

**CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT
ITEM 9 – PETITION – SAINTBRIDGE POND AND NATURE RESERVE**

Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- (1) The contents of the petition be noted **and the petitioner be thanked for raising this issue and for her work in collecting this record number of names, which is a demonstration of local community action at its best.**
- (2) **The Council's thanks be given to the members of the Friends of Saintbridge Pond (FOSP), the men and women who turn out regularly to enhance, improve and maintain the large area of City Council land, saving the council thousands and thousands of pounds every year.**
- ~~(2)~~**(3)** The contents of this report be noted.
- ~~(3)~~**(4)** **It be noted that the management plan for Saintbridge Pond Nature Reserve, that already exists and which has been shared with partners is noted addresses the silting up issue and notes the strong view amongst local residents that the pond should be restored to open water and should funding become available in the future for the de-silting of the pond, in part or in whole, it would be considered.**
- ~~(4)~~**(5)** **It is noted that the Council will not plan to carry out dredging at this time, for the reasons set out in this report, but will keep this position under review will continue to review the issue of removing the silt and will work with the FOSP to set up a local FOSP Community Group to meet periodically, composed of four members of the FOSP, the relevant City Council staff (if available), the relevant Environment Agency staff (if available) and the Abbeydale City Councillors, to keep the silt issue under review, and to continue to talk to other partners and agencies to find funding to do the desilting work.**
- ~~(6)~~ **(6)** **It is noted that the Council will work with partners to manage the perimeter vegetation and foliage at the site.**

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- (3) The management plan for Saintbridge Pond Nature Reserve that already exists and has been shared with partners is noted.
- (4) It is noted that the Council will not plan to carry out dredging at this time, for the reasons set out in this report, but will keep this position under review.
- (5) It is noted that the Council will work with partners to manage the perimeter vegetation and foliage at the site.
- (6) **It is noted that that to obtain correct costings for de-silting the Saintbridge Pond, the protection of wildlife and the safe guarding of our local environment the following should take place:**
 - a. **A contamination report for the site should be carried out at a minimum of 10 trial pit sites. This will enable tests to determine if the site contains contaminated earth or not.**
 - b. **Water tests carried out to determine if the water is of good quality.**
 - c. **3 x De-silting quotes undertaken following the contamination report from local contractors.**
 - d. **Water improvement works following the water quality tests should any contaminants are found.**
 - e. **Funding for the above works and the protection of our environment is critical to the nature and well being of our city residents and wildlife.**

**CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT
ITEM 18(1) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP**

“In 2021, across England and Wales the proportion of disabled people was 17.8%, **with 8% of those who are registered as disabled requiring the use of a wheelchair.** Therefore, ~~so in the~~ **to drive for equality** this council needs to make sure that ~~17.8% of the~~ **licenced taxis and private hire vehicles and drivers** available during all operating hours **are suitable for the needs of our disabled population including Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs).**

Currently, whilst there are WAVs licensed by the council most only operate during daytime hours and many of those concentrate on providing specialist services to schools, colleges and other day time projects. This means that **wheelchair users disabled people** struggle and are often limited when needing a taxi to go shopping, get to work or go the railway station etc.

The situation in the evening and at weekends is worsened as there are very few taxis and operators ~~prepared or~~ available to take **wheelchair users disabled people** for a night out to the cinema, pub, restaurant, nightclub or simply to visit friends. ~~Whilst acknowledging the Councils licensing team are making changes to increase the number of WAVs,~~ Taxi and private hire operators need further encouragement to ensure that **WAVs are available for more operating hours, including evenings and weekends.** ~~at least 17.8% are WAVs.~~

This council notes that:

- **in September 2023 the Licensing and Enforcement Committee approved a policy exempting WAVs from the age and euro omission standards that apply to saloon vehicles.**
- **any new Hackney Carriage vehicle licences must be wheelchair accessible.**
- **most of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers in Gloucester are self-employed and therefore can choose which hours to work.**
- **There is currently no national legislation which mandates the requirement to have a WAV available 24/7.**

This council therefore resolves to:

- ~~Provide business rate discounts to taxi operators who can ensure 17.8% of their vehicles are WAVs and operate them at all times of the day.~~
- **Subject to consultation with the trade, offer an operator licence registration 50% rebate to operators who can evidence provide at least one WAVs available for bookings during all evenings and during weekends**
- **Promote alongside the required safeguarding training Provide free, quality disability awareness training to operators and drivers to enable them to safely transport disabled people and understand the needs of all disabled passengers, including those who may have hidden disabilities.**
- Consider other incentives for operators, **learning from best practice within other authorities.**
- **Continue to review and aim to increase the percentage of WAVs available for public use (to 10% of the Gloucester fleet), and promote with Hackney**

Carriage, Private Hire Drivers and Operators the importance of them providing their service particularly during the evenings and at weekends.

