



## **ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL PARTNERSHIP**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008**

#### **Present**

Ken McKay, Chairman  
Nick Goodman, GPP  
Trevor Gibson, Opportunity Peterborough  
Hugh Cripps, PECT  
Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald  
Kerrie Ginns, Environment Agency  
Rev. Richard Paten, Railworld  
Jenna Hiley, PCC  
Peter Slinger, RIBA  
Julia Chatterton, Opportunity Peterborough  
Phil Harker, Opportunity Peterborough  
Cllr. Kreling  
Nick Hammond, Wildlife Trust  
Phil Newby, Green Ventures  
Catherine Cairns, Natural England  
Simon Pickstone, PCC  
Amy Brown, Legal representative, PCC

#### **1. Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from: Barry Kirk, Teresa Wood, Sally Ann Jackson, Mike Lennox, David Farquhar, James Beal, Joanne Russell, Mark Edwards, Wayne Stimson, Mike Barnes, Matthew Hunt, Andy Bailey

#### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

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

#### **3. Planning Policy**

Simon Pickstone outlined the process and development of the Development Plan Documents, with particular

reference to how the planning policies relate to those targets set out in the EC Manifesto. There were over 400 responses to the original consultation on the preferred options and about 150 of those referred to resource efficiency and energy efficiency.

Simon's presentation can be found at [http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/webpages/EnvironmentCapitalPartnership/meetings\\_environment.html](http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/webpages/EnvironmentCapitalPartnership/meetings_environment.html). The manifesto was used as a guide for the development of the planning policy but it must be recognised that planning alone could not deliver the challenging targets laid out in the manifesto. When the Peterborough policies were presented to Government Office and DCLG they both expressed some caution as to the challenging nature of the targets that had made it into the preferred options. This was seen by the group as a positive indication of Peterborough aspirational approach.

In summary, the local development documents being prepared as part of the LDF are looking to deliver (and in some cases exceed ECM expectations). It is widely considered that Peterborough is at the forefront of attempts to progress Code for Sustainable Homes for residential development in advance of the proposed national timeframe for certain types of development as well as requiring significantly ambitious building performance standards for non-domestic buildings in the form of an 'excellent' BREEAM rating for the majority.

PK raised concerns about the architectural merit of zero carbon homes and that these areas would be in danger of turning into slums. PH responded that the appointed consortium had presented well designed zero carbon homes which had received support at a regional level. This development will be recognised internationally and contribute significantly to our Environment Capital aspirations and the profile of the city as a whole.

CC asked whether the city was preparing a design guide for developers. PH said that yes, PCC and OP were looking to develop a design guide and CC encouraged the city to follow the example set by the Green Grid strategy and develop a similar guide, but for the city as a whole. WF added that developing a design panel was currently being discussed.

Discussion then turned to how we might meet some of the important infrastructure needs of the future, the energy and water studies were highlighted as vital in ensuring that future demand was met.

#### **4. Great Fen**

Nick Hammond gave a presentation on the work at the Great Fen project. Nick demonstrated how the project, in itself a masterpiece, had incorporated music and the arts into the development of the site. Nick also drew parallels between the Great Fen and the Environment Capital aspiration, something which appears impossible is being achieved. For more info on the Great Fen - <http://www.greatfen.org.uk/index.php>.

#### **5. Natural networks and Green Infrastructure**

Catherine Cairns explained the strategic context of Green Infrastructure. The Natural Networks group is an amalgamation of the Green Grid steering group and the Natural Environment Specialist working group. The NN group has three sub groups working on Biodiversity targets, South Peterborough Green parks and GAF projects. Catherine also introduced the Town and country planning associations work book on Green infrastructure -

[http://www.adfonline.eu/pressrelease/pressrelease.aspx?companyname=Town+and+Country+Planning+Association+\(TCPA\)&title=New+Eco-Town+Guidance%3a+The+Essential+Role+Of+Green+Infrastructure](http://www.adfonline.eu/pressrelease/pressrelease.aspx?companyname=Town+and+Country+Planning+Association+(TCPA)&title=New+Eco-Town+Guidance%3a+The+Essential+Role+Of+Green+Infrastructure)

Catherine also underlined the importance of the co-ordination of the NN group and the role of a dedicated Green Grid officer. It was suggested that CC would explore this issue with Cllr Fitzgerald.

**+ Following the meeting further information became available and it was confirmed that two Green Grid Officer posts are being funded through part of the GAF 3 funding allocation being primarily capitalized but incorporating the required revenue element to satisfy PCC finance auditing.+ +**

NH stressed that the *credit crunch* should not mean that S106 contributions are weakened. SP also outlined that it was important that the Core strategy was adopted before Great Haddon development comes forward, ensuring that the new policies, targets and guidelines were in place.

CC also encouraged the ECP to visit the Natural Networks website – [www.naturalnet.org.uk](http://www.naturalnet.org.uk) – particularly to familiarise themselves with partners supporting the Green Grid.

## **6. Environmental Capital Manifesto (ECM)**

Trevor Gibson outlined the revision and changes made to the ECM following feedback from DEFRA and city and regional partners. The presentation can be found at [http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/webpages/EnvironmentCapitalPartnership/meetings\\_environment.html](http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/webpages/EnvironmentCapitalPartnership/meetings_environment.html) and provides an overview of the tiered approach we are taking to our Environment Capital work. It is important to stress that the actual *doing* of the Environment capital; the activities, projects and actions which contribute to the outcomes, aims and vision are still very much part of the plan. NG and TG are working to identify a range of measures, indicators and metrics by which we can track our progress towards our Environment capital goal.

**Partners are encouraged to identify any areas where they can contribute towards the measurement and reporting against our Environment Capital progress.**

SP questioned whether we could challenge PCC to include the strap-line *Creating the UK's Environment Capital* as a footer in emails – **NG to pursue.**

Plans for the launch event on 19<sup>th</sup> November were explained and members were encouraged to show their support by wearing green on the 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**NG to send out an e-copy of the Environment Capital manifesto, comments from the group.**

## 7. A.O.B

RP highlighted the case study of Sustainable Transport produced by Railworld, copies were given out at the meeting.

## 8. Date of next meeting 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2-4pm, ASBAH, 42 Park Road,

Meeting closed at **14.00**

RESPONSIBLE	ACTION	DEADLINE
NG	Partners are encouraged to identify any areas where they can contribute towards the measurement and reporting against our Environment Capital progress.	asap
NG	Investigate whether <i>Creating the UK's Environment Capital</i> can be used in email footers for PCC	asap
NG	Send out an e-copy of the Environment Capital manifesto	asap