

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

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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.

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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

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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