- **Write to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work to ask them to consider a change to legislation to give local authorities powers to mandate operating hours of WAVs.”**

**COMMUNITY INDEPENDENT GROUP AMENDMENT
ITEM 18(1) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP**

“In 2021, across England and Wales the proportion of disabled people was 17.8% so in the drive for equality this council needs to make sure 17.8% of licenced taxis and private hire vehicles available during all operating hours are Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs).

Currently, whilst there are WAVs licensed by the council most only operate during daytime hours and many of those concentrate on providing specialist services to schools, colleges and other day time projects. This means that disabled people struggle and are often limited when needing a taxi to go shopping, get to work or go the railway station etc.

The situation in the evening and at weekends is worsened as there are very few taxis and operators prepared or available to take disabled people for a night out to the cinema, pub, restaurant, nightclub or simply to visit friends.

Whilst acknowledging the Councils licensing team are making changes to increase the number of WAVs, taxi and private hire operators need further encouragement to ensure that at least 17.8% are WAVs.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Provide business rate discounts to taxi operators who can ensure 17.8% of their vehicles are WAVs and operate them at all times of the day.
- Offer a registration rebate to operators who provide WAVs in the evenings and during weekends.
- Provide free, quality disability awareness training to operators and drivers to enable them to safely transport disabled people.
- Consider other incentives for operators.
- Review and increase the percentage of WAVs available for public use, particularly during the evenings and at weekends.
- **as well any new Hackney Carriage vehicle licences, any new private hire vehicle licences must be wheelchair accessible.**
- **meet with Gloucester city taxi providers and look at ways to adapt current digital taxi applications which are already in use to enable disabled blue badge holders priority collection over able bodied customers.”**

**COMMUNITY INDEPENDENT GROUP AMENDMENT
ITEM 18(2) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP**

“This Councils notes;

A motion to this council on spiking in 2021 has helped progress the work by the Council and offers thanks to Gloucestershire Constabulary, GCC Licensing team, Nightsafe partners, and the individual licensed premises in Gloucester who have put extra measures in place to prevent and detect incidents of spiking in Gloucester.

The measures include drink testing kits, educational campaigns, the introduction of quiet areas for potential victims, spiking training, urine testing kits, and the successful street medic scheme who are medically trained to help those who may have been spiked and feel unwell.

This Councils supports the continuation and expansion of all these measures to ensure ALL licensed pubs, nightclubs and restaurants in Gloucester are aware of spiking and have provision to prevent and detect incidents in the day and night time economy including knowing how to support potential victims to get help and stay safe.

The Council resolves:

- To explore whether conditions on licenced premises can be included through the Council’s licencing regime whether voluntarily or mandatory to ensure venues have appropriate security and staff training in place to improve safety including the search for spiking paraphernalia and recognising signs that someone could be perpetrating this offence;
- To commit to work with key stakeholders, particularly those in the night-time economy, to review existing practices in use and implement all possible safety options as a matter of urgency, including training for staff on how to administer the kits, what to do in the event of a positive result, and promotional material promoting how customers can access the kits;
- To commit to working in partnership with all key stakeholders, to renew Gloucester’s Purple Flag status, a benchmark of safety in the night-time economy;
- To work in partnership with all key stakeholders (including The Gloucester BID and OPCC), to determine a funding stream to restart the Best Bar None accreditation scheme which aims to improve and monitor standards of licensed premises.

This council also notes that many licensed premises in Gloucester allow drinking to excess to maximise profit. The recent police documentary along Eastgate street in Gloucester, highlighted several licensed premises allowing young adults to leave their premises extremely intoxicated which led to several assaults and arrests. This shows a blatant disregard for the safety of customers of these licences premises along with that of the public. The cost to Gloucester Police is significant with many resources spent each week policing this on going alcoholic abuse. Therefore this council will undertake closer monitoring of the public community safety by checking alcoholic abuse at Eastgate street licences premises to help reduce crime in the area and ensure public safety.”

**COMMUNITY INDEPENDENT GROUP AMENDMENT
ITEM 18(3) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP**

"This council notes the increase in graffiti that is appearing on private and public buildings across the city.

This council recognises the negative impact that graffiti has on a particular area that is suffering from this anti-social crime.

This council agrees to review its current policy on dealing with the removal of graffiti from both public and private buildings.

