

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY FORUM MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH March 2015.

<u>Present</u> :	Richard Trelfa (Chair)	- Gloucester Civic Trust
	Stephen McDonnell (Sec)	- Environmental Co-ordinator, Gloucester City Council
	Meyrick Brentnall	- Environmental Planning Manager, Gloucester City Council
	Penny Clewer	- Transition Gloucester
	Bridget Derfody	- Carer
	Andrew Harley (Vice Chair)	- Gloucester City Homes Tenants Forum
	Cllr David Brown	- Gloucester City Council
	Ray Pass	- Stagecoach in Gloucester
	Mark Holden	- Stagecoach in Gloucester
	Claire Mitchell	- Vision 21
	Thomas Evans	- Gloucestershire County Council
	Sarah Fish	- Atkins
	Gordon Heath	- Resident
	Chris Strudwick	- Hucclecote Resident Beekeeper
	Margaret Purdey	- Hucclecote Resident Beekeeper (Assistant)
	Joe Killner	- Friends of Alney Island

<u>Apologies:</u>	Cllr Lewis	- Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Field	- Gloucester City Council
	Barry Leach	- Gloucester City Centre Community Partnership
	Cllr Jim Porter	- Cabinet Member for Environment
	Audrey Fielding	- Glos Federation of Women's Institutes
	Cllr Usman Bhaimia	- Gloucester City Council
	Kate Cole	- Gloucestershire Joint Waste Team
	Richard Graham	- Member of Parliament for Gloucester

ACTION

1. Minutes of previous meeting 15th January 2015 were agreed.
2. **Matters Arising**
MB responded to an item on the Public Open Space Strategy by saying that the first tranche of local area action plan consultations would be starting shortly.
In response to an item on the Alney Island access improvements for which a grant of £65000 had been obtained and the Westgate Leisure Park BMX track bid which had also been successful he said that the works would be started during 2015.
In response to an item raised by Robert Burn, in which he hoped to achieve flood prevention by building lakes north of Gloucester MB had taken this letter/proposal, to the County minerals group and they said that none of the sites suggested were viable for quarrying and that without the value of this resource, the scheme could not be viable. There were also concerns that the sheer volume of water passing through the Gloucester catchment area in times of full flood would make the scheme ineffective as a method of flood control. RT thanked MB for the investigation.
3. In response to an item raised at the previous meeting relating to the Environment

Agency Area Flood Action Plan RT asked who would be told when this report is published. MB assured the group he would make it his business to find out and pass the information on.

4 **Gloucestershire Cycling Strategy/Consultation on Gloucestershire Transport Plan 3**

Thomas Evans from Gloucestershire County council gave a presentation on the proposed County Cycling Strategy which is currently under consultation as part of the Local Transport Plan 3 until the 27th March. A copy of the presentation will be circulated with the minutes. Anyone can comment on the proposals.

DB asked which schools had been involved in the cycling scheme, TE said that all county schools had been contacted and offered help with advice training and capital funding for infrastructure cycle improvements. DB also asked about what he thought was excellent the Gloucester Bike Project which offered bikes for loan, TE said these were available for up to ten weeks but would require a deposit of £100. AH asked if there was any accident safety data available showing the number of accidents involving cyclists. And was not road safety the main barrier to people taking up cycling. He felt more people were cycling as he saw more bikes on racks at the Station. TE responded to say he could provide accident data on request. There was then a discussion about cycles on trains and a scheme to allow them on buses. RP said currently only folding bikes were allowed on buses. RT had seen a pedal bus and asked if this might be a possibility for Gloucester. TE felt this was more likely to succeed in a large city.

5 **Stagecoach a Bus Operators Approach**

Ray Pass and Martin Holden, Green champions from Stagecoach gave a presentation about the initiatives taken by Stagecoach to reduce Carbon Emissions and save energy. Ray also explained how the automated driver monitoring system improved driver safety and also helped save energy. A copy of the presentation will be attached to the minutes. SM asked if the driver monitoring software was available for cars. RP said yes it was. RT asked about the cost of the driver monitoring system. RP said it was self funding in that it was based on 4% fuel savings it helped achieve, it cost £21 per vehicle per month. AH asked if we could replace some of the older buses with newer models. RP said that on some routes new buses would be operated as they became available, AH also suggested signs which told you which stop you were at and audio messages. RP said they were looking at this sort of thing for the future. DB asked if Uni-buses were new buses, he also asked about pull ins and the new layout at Walls Roundabout, RP said the new layout was working well. DB asked about the Euro standards for engine emissions. RP explained that each standard when introduced progressively reduced the permissible particulate emissions from the buses engines but as operators they were concerned about higher engine operating temperatures. TE asked if the cost of additives offset the fuel savings RP said it did. PC asked about bikes on buses RP said they currently only accepted folding bikes on buses but were considering other options. RT asked about green buses and hybrids RP said these were used in London, Oxford and Lincoln. RT also asked about kneeling buses for pavement vehicle users and the types of pavement vehicles allowed on buses. RP said that the new bus technology allowed the buses to join level with the kerb to enable pavement vehicle users onto the bus but larger vehicles were not allowed. Users were given a personal visit to show how to access the service at their nearest stop with a driver to help and advise. AH asked about the capacity of some bus stops, PR said that infrastructure was provided by Gloucestershire Highways this included bus shelters.

- 6 Any other business
Chris Strudwick had circulated a paper on the establishment of a community Apiary where people could become involved in Bee keeping in the local area. He had previously established schemes in Melbourne Australia and wished to do the same in Gloucester. He asked for the support of the forum in establishing his project. Various sites in the city had been proposed. RT suggested the old MOD site at Hempsted and that he speak to MB to identify further suitable sites. AH raised the campaign by Bayer chemical company to stop the anti nicotoids petition. He supported the establishment of the scheme as he was a big fan of honey. He was also concerned about the decline in pollinators and the need to increase bee populations. DB felt it was a great idea he suggested Barnwood arboretum and that Chris explore other local sites or schools or Hempsted landfill site.
A copy of the proposal will be circulated with the minutes.

3.
Andrew Harley
Raised the article in the Citizen on the proposed changes to the City kerbside recycling scheme to introduce Co- mingled collections. These would he felt be much better for the City as all recycled waste was put in one bin then sorted at a depot not at the kerbside. He felt that residents should be consulted on the changes especially flats.
DB said that this was subject to member approval at a council meeting to be held later in the year. SM confirmed that a co-mingled collection was being developed with the objective of reducing collection costs and increasing recycling rates these proposals will be put before the council later in the year.

4. **Information Exchange**

Topic for next meeting will be Elmbridge Major scheme progress report from Gloucestershire Highways. Other suggested topics were the Flooding study and air pollution.

5. **Date of Next Meeting**

2nd July 2015 at 18.00hrs

SMD