

GLoucester City Council

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY FORUM MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH November 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
	Andrew Harley (Vice Chair)	- Gloucester City Homes Tenants Forum
	Cllr David Brown	- Gloucester City Council
	Ray Pass	- Stagecoach in Gloucester
	Graeme Allardyce	- Stagecoach in Gloucester
	Gordon Heath	- Hempsted Resident
	Jan Heath	- Hempsted Resident
	Barry Leach	- Gloucester City Centre Community Partnership
	Brian Furniss	- Resident
	Alan Lomax	- Hempsted Resident
	Brigid Lomax	- Hempsted Resident
	Anne Jarman	- Hempsted Resident
	Don Stockwell	- Hempsted Resident
	David Entwistle	- Vision 21
	Corrie Jones	- Vision 21
	S Hebbs	- Hempsted Resident
	Jan Reeks	- Hempsted Resident
	Penny Barclay	- Quedgeley
	Jack Brook	- Hempsted Resident
	David Beard	- Stagecoach in Gloucester
	Mark Gale	- Gloucester Gateway Trust

<u>Apologies:</u>	Cllr Lewis	- Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Field	- Gloucester City Council
	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
	Penny Clewer	- Transition Gloucester
	Claire Mitchell	- Vision 21

ACTION

1. Minutes of previous meeting 3rd September 2015 were agreed. Ian Ellis had asked for a few corrections these were to be added to the final minutes.
2. **Matters Arising**
None
3. **The Gloucester Services Project**
Mark Gale gave a presentation about the Gloucester Gateway Trust and how the

Services had been developed. The trust which is a registered charity set up a partnership with the Westmoreland Family who have successfully developed another motorway service station in Cumbria through their TBay company. There were three objectives to the project; these were to achieve a business return for the investment, to create a social return in terms of employment creation for the local communities along with skills, and also to create an environmental return in terms of enhancing what was previously a monoculture farmland into a more diverse area with a green build and enhancements and mitigation in all non built areas of the site. Sarah Dunning who is the chief executive of TBay is usually the figurehead of the project, the southbound services was opened in July 2015 by HRH Prince Charles The northbound had opened earlier in May 2014.

He said the project could be described as full of contradictions. How could a sustainable project be created which involved motorways and cars?. This at first sight was difficult for some to understand, but he had managed to persuade the funders and the charity commission of the real potential of the project and over 12 years the project had grown to fruition.

He was a community worker and had noticed how most regeneration schemes tended to be City Centre, i.e. The Docks and or retail focused. The Gateway project looked at the social housing communities around the south western edge of Gloucester such as Matson, White City, Linden, Coney Hill and Tuffley. These communities on the periphery often lost out in terms of benefits from successive schemes so he wanted to create long term employment opportunities in this area. By creating a virtuous circle targeting these communities with the economic driver of long term jobs. He had observed many schemes were only short term and folded when grant funding ran out. He had set a 300 job target for the scheme but had already achieved 400.

In terms of making the site environmentally sustainable he had involved the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, there were planted areas fruit and native tree species, green roofs, careful landscaping to reduce visual impact as the site is adjacent to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There was also a sustainable drainage scheme and locally quarried Cotswold stone was used for the walls and timber sourced from the Forest of Dean. There were dog walks and space for users to eat and drink and rest from their journey.

In terms of the projects origins they had started out with a community shop in Matson from 2005-2009 then developed the concept and design with the partnership the planning application in 2010 had been challenged by Welcome break that run a nearby services which delayed the process by 18 months.

In terms of local employment 110 were employed from the nearest estates and 30 unemployed were taken on. The shop and restaurant sell local produce with an emphasis on Gloucestershire producers. Local tourism is also promoted. The building will achieve BREEAM excellent accreditation for energy efficiency and in terms of income the service station will put funding into six local charities which is estimated to be £10 million eventually. There is a target of 2 million visitors a year for each services this has nearly been reached on the northbound already.

DB asked about whether a mechanical electricity generator could have been set in the entrance slip roads as at Sainsbury in the Docks. Mark said that this had not been feasible but he said 80,000 vehicles drove past the services each day in each direction. By creating the services some of these people were now stopping and putting money into the local area. Currently he said there was no apprenticeship

scheme but they may introduce one.

There is no hotel at present and no plans at the present time. In terms of charity support it was based on 2-3pence in the pound spent which would be divided among local groups which were; GLCommunities, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Time Bank, All Pulling Together, Churchill Trust, which eventually would receive up to £20,000 a year.

RT asked if it was not a destination if it became too good, Mark agreed this was a dilemma but their emphasis was on quality to get the best for example using workers from Leyhill.

4 **Robinswood Hill Masterplan Consultation.**

Meyrick Brentnall Environmental Planning Service manager gave a presentation on what was being proposed for the future of the Robinswood Hill Country Park which is owned by Gloucester City Council. In partnership with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust the City Council over the next 2 years would make a bid for Heritage Lottery funding to improve access to the park and to create improved facilities and potentially a new visitor centre. He was seeking the views of the forum so they could be fed into the development of the project. MB said 60% of visitors drove to the park they wanted to encourage more walking cycling and improve disabled access. Comments would be welcome.

BF asked if it could have a grass roof. More dog mess bins at different locations. Sand pits, dog toilets, If there is a shop what is it for? More lighting was needed in the lower areas and on paths, Solar powered lights suggested. Better footpaths for users. Zoning was considered beneficial to separate out different users. MB went on to speak about the regular Land Rover disabled day when people can be driven up to the top of the hill to enjoy the views for free. Planting of wild flowers was also suggested by RT. DB asked if the consultation was open for long also was there any danger of houses being built on the Hill. MB said the consultation was still open so people could send in further comments and that the land was protected so could not be developed for housing.

5 **Stagecoach Green Champions**

Ray Pass from Stagecoach informed the forum that along with colleagues he had worked to improve plots at Gloucester City Farm in Tredworth he showed pictures of before and after the work to create a wildlife garden. The group has now been entered into a national silver award in an environmental competition and Ray will give more details at the next meeting and show a video about their environmental work. BF commented that he strongly supported stagecoach services

6. **Information Exchange**

Topic for next meeting will be Elmbridge Major scheme progress report from Gloucestershire Highways. Flood Relief Plans update. Other suggested topics were the Flooding study and air pollution and City Air quality report.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

14th January 2016 at 18.00hrs