This council agrees that it must strengthen its arrangements with key stakeholders to ensure more is done to catch and prosecute the perpetrators in a timely manner.

This council agrees to find a COMMUNITY GRAFFITI WALL / area in this city to enable. The community wall will be in an area that does not offend or upset residents but enables youth artistic freedom and expression.

A community graffiti wall fosters artistic expression, cultivates a sense of local identity, and provides a creative outlet for residents. It can also serve as a platform for community engagement, encouraging collaboration and communication among diverse individuals.

The wall will be able to be painted on and over by graffiti artists. There will be rules of the community wall adjacent. These rules for example will explain that nothing can be painted which would cause upset or alarm on the community wall and will be removed if painted.

This community wall will help reduce graffiti on public buildings/ bus stops/ private buildings and statues."

**CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT
ITEM 18(4) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM THE COMMUNITY INDEPENDENT
GROUP**

“Gloucester City Council notes that **parts of** the city centre **could be described** as is looking empty and bland. The city scene is **not to the same** below standard **when** compared to that of the Gloucester Docks area. And **parts of** the city centre is a grey space that needs uplifting.

Gloucester City Councils mission is to get more people outside and green the grey in our city. We know adding beautiful planters and softening an urban landscape are great ways to achieve this. They create colourful and welcoming spaces for communities that people want to spend time in and enjoy.

Here are five reasons why improvements should be considered to you this City Council motion should be accepted to enable all city councillors **to help the city go** to green the grey.

Improved air quality

Did you know plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen into the air? This is the process known as photosynthesis and as humans breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide plants do the opposite making the surrounding air quality better. Trees and plants also act as filters for urban pollutants and fine particulates by trapping the nasties in their leaves and bark. That’s why the more plants we have in our Gloucester City environment the better, they not only help us breathe better and cleaner air they form an essential part of our surrounding atmosphere. ~~City council to add a minimum of 20 planters to the city centre 5 North/ 5 South/ 5 East and 5 West streets. Planters to include colour and greenery.~~

Good for mental and physical health

Studies have proven that seeing and being close to plants helps reduce anxiety and stress levels in human beings. Gloucester City is dominated by the hospital tower block some older 1960s apartment blocks that don’t have any outside space, that can have a negative effect on adults and children including decreased concentration levels and increased psychological stress. Providing planters in Gloucester will help bring people closer to nature, they will create inviting greener spaces and people are more likely to leave their homes, go outside and exercise if there are attractive spaces filled with colourful plants to enjoy. ~~Gloucester City Council to include in the planters, plants that give good scents and aromatic smells to the public.~~

Sustainable communities

The fact is we all want to contribute to living in a more sustainable world, in cities there are a number of ways we can use plants to contribute to our sustainable development. Rooftop allotments are a great way of growing fruit and vegetables in a sustainable way, it has long term environmental benefits; saves money and is much more nutritious than shop bought produce. The community benefits are also greater as urban gardening connects the community together over common sustainable purposes. ~~There are several roof top spaces on City Council buildings around the city that are not being used. These would make the perfect place for these allotments. City Council to review places for allotments.~~

Economic benefits

In towns and shopping centres the addition of simple landscaping and planters by businesses can be largely effective in attracting more customers and boosting sales. The addition of plants, flowers and shrubs help to cultivate a positive environment where people can thrive. Greenery can also provide economic benefits to property owners; investing in landscaping can potentially boost property values and attract a wealthier market. Planting can reinforce a sense of identity amongst neighbourhoods providing potential jobs or hobbies for the community. Initiatives like rooftop allotments are a great example of this – they encourage residents to get involved in their communities through allotment rentals all the while providing fresh produce for the locals. ~~City Council to look into a Greener Gloucester City Centre business Competition. Where businesses make the outside of their premises greener with plants and hanging baskets. The mayor will then pick a winner, second place and runner up.~~

Defining spaces & pedestrian movement

Planters, when used strategically, provide the ability to divide spaces and manage pedestrian movement to aid with meeting social distancing requirements; pathways can be clearly separated from other areas. They can also be used to hide unsightly areas, to act as subtle visual and physical access barriers, or simply to enhance dead space between commercial buildings and roads. ~~Gloucester City Council Centre to look at defining spaces movement with 50 additional planters to be included. These 50 are additional to the 20 planters the City Council are providing. These planters will be sponsored by local businesses. The cost of the planter/ soil/ plants and small advertising badge and QR code to the business website would be covered by the local Gloucester business. This would raised income for the 50 additional sponsored planters as well as help to cover the cost of the watering of the planter. Businesses sponsorships will be for 1 year, and other businesses can take on the sponsorship of planters in following years. This would be a self funding green scheme.~~

~~This motion is a fairly simple motion to make happen, which could be actioned with plan and locations before the 30.03.2024 and implemented with planters on the streets of Gloucester before 30.04.2024 deadline.~~

This Council notes that:

- any additional street furniture or planters should be considered in detail, to ensure the correct positioning and funding requirements.
- that the HSHAZ planned public realm works will include 30 planters of varying size, 11 with seating attached and 12 trees being planted in the area, in the first quarter of 2024.

