
	Audrey Fielding	- Glos Federation of Women's Institutes
	Steve Read	- Joint Waste Team
	Cllr David Brown	- Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Usman Bhaimia	- Gloucester City Council
	Jackie Cave	- Friends of Robinswood Hill
	Brian Furnis	- Resident
	Andrew Harley (Vice Chair)	- Gloucester City Homes Tenants Forum
	Ray Pass	- Stagecoach in Gloucester
	Penny Clewer	- Transition Gloucester
	Claire Mitchell	- Vision 21

<u>Apologies:</u>	Cllr Lewis	- Gloucester City Council
	Jenny Powell	- Stagecoach
	Cllr Field	- Gloucester City Council
	Gordon Heath	- Resident
	Graham Stanley	- Glos Minibus Scheme

ACTION

1. **Minutes of previous meeting 24th July 2014** were agreed.

2. **Matters Arising**

Public Open Space Strategy Consultations – Barry leach asked if the consultations mentioned which were due to start later in the year had started yet. And what order would the different areas be consulted in which areas were being given priority. MB these would now happen in the new year, he offered to contact BL with further information when this was available.

Stock Transfer of Gloucester City Homes – Andrew Harley said that these were currently taking place and that significant areas of public open space were involved he felt that this land should not be built on.

3. **Gloucester's Waste and Recycling Service** – Dawn Fearn Gloucester City Council Neighbourhood Services Officer gave a presentation a copy of which is attached to the minutes. Jackie Cave asked what happened to the food waste collected. DF this was treated and recycled. AH asked why Columbia court mini recycling centre had been removed, he also felt that there should be more cardboard recycling. DF responded that the mini centres were removed if not viable and that some larger bring sites were available for cardboard collection, in reality they could only collect certain waste streams due to budget constraints and the size of the vehicles. David Brown asked if there had been a review of the main brings sites at super markets. DF explained that this had taken place and that three types of bank were being provided these were cardboard, plastic for miscellaneous

containers and clothing. The other materials such as Glass cans and newspaper were collected from the kerbside.DF also explained how the Tesco's site at St Oswald's had been lost but then reinstated as AMEY were better at servicing the site than Tesco's own contractor.DF would like to take back the Tesco site at Quedgeley as this would be a valuable addition. AH asked about collecting yogurt pots,DF said these should not go in the green box at kerbside but could be recycled at the bring sites such as Sainsburys.JC asked about blown litter from kerbside boxes.JP said he was aware of the problems with lids on boxes but due to a review of the type of collection in the future it was not wise to change these at the present. Ray Pass asked if AMEY collected trade waste for recycling,DF said they did not but that there were a number of contractors who did.RT asked if tin foil was collected. DF no not at present due to cost and contamination. There was also a question about the new supermarkets on bristol road could they be required to provide recycling as a planning condition.DF no.RT asked a question about the viability of all the six Gloucester districts using separate collection methods.DF this was the current situation. The chairman thanked Dawn for her presentation.

SMD

4. **Tackling Food Waste in Gloucestershire- Steve Read** from Gloucestershire County Council Joint Waste Team gave a presentation a copy of which is attached to the minutes.BF asked if the money made from recycling credits and sale of recyclate helped fund the service,SR said that this helped funding the service but would always run at a loss.DB asked about the different collection bags starch versus plastic,SR said that these were removed at the start of the process and sent for disposal. Audrey suggested lining the bins with newspaper,SR said this was very good as it would digest well. Penny Clewer asked about the capacity of the new plant, SR felt the design was large enough take all the County's food waste. RT asked what the environmental footprint of such a large plant would be and how far would material need to be transported from to feed it,SR said this was a very complex question which could not be answered adequately in the time available, however the energy from the gas produced at the plant would be sold to gain revenue. Gas produced from the waste could be burned to generate electricity, used to fuel vehicles or fed into the gas grid. Income generation was part of the business plan for the plant.

SMD

5. **Any other business.**

5.1 Cooking Workshops.

Claire Mitchell from Vision 21 said they were organising a series of cooking workshops in Gloucester. It was agreed that details could be circulated to members of the forum with the minutes.

5.2 Tree Wardens

Meyrick updated the forum about the tree warden initiative which had folded 18 months ago after the secretary stepped down. He would like to relaunch the scheme and if any volunteers were interested in getting involved could they contact Justin Hobbs.

