

GLoucester City Council

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY FORUM MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3TH SEPTEMBER 2015.

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|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <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 |
| | Andrew Harley (Vice Chair) | - Gloucester City Homes Tenants Forum |
| | Cllr David Brown | - Gloucester City Council |
| | Cllr Usman Bhaimia | - Gloucester City Council |
| | Mark Holden | - Stagecoach in Gloucester |
| | Ian Ellis | - Gloucester Furniture Recycling Project |
| | Ellie Smith | - Gloucester Furniture Recycling Project |
| | Barry Leach | - City centre resident |
| | Nicholas Evans | - Project manager Urbaser |
| | Andy Russell | - Axis UBB Consultant. |

Apologies:

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|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Cllr Jim Porter | - Cabinet Member for Environment |
| Audrey Fielding | - Glos Federation of Women's Institutes |
| Ray Pass | - Stagecoach in Gloucester |
| Claire Mitchell | - Vision 21 |
| Gordon Heath | - Resident |
| Brian Furness | - Resident |
| Jackie Cave | - Friends of Robinswood Hill |

ACTION

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Richard Trelfa was elected Chair and Andrew Harley Vice Chair.

1. Minutes of previous meeting 5th March 2015 were agreed.

2. **Matters Arising**

Barry Leach wanted to congratulate Gloucester City Council on the new plans and proposals for Westgate Park and the grant funded works to improve Alney island for public access with the new riverside pathway already under construction. He felt credit should be given to Kay Lillington for her good work on bringing these projects forward.

Andrew Harley wanted to report that the kerbside recycling collection in his area had improved considerably since the discussion at the previous forum.

3.

4 **Gloucester Furniture Recycling Project**

Ian Ellis gave a presentation about the work of the project which recycles furniture a copy of the presentation will be circulated with the minutes. The project had recycled more than 5000 tonnes of furniture since it was established over twenty years ago and was currently looking for new premises.

David Brown asked if the project had an impact on the City Councils bulky item collection and did people just use his scheme to avoid paying charges. Ian felt this was not the case with most people who recycled. He highlighted the role they played in preventing fly tipping of furniture or household items. DB asked if the City Council was able to help in finding new accommodation for the project, Ian confirmed that they had been in discussion with officers with regard to finding

suitable new premises. Andrew Harley asked if the project worked with housing associations and social housing providers Ian said they did though mainly with Gloucester City Homes. Richard Trelfa asked if the Project was commissioned by the local authorities to provide a service. Ian said they were not though they did receive funding in the form of recycling credits for every tonne of waste they recycled. Ian said they have 20 paid staff and 23 volunteers all full time. Staff and volunteers were given training in driving and health and safety. The scheme also received grants in order to train their staff. DB asked what the deadline was for finding new accommodation, Ian said they would need to find the new site within the next few months but that Beatrice Webb House and Wessex House were both possibilities. RT asked if they had quality assurance manual or an ISO 90001 accreditation. Ian said they did not but they had been audited by a national body. DWP also audited. A copy of Ian's presentation will be circulated with the minutes.

5 URBASER WASTE TO ENERGY SCHEME

Nick Evans and Andy Russell gave a presentation to update the forum members on progress with this project which has continued to develop since their previous presentation in 2012. A copy of the presentation will be circulated with the minutes. The current recycling rate for the County was 40% and there was a target of 70% the plant would help the local authorities to achieve this goal. RT referred to his former role with the electricity industry when he had been asked to look at energy from waste more than 30 years previously. BL questioned the capacity of the site could it cope with over spill and what was the turn around time for vehicles. Nick said there was plenty of provision for extra capacity at the site for both queuing vehicles and waste storage bays the turn around was 10-15 minutes for refuse vehicles but a bit longer for larger bulk transports from transfer stations about 30 minutes. There were 7 bays for receiving waste which should make queues unlikely. DB asked if the site would still operate on bank holidays and at weekends, Nick said the plant would be operating all year and only close on two days in the year. Less waste would be delivered on non working days and weekends. AH asked if the apprenticeships were proper ones or on low wages Nick said they would be proper engineering apprenticeships, they would also take two graduates each year. DB asked about ash and the closed loop, Nick confirmed that there would always be some residual waste requiring disposal. The plant would be fully operational by 2019. AH asked how much electricity would be generated, Nick said it would generate 14.5 mega watts enough for 25000 homes the plant would not receive the feed in tariff. RT asked why the metals were removed after incineration Nick explained that this was how the process was designed other waste ash would be used to make breeze blocks and plasterboard. RT asked about toxic materials how was the plants safety monitored. Andy responded to say that there was continuous monitoring of stack emissions and these would be regulated by the environment agency. RT asked about waste being drawn into the plant from outside the county. Andy responded to say the plant was primarily designed to take Gloucestershire's waste and that it would not have the capacity to take waste from other areas. RT also asked about vehicle movements Andy responded to say that by using bulk transfer stations the number of journeys was kept to a minimum but vehicles would be required to use designated roads to avoid traffic problems.

6 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Meyrick Brentnall Presented two slides to show the design of the new Riverside path on Alney Island and the proposed lay out for the Westgate Park improvements. Copys of these will be circulated with the minutes. AH said he hoped that the city would not provide locked lifebuoys as he had seen in Bath City recently. AH also requested that a report on the City Councils Air monitoring data be

ACTION

presented to a future meeting of the forum

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Thursday 5th of November 2015 Gloucester Gateway Services Project.

Thursday 14th January 2016 Environment Agency Report on Flood Relief Plans.

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