



## The Environment and Ecology Forum

**Meeting: Thursday, 19th March 2020 at 6.00 pm hours in Civic Suite - North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP**

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|--------------------|---|
| <b>Membership:</b> | Cllrs. Bhaimia, Brazil, D. Brown, Cook and Taylor   |
| <b>Contact:</b>    | Meyrick Brentnall<br>City Climate Change and Environment Manager<br>01452 396829<br>meyrick.brentnall@gloucester.gov.uk |

### AGENDA

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>APOLOGIES</b>  |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b><br><br>Members and Officers are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interest in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting, if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.   |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME/PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (MAXIMUM 10 MINUTES)</b><br><br>Members and Officers are reminded that at the start of the meeting, they should declare any known interest in any matter to be considered and also during the meeting, if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>MINUTES (Pages 5 - 8)</b><br><br>To agree the minutes of the meeting of October 2019   |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</b>   |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP) FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE</b><br><br>Luisa Senft-Haywood/Orlagh Stoner on the consultation draft of the County Council's LTP (papers to follow)   |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>BUS TRANSPORT IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE</b><br><br>Rupert Cox of Stagecoach West on what the future holds for bus transport in Gloucestershire.   |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>CLIMATE CHANGE ROAD MAP</b>  |

|            |  |
|------------|--|
|            | Meyrick Brentnall (City Climate Change and Environment Manager) on the City Council's Climate Change Road Map (papers to follow) |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATES FROM PARTNERS</b>   |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b><br>Provisionally 2 <sup>nd</sup> July, 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov, 4 <sup>th</sup> March                    |

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**Jon McGinty**  
**Managing Director**

**Date of Publication: Date Not Specified**

## NOTES

### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The duties to register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows –

| <u>Interest</u>                                   | <u>Prescribed description</u>   |
|---|---|
| Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation | Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.  |
| Sponsorship                                       | Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the previous 12 months (up to and including the date of notification of the interest) in respect of any expenses incurred by you carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. |
| Contracts   | Any contract which is made between you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (or a body in which you or they have a beneficial interest) and the Council<br>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and<br>(b) which has not been fully discharged  |
| Land  | Any beneficial interest in land which is within the Council's area.<br><br>For this purpose "land" includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you, your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.   |
| Licences  | Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Council's area for a month or longer.  |
| Corporate tenancies                               | Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –<br><br>(a) the landlord is the Council; and<br>(b) the tenant is a body in which you, your spouse or civil partner or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest   |
| Securities  | Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where –<br><br>(a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the Council's area and<br><br>(b) either –<br>i. The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000  |

or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

- ii. If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

For this purpose, "securities" means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

**NOTE:** the requirements in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and withdrawing from participating in respect of any matter where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest apply to your interests and those of your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner where you are aware of their interest.

### **Access to Information**

Agendas and reports can be viewed on the Gloucester City Council website: [www.gloucester.gov.uk](http://www.gloucester.gov.uk) and are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

For further details and enquiries about this meeting please contact Anthony Hughes, 01452 396127, [anthony.hughes@gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:anthony.hughes@gloucester.gov.uk).

For general enquiries about Gloucester City Council's meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396126, [democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk).

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### **FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building; gather at the assembly point in the car park and await further instructions;
- Do not re-enter the building until told by a member of staff or the fire brigade that it is safe to do so.



## Environment & Ecology Forum. October 2019

### Attendance

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Richard Trelfa      | Chair – Hempsted Residents Association            |
| Meyrick Brentnall   | Gloucester City Council (City Imp and Env)        |
| Cllr Richard Cook   | Cabinet Member for Environment (Gloucester CC)    |
| Cllr David Brown    | Gloucester City Council                           |
| Cllr Usman Bhaimia  | Gloucester City Council                           |
| Cllr Kevin Stephens | Gloucester City Council                           |
| Gareth Parry        | Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust                    |
| Roger Price         | City Centre Resident                              |
| Angela Porter       | Gloucester Climate Action Partnership             |
| Barry Leach         | City Centre Resident                              |
| Eleanor Buffery     | UKCN & YS4C Gloucester                            |
| Gerard Lenagan      | City Centre Resident                              |
| Frances Griffiths   | Gloucester Resident                               |
| Judith Williams     | Alney Island resident and Friends of Alney Island |
| Pam Jones           | Friends of Alney Island                           |
| Jackie Cave         | Friends of Robinswood Hill                        |
| Peter Wiggins       | Gloucestershire County Council                    |

### 1. Election of Chair Vice Chair

Richard Trelfa and Andrew Harley were elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively un-opposed.

### 2. Apologies

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Cllr Brazil      | Gloucester City Council   |
| David Entwhistle | Vision 21                 |
| Andrew Harley    | City Resident (Kingsholm) |

### 3. Declarations of Interest None

### 4. Public Question time/Petitions and Deputations None

### 5. Minutes Agreed

**6 Matters Arising.** Barry Leach asked a question regarding the Amey contract. Cllr Cook said that discussions were reaching a conclusion. He said that the relationship on the ground was significantly better and that outcomes were improving. Even so there were concerns expressed by the Forum about the quality of service. Meyrick suggested that although overall it had improved – if

nothing else the level of complaints had abated, there would still be areas where an improvement would not necessarily be seen. If this is the case, then members can report them direct to him. Barry Leach also asked a question regarding a 20mph zone and if anything had happened in the light of the air quality strategy. Pete Wiggins replied on behalf of the County Council. Peter referred to the Air Quality and health strategy (<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s52324/Gloucestershire%20Air%20Quality%20and%20Health%20Strategy%20v.%204.pdf>) he would ask about the 20-mph zone.

## **7. Ash Dieback**

Gareth Parry from the Glos Wildlife Trust (GWT) talked the Forum through the problems of Ash die back. It is a fungus and evidence from elsewhere suggests that once a tree is infected it will die. So far there has been little if no resistance displayed by the current population of Ash. In terms of impact it would be similar to Dutch Elm disease and would have a significant bearing upon the landscape in Gloucestershire. GWT after talking to, and visiting other trusts and organisations around the country are essentially adopting a precautionary approach to trees that could pose a danger. As such, on their sites, where ash trees are potentially a risk (for example over a footpath) these will be felled whether they are displaying the disease or not. The main reason for this is cost, as they will be able to employ a contractor to fell a large number of trees all at once. Also, trees that are not seriously infected will have a higher value as timber. He understood there may be public perception issues with this policy but the situation dictated it. Trees in woodlands where there was no safety issue would be allowed to fall where they stood and natural regeneration from neighbouring species allowed to take its natural course. Where trees were removed the trust would plant two replacements, though he did admit that there was an issue with finding land.

Questions concerned what can we learn from Dutch elm and would there be resistance. Gareth and Meyrick responded that it was similar in impact though because Dutch Elm disease needed a beetle to infect the tree and because of the lack of genetic diversity within Elm compared to Ash there could be a chance of resistant genotypes in Ash.

Cllr Brown asked if they were aware of what was happening elsewhere, Gareth said they had been out around the country talking to other trusts and organisations.

The Chair asked for confirmation of it being a fungus and the insurance implications – yes but it is often secondary diseases that actually kills the tree. Insurers were content with their methodology and approach to risk.

Gareth was thanked for his time.

## **8. Climate Change Current Position**

Eleanor Buffery representing the UK Student Climate Networks and Young Students for Climate talked us through what the group she was representing had

been doing. This included; 3 youth strikes, they had 10 young people working to create new events. They had representation on the County Council's youth climate panel. They were involved with a climate rally/peoples' assembly on November the 1<sup>st</sup> where they will be collecting a board of ideas to present to the City and County Council. Eleanor confirmed she would like to be involved with Forum.

Peter Wiggins from the County Council talked about their targets for CO2 reductions. While they had net Zero target for 2050 for the County as a whole, they recognised it would need to be around 80% reduction by 2030. In terms of the Council and its activities the target was net zero by 2030, progress on this had been good.

The County had held a summit over the summer which resulted in the creation of a youth panel where 40 young people (initially aged 16-24 but later dropped to 14- 24) had been appointed that reflected the geographical make-up of the county.

In terms of a strategy their Cabinet is programmed to debate a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November (It will be forwarded on to the Forum).

Peter listed a number of projects that had been rolled out such as the dimmable LED street lighting and the E pool cars.

Meyrick (City Improvement and Environment Manager) talked the Forum through the City Council's Climate Emergency resolution. The main points being the Net Carbon Neutral City by 2050, with 2030 as the City Council's target for being net neutral with its own activities. Meyrick did point out that this came with a lot of questions as to what to measure. So, for example while business travel will be included should travel to work? also where is the line drawn with outside contractors, for example streetcare partner, aspire the airport etc. As with the County, Meyrick said there had been progress for example Energy efficiency and renewables installed, some reductions had been on the back of other projects for example the office relocation from the Docks to the County building. Meyrick was clear that a resource would be made available to drive this forward and this would include a climate change officer of some sort.

A debate followed concerning the formation of some sort of climate change panel and how the message should be best communicated to the general population. This culminated in the following resolution being proposed, seconded and passed;

*'That a Climate Emergency Update should be an item on all future Forum agendas. The item should include updates from City Council, and where appropriate from the County Council and Youth Climate Activists plus a specific discussion point e.g. an invited speaker. It was agreed that the first discussion point should be an outline of the City Council's Climate Emergency Communication Plan'.*

Cllr Stephens asked when this was going to happen and questioned whether one officer was enough.

Meyrick committed to have a Forum by Feb 2020 with a lot more detail, as to whether one officer was enough? this was difficult to answer but is in line with other authorities who have adopted a similar resolution.

There were concerns about the Council's ability to police the built environment. Meyrick explained that the building control consents for a long while have been signed off by independent inspectors. Planning control and enforcement lies with the City Council, but officers always have to be aware of the ability of an applicant to appeal against a decision.

Richard Trelfa thanked the speakers for their input.

### **9. Information Exchange/AOB**

Angela Porter made the Forum aware of their Gloucester Climate Action Partnership who were keen to engage with other Citizens. They were keen to do on the ground action and had progressed a tree planting scheme.

Suggestions for future meetings Electric Busses/electric vehicles.

**10. Date of next meeting** To be confirmed but before end of Feb 2020