



ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 2ND APRIL 2009

Present

Ken McKay, Chairman
Nick Goodman, GPP
Trevor Gibson, Opportunity Peterborough
Hugh Cripps, PECT
Rev. Richard Paten, Railworld
John Turner, Railworld
Charlotte Palmer, PCC
Peter Slinger, RIBA
Phil Newby, Green Ventures
Sally Jackson, Peakirk Parish Council – Rural Communities
Cllr Fitzgerald, PCC
Paul Phillipson, PCC
Claire Higgins, Cross keys homes
Nick Hammond, Wildlife Trust
Peter Brotherton, Natural England
Sarah Hooper, Studentforce
Wayne Stimson, Eco Art Projects
Brian Armstrong, PCC
Belinda Child, Private Sector Housing – PCC
Mike Lennox, PCC
Kerrie Ginns, Environment Agency

1. Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from: Catherine Cairns, Julia Chatterton, Clive Morton, Martin Baker, Cllr Kreling, David Denson, Teresa Wood, Gareth Jones, Mike Barnes, Simon Pickstone

2. Minutes of Last Meeting held on 5th March 2009

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Private Sector Housing and Fuel Poverty

Belinda Child gave an overview of activity on private sector housing, fuel poverty and home improvement grants. PCC have received about £2million on a programme of capital grants and the aspirations is to get every Peterborough cavity wall and loft insulated by 2015. The grants are promoted to residents across the city and private sector housing have already received significant interest, large scale promotional activity is yet to start. Belinda also spoke about the event being run in Glinton on the 28th April and explained the project which is seeing every house in Glinton get a SAP (energy efficiency) rating. Getting every house in the village rated means that Glinton is potentially very well placed to explore renewable and sustainable energy options.

In addition Peterborough has also undertaken a Thermal Imaging study to identify areas of greatest heat loss in the city, the study took in the urban core and also Glinton, it isn't clear exactly how many houses have been surveyed but the data will be very useful and the results will be available in early summer. Sally Jackson questioned how the focus was on Glinton. The parish council in Glinton have been very supportive and have actually funded the SAP rating, it is hoped that this experience can be shared with other villages.

Discussion followed. Phil Newby suggested rolling out the grants ward by ward, creating a wave of energy efficiency grants and measures sweeping across the city, this would allow a targeted approach. It was suggested that the Glinton work should be showcased and a toolkit created for other villages, a great idea and Nick Hammond suggested that a Blog be created so people can keep track of progress. **NG to explore.** Hugh Cripps pointed out that water saving measures were very important with respect to water efficiency, PECT continue to work closely Anglian water and Waterwise.

Nick Goodman suggested that many of the residents that are most vulnerable to fuel poverty will also be those being targeted on the health, education, skills, community safety and employment agendas. How can we join them up and ensure that we are tying up our messages in a coherent and efficient way. Paul Phillipson and Claire Higgins were in agreement and Paul outlined the role of Neighbourhood management model and how these messages could be taken through Weeks of Action, Street leaders and Neighbourhood Watch. It was recognised by the partnership that a designated resource is required to drive some of this work through.

Nick Goodman raised the issue that we have carrots to encourage energy efficiency (grants and promotional material) but what are the sticks, essentially forcing householders into making improvements. Sticks are available to use on private landlords and the Merton rule has been useful in improving energy efficiency. **Paul Phillipson to explore what sticks might be available to increase the take up of energy efficiency measures.**

4. Biodiversity Strategy

Brian Armstrong gave a presentation on the update of the Biodiversity strategy. Brian's presentation is

available online at <http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/ECMinutes.php> - partners are encouraged to respond directly to Brain with any thoughts, comments or feedback.

Discussion followed – A number of group members commented and commended PCC on having such an asset in Brian and that having an Ecologist in the role was very important. Peter Brotherton raised a number of points including the plan of action for non PCC owned country wildlife sites and the Planning Policy Statement 9 – that there should be *no net loss in Biodiversity through developments* questioning whether, as aspiring to become recognised as the UK's Environment Capital, we should be aiming for a **net gain**. Peter also raised the question of Green roofs in the city.

Brian responded that work was ongoing engaging other landowners of County Wildlife Sites, through the Natural Networks partnership and through the work of the Wildlife Trust. A net gain in Biodiversity would be very difficult to achieve but would certainly demonstrate our commitment. Green roofs would not form part of the updated Biodiversity strategy, but made an important contribution to Biodiversity if the right material is used.

Phil Newby recognised that we as a city could be working directly with Natural England to explore the issue of net gain in Biodiversity. **A meeting involving Brian Armstrong, Peter Brotherton, Opportunity Peterborough and Planning department called to explore the planning policies and the planning practice.**

Paul Phillipson would undertake a piece of work mapping the major applications coming forward (for 09/10 financial year) assessing how they would be affected by including a net gain in Biodiversity in policy.

Nick Goodman explained that there had been some interest in accessing some of the LPSA funding for activities around Green roofs in the city. PECT are looking at a project which would retrofit Green roofs onto existing buildings. **NG to email round LPSA information to those who have expressed an interest.**

5. LPSA

Nick gave a brief update, applications are being received but proposals are reminded that there is a 50% capital and 50% revenue split. For an informal chat or to throw a few ideas around, please get in touch with Nick.

6. Green Festival

Hugh Cripps was pleased to update the group that funding has been secured for this year's festival (Primary Care Trust, Arts Council, Opportunity Peterborough and Riverford organics).

7. AOB

A small group met with Jonathan Porritt in March. Feedback was positive and a variety of issues were

discussed. The importance of the Comprehensive Area Assessment, the opportunity for using Peterborough as a “small city” measure, the importance of engaging with elected members (locally and nationally) and the NHS Climate Change strategy were all highlighted. Two representatives from Forum for the Future will be visiting Peterborough shortly. Eco Art projects extended an invitation for visitors and Environment Capital Partners to visit the allotments on Dogsthorpe Road.

Trevor Gibson showed a short video regarding the cycle race. This real is an exciting opportunity for the city and Trevor urged everyone to get behind it. Trevor also updated on the development of the Climate Change Strategy for the city and the GPP Executive have now endorsed the approach being taken in the city.

Rev. Richard Paten commended Nicholas Stern’s new book to the group – *A Blueprint for a Safer Planet* – available at all good bookshops, some bad ones and on amazon.co.uk - http://www.amazon.co.uk/Blueprint-Safer-Planet-Progress-Prosperity/dp/1847920373/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1239191595&sr=8-1

7. Date of next meeting 14th May 2009, 2-4 Viersen Room, Town Hall

Meeting closed at **16.00**

RESPONSIBLE	ACTION	DEADLINE
NG	To explore Blog, case study and toolkit for the Green Ginton work	asap
Paul Phillipson	To explore what sticks might be available to increase the take up of energy efficiency measures.	Next meeting
BA	A meeting involving Brian Armstrong, Peter Brotherton, Opportunity Peterborough and Planning department called to explore the planning policies and the planning practice.	Asap
Paul Phillipson	Undertake a piece of work mapping the major applications coming forward (for 09/10 financial year) assessing how they would be affected by including a net gain in Biodiversity).	Asap
NG	NG to email round LPSA information to those who have expressed an interest regarding Green roofs.	Asap