

## GLoucester City Council

### MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY FORUM MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016.

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	Richard Trelfa (Chair)	- Gloucester Civic Trust
	Stephen McDonnell (Sec)	- Environmental Co-ordinator, Gloucester City Council
	Meyrick Brentnall	- Neighbourhood Manager, Gloucester City Council
	Andrew Harley (Vice Chair)	- Gloucester City Homes Tenants Forum
	Cllr David Brown	- Gloucester City Council
	Ray Pass	- Stagecoach in Gloucester
	Mark Holder	- Stagecoach in Gloucester
	Rose Hewlett	- Local Historian University of Bristol
	Pam Daw	- Friends of Alney Island
	Barry Leach	- Gloucester City Centre Community Partnership
	Pam Jones	- Friends of Alney Island
	Alan Lomax	- Hempsted Resident
	Brigid Lomax	- Hempsted Resident
	M Teesdale	- Tuffley Resident
	Colin Turner	- Orritt and Turner Properties
	Richard Graham	- Member of Parliament for Gloucester
	Jack Brook	- Hempsted Resident
	Cllr Usman Bhaimia	- Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Jim Porter	- Cabinet Member for Environment
	Roger Godwin	- Longney and Epney Parish Council

<b><u>Apologies:</u></b>	Cllr Lewis	- Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Field	- Gloucester City Council
	Gordon Heath	- Hempsted Resident
	Audrey Fielding	- Glos Federation of Women's Institutes
	Ian Ellis	- Gloucester Furniture Recycling Project
	Kate Cole	- Gloucestershire Joint Waste Team
	Penny Clewer	- Transition Gloucester
	Claire Mitchell	- Vision 21
	David Entwistle	- Vision 21
	Cllr Phillip Mclellan	- Gloucester City Council
	Jackie Cave	- Friends of Robinswood Hill

#### ACTION

1. Minutes of previous meeting 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were agreed.

2. **Matters Arising**  
None

3. **Cllr Jim Porter**

Cllr Porter thanked Stephen Mc Donnell for his work for the Environment Forum and the City Council over the last 25 years as this was his last meeting.

Meyrick gave apologies on behalf of the Environment Agency who had hoped to present on the flood relief plan for Gloucester. Given the recent weather events they had been very busy, also they had asked the consultants who were running the models to investigate a number of further scenarios, As the flood models took many days to run they were still waiting for some of the results. They were however confident of being able to report back to the next meeting in March.

#### 4 **A Historic Flood in Gloucestershire.**

Rose Hewlett gave a presentation about the historic flood in 1607 which had affected large parts of the coastline particularly in the Severn Estuary a copy her slides will be attached to the minutes. Rose related the historic flood to more recent weather events such as the flooding of the Somerset levels and other recent floods in and around Gloucester. In response to questions Rose told an anecdote about a marooned Milkmaid and also explained her role on the Severn Stakeholder Group. RT said that, as a Civic Trust guide he would like to be able to show tourists the height reached by the waters of the 1947 flood, but as far as he knew the only record of the flood is a plaque on the inside Gloucester prison. Richard Graham, MP commented on the government's response to the current flooding events.

#### 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 had now won two awards for this work. Ray also highlighted an open day which was to be held at Swindon Bus Station when visitors could try out driving a bus. Ray also explained how a complaint about exhaust emissions from Meyrick had resulted in a bus being taken off the road. AH asked if stagecoach had been consulted on the new Gloucester Bus Station design RP said yes they had. DB asked if there were any plans to introduce Hydrogen powered buses, RP said yes they were trailing this technology in some areas and hoped to bring one up to Gloucester in the Summer; if appropriate they may be able to bring one to a future meeting.

#### 6. **Information Exchange**

In response to a question from BL regarding the rail and bus station upgrade, Richard Graham gave the meeting a brief update on progress with improvements that were planned for Gloucester Railway Station, these included through access from the northern side of the station, creation of new car parking and turning areas, a face lift and possible modifications to the subway underpass. Also proposed connections to the new bus station. Rail services would also improve with two services an hour to London one direct and one with a change at Swindon. MB was asked to organise a speaker on this topic for the next meeting.

Topics for future meetings will be Flood Relief Plans update from the Environment Agency. Other suggested topics were the New bus Station/Railway Station Improvements and an Air Pollution Monitoring and City Air Quality Report.

#### 7. **Dates of Next Meetings**

3<sup>rd</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 18.00hrs

