

Environment and Ecology Forum

Minutes of meeting 26th November 2013-09-2013 18.00

Present

Claire Mitchell	Vision 21
Gordon Heath	Hempsted Residents
Cllr David Brown	Gloucester City Council
Meyrick Brentnall	Environmental Planning Manager Gloucester City Council
Barry leach	GCCCP and Vice Chair of the Forum
Margaret Day	Friends of Robinswood Hill
Stephen Mc Donnell	Environmental Co-ordinator Gloucester City Council
Verona Vidal	Neighbourhood Manager Gloucester City Council
Audrey Fielding	GFWI
Penny Clewer	Transition Town Gloucester
Alison Crane	Gloucester Community Energy CO-OP.
Peter Clegg	Gloucester Community Energy CO-OP
Geoff Beckerleg	GCCCP
Alistair Stevens	SWEA

Apologies

Andrew Harley	Gloucester City Housing Tenants Association.
Cllr Saj Patel	Gloucester City Council Cabinet Member Environment
John Mc Laughlin	GCCCP
Graham Stanley	Transport 21.
Brian Furness	City Resident
Richard Trelfa	Chairman

1, Welcome

Vice Chair Barry leach welcomed everyone to the Forum and proposed that items 2-4 be removed from the agenda and from future agendas

2. Declarations of interest:

Meyrick as a Member of the Glos Community Energy Co-op declared an interest in item 8

3. Public Question time:

4. Petitions and deputations:

5. Minutes of previous meeting. Minutes Agreed as correct record

6. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Page 3 paragraph 6 it was noted that the consultation for the JCS had been extended to 13th of December. Item 9, MB clarified that no plastic bags were accepted in kitchen waste bins. Paper bags were preferred as some of the starch bags looked like plastic bags. **NB since the meeting Gloucester City Council will accept any biodegradable bags including plastic like bags made from corn starch**

7. Community Energy in Gloucestershire- Opportunities and limitations.

Alistair Stevens from Severn Wye Energy Agency gave the presentation a copy of which will be circulated with the minutes.

There followed a discussion DB asked about energy audits for public and private buildings - was there a charge for these? Yes but it was relatively low cost. AS said there were two methods an on site survey or a desktop survey where detailed information is provided by the property owner and a report is produced from this.VV asked whether help and support was provided post survey on funding and what to do next? AS said yes this was part of the service. BL asked about how they dealt with listed buildings? AS said this was a barrier but lots could be done such as energy monitoring and targeting of saving he pointed out that some churches and national trust properties had installed solar panels. HF asked if they could advise councils on what the best practice was?: AS yes MB added that an energy statement was required for all new developments over a certain threshold showing how they would achieve carbon savings for new housing and commercial development. PC asked about the Green Deal and how borrowing through this could help? AS said that his organisation was involved in carrying out surveys for the green deal as an accredited assessor. The examples he had given such as Llangatock where the local communities can secure resilience by generating annual income of £20000 to invest in other energy projects. Villages in Germany and other European countries had done the same thing but on a larger scale.

8. The potential for Community Energy Projects in Gloucester. Alison Crane and Peter Clegg from the Gloucestershire Community Energy Co-op gave a presentation. A copy of the slides will be circulated with the minutes.SM said he would like to put PC in touch with Alex Baxter who was the Warm and Well scheme manager in Gloucester: PC agreed to meet, he had also met other local community leaders such as Imran Atcha from Gymnation .PC would also like to meet other community representatives in Barton and Tredworth PC also expressed an interest in meeting Gloucester City Homes asset manager with a regard to involving them in the project. DB asked about how the improvements could be done in conservation areas? PC said there were issues about quality of work with some external solid wall insulation that had been installed and detailing had not been followed very carefully. DB asked about the Resource Centre and its income. PC said 20% of the FIT income was paid to the City Works they also get free electricity when the sun shines. VV asked what was the FIT AC explained that this was a subsidy paid at so many pence per KWh of power generated over a 20 year period. The level of fit was set by government and paid by energy companies to the property owner. Penny Clewer asked what the point of referral fees was. AC said this was to fund the advice workers they hoped to employ. MD had considered solar panels but not gone ahead.GH asked what the ideal pitch was for Solar PV? AS south facing at a 30 degrees angle.

9. AOB

Barry Leach asked what could be done to increase and expand the membership and attendance at the forum. There followed a discussion on how this could be achieved. One suggestion was that a press release should be circulated along side the agenda and minutes of each meeting to help publicise the meetings.

10.Date of next meeting Thursday 30th January at 18.00pm North Warehouse

Meeting Finished 20.00.