



ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14TH MAY 2009

Present

Trevor Gibson, Opportunity Peterborough, Vice-Chair
Nick Goodman, GPP
Hugh Cripps, PECT
Charlotte Palmer, PCC
Paul Phillipson, PCC
Wayne Stimson, Eco Art Projects
Cllr Kreling, City Council
Simon Pickstone, Peterborough City Council
Darren Sharpe, City Council
Mark Edwards, Editor, Evening Telegraph
Naomi Jones, Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services
Paul Pace, Peterborough City Council
Vanessa Tilling, GO-EAST
Gareth Jones, UKCEED
Steve Robinson, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from: Rev. Richard Paten, John Turner, Peter Slinger, Phil Newby, Sally Jackson, Cllr Fitzgerald, Claire Higgins, Nick Hammond, Peter Brotherton, Sarah Hooper, Kerrie Ginns, Mike Lennox, Catherine Cairns, Julia Chatterton, Clive Morton, Martin Baker, David Denson, Teresa Wood, Mike Barnes, Ken Mckay, Richard Dade, Teresa Wood, Phil Harker

1. Minutes of Last Meeting held on 2nd April 2009

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

NG reported that a "wash –up" meeting was planned for the Green Glinton event. Over 100 local people attended and the intention is now to roll the idea out to other villages. A bid has also been submitted to the

LPSA funding to continue this exciting area of work.

SP reported that in order for the emerging planning policies to be robust and aspirational (with regards to the resource efficiency requirements of new development) an evidence base was required. As it stands £15k has been committed from City Council, the overall cost of the work would be approx £35-40k. A bid has been submitted to the LPSA funding and a decision is needed before the week ending 22nd May. PPh urged that this project be regarded as a high priority and the partnership agreed that due to the timescales, a decision on the LPSA funding could be fast-tracked and ratified electronically.

DS reported that it was unrealistic to undertake a comprehensive “net Biodiversity gain” in new developments study at this point due to availability of resources and data. However on the 13th May a productive meeting was held to explore how net biodiversity gain could be supported in the city through the planning process, S106 strategy and through Biodiversity offsetting. DS also explained that Natural England have committed resources and time into piloting such a scheme in the city. The S106 strategy has received a number of officer level objections but to increase the Biodiversity quality of the document, more are needed. Further update at next meeting.

NG reported that an application for LPSA funding for a Green roof project had been submitted. This is particularly positive as it demonstrates the strength in partnership working through the Environment capital. The proposal is for a school extension in the Hamptons.

3. Voluntary and Community Sector and the Environment Capital

Naomi Jones, the LAA Involvement Officer (PCVS) introduced herself and the work she has been doing on mapping the sector in the city. Naomi's presentation is available via the GPP website, as are her contact details. Naomi reported that there are a range of community groups and charities in the city working in the environment but very few have knowledge or visibility of the Community Strategy or the LAA (or Environment capital!). Two specific projects were outlined (Enviroclean and Friends of Itter park) generating interest and debate on how we can better capture, recognise and celebrate the work of such groups.

Cllr Kreling asked for further details of the Enviroclean project and NG suggested that in terms of supporting groups, we should suggest that groups contact their ward councillors to explain what activities they