5.3 Flooding

Richard Trelfa had asked for an Ariel photograph of the river Severn in flood to be displayed. This showed water flowing over a section of levee on agricultural land adjacent to Alney Island. RT felt that more could be done to alleviate the flood pressure on Gloucester City in terms of removing these bunds. The resulting flow of water across farm land would help dissipate severe flooding faster and take pressure off the city's flood defences. A discussion followed on how best to achieve this, managed retreat It was felt was key to instigating this and it would be the environment Agency's role to take the project forward. RT felt that a letter should be

**SMD,
CM**

MB,JH

MB

ACTION

sent asking why this measure had not been undertaken. MB suggested that a large land purchase would be necessary and that the Environment Agency would be looking to negotiate with landowners as they did with the Horsbere Flood attenuation scheme and not go down the compulsory purchase route.

5.4 Robert Burns Letter

This had been sent to the chairman by Brian Furnis and contained a proposal for the creation of two large water parks one north and one south of the city. By excavating a number of joined lakes flood pressure would be mitigated. These would also become tourist attractions and leisure areas. It was agreed to invite Robert Burns to a future meeting when he could explain his proposals.

SMD

6. **Topics for next meeting**

Update on Elmbridge Court Major Transport Scheme,
County Cycling Strategy, Environment Agency response to suggested removal of River Severn bank levees which currently protect agricultural land from flooding.

SMD

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

15th January 2015, 18.00hrs

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**Copy of Letter sent To Gloucestershire County Council communications and sent to Richard Trelfa
Chairman of Gloucester City Environment and Ecology Forum by Brian Furnis. December 4th 2014.**

This is a typed version of the original hand written letter.

49 Fox Elms Road

Gloucester

GL4 0BH.

11.7.13

Dear Sirs

LFRMS Consultation

Regarding your flood risk strategy form I feel I am not qualified to judge your plans but for a long time I've harboured some of my own and would appreciate your response to my ideas.

1, A rectangular area of land cornered by Tewkesbury, Coombe Hill, Cheltenham plus one. I believe this could be a site for a water park similar to that at Somerford Keynes. Once the area has been defined excavation and digging would provide the lakes and sluicing system. The Cheltenham sand and gravel deposits could be used later and surplus soil and clay could provide some undulating surface area; possibly landfill waste could be added if needed to provide some artificial hills similar to the one at Aztec West Bristol by the M5.

The scheme would endeavour to prevent flooding in the Tewkesbury, Forthampton, Chaceley Bishops Norton, Wainlodes, Longford, Alney and Plock Court areas. Aids would include River Swilgate, Dean Brook, Tirl Brook, Coombe Canal and Carrant Brook. Road access is good and M5 motorway close. Birmingham is in easy reach. Work would provide jobs during implementation; all earth can be deposited on site with no other disposal journeys necessary.

Gains and Spin Offs

- a) Tourism.
- b) Watersports, fishing etc.
- c) Stables and equestrian facilities close to Cheltenham Racecourse.
- d) Hotel (s), Restaurants and sports shop(s).
- e) Holiday and other property lets and sales.
- f) Wildlife and horticultural activities.

g) Business rates and council tax generated for councils.

h) Increased value of nearby properties.

i) Possible additional reservoir for Cheltenham water supply.

None of my ideas is invention. I am plagiarising a created park from gravel pits. The required work has been performed before as at Sandgate Marshland for Eurotunnel .These notes are outline but experts could develop this scheme.

2, Frampton area on A38 south of Gloucester similar to Cheltenham but much smaller scale. A series of lakes, to complement the one already at Frampton, and interconnecting canals and sluices joined to those existing and possibly the river Severn.

Financial outlay for this scheme would not be excessive. The land is gravel pits and marsh in quite virgin condition.

Removal of gravel could be accelerated; the surplus being used for construction on site and or sold to developers for use on housing schemes nearby.

Again this plan is not a new one; it copies the gravel pits transformation at Cerney Lakes. Here we could encourage canal boat activity connected to Saul Junction and Gloucester Sharpness canal. Proximity to the Severn could be useful.

In simple terms my intentions are;-

1. Flood alleviation
- 2, Productive use of surplus water
- 3, Balancing the situation of; a) too much and, b) to little water.
- 4, Creating beautiful rural areas desirable to both visitors and residents.
- 5, Bringing money to Gloucestershire.

I would appreciate your views on my scheme.

In passing, I would mention that I was inspired by William Dregghorns's book "Geology explained in the Severn Vale and Cotswolds". It was recommended to me by Bristol University "Fossil Hunters" on Robinswood Hill Quarry.

Robert Burns

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