This Council resolves to:

- To look into a Greener Gloucester City Centre business Competition. Where businesses make the outside of their premises greener with plants and hanging baskets. The Mayor will then pick a winner, second place and runner up.
- To look into the feasibility of using several roof top spaces on City Council buildings around the city that are not being used for another purpose for urban allotments.
- To look into the possibility of business sponsorship of any new street furniture in the gate streets, prior to installation.”

**CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT
ITEM 18(6) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM THE COMMUNITY INDEPENDENT
GROUP**

“Council members,

I rise today to propose a motion that addresses a critical issue within our community – the urgent need for emergency accommodation. It is no secret that our city is facing a growing crisis of homelessness and displacement, exacerbated by a lack of affordable housing options. In light of this, I propose that we explore the possibility of converting empty properties into emergency accommodation to provide immediate relief to those in need.

Empty properties, whether they be vacant homes, **or** abandoned buildings, ~~or unused commercial spaces~~, **can** present an unique opportunity to address the pressing issue of emergency housing. By repurposing these properties, we can swiftly provide safe and secure ~~shelter~~ **accommodation** to individuals and families who find themselves without a home due to unforeseen circumstances.

This motion aims to achieve several key objectives:

1. ~~Utilizing Existing Resources:~~ Empty properties represent an underutilised resource within our community. By converting them into emergency accommodation, we ~~can~~ **could** make the most of these existing structures and ensure that they serve a purpose in addressing the urgent needs of our most vulnerable residents.
2. ~~Swift Response to Emergencies:~~ Converting empty properties into emergency accommodation **could provide additional accommodation, along with other rest centers** ~~allows us to help us to~~ respond quickly to crises such as natural disasters, economic downturns, or sudden displacement. This immediate response ~~is crucial in ensuring~~ **could add another element to ensure** that individuals and families have a safe place to stay during times of uncertainty.
3. ~~Cost-Effective Solution:~~ ~~Converting empty properties into emergency accommodation can be a cost-effective approach compared to constructing new facilities from scratch.~~ By ~~r~~Repurposing existing structures, ~~we can minimize expenses while still providing~~ **provide** essential shelter and support services to those in need **quickly**.
4. ~~Community Engagement and Revitalisation:~~ This motion also presents an opportunity for community engagement and revitalisation. By converting empty properties, we can breathe new life into neglected areas, fostering a sense of pride and community ownership. This approach not only addresses the immediate need for emergency accommodation but also contributes to the long-term development of our city.

To achieve these objectives, I propose the following actions:

1. ~~Conduct~~ **Update** an inventory: ~~Initiate~~ **Update** a comprehensive survey to identify and assess all empty properties within our jurisdiction that have the potential to be converted into emergency accommodation.

2. Establish partnerships: **Continue to** collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including property owners, community organizations, and housing agencies, to develop a ~~framework~~ **solutions** for converting empty properties into emergency accommodation. This partnership will ensure the efficient utilization of resources and expertise.
3. Streamline regulations: **To continue to** review and amend existing regulations, if necessary, to facilitate the conversion process. This may include expedited planning permissions, zoning adjustments, and financial incentives **local policy** to encourage property owners to participate in this initiative.
4. Allocate funding: Allocate a dedicated budget **To continue with identifying and acquiring property** to support ~~consider~~ the conversion of empty properties into emergency accommodation. This funding can be sourced from various channels, including government grants, public-private partnerships, and community fundraising efforts.
5. Monitor and evaluate: Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of the converted emergency accommodation and make necessary adjustments to ensure optimal outcomes for the residents.

In conclusion, converting empty properties into emergency accommodation **may** presents a viable and practical solution to address the pressing issue of homelessness and displacement within our community. By repurposing these properties, we ~~can~~ **could** provide immediate relief to those in need, utilize existing resources, and foster community engagement and revitalization. I urge all council members to support this motion and work together to make a positive impact on the lives of our most vulnerable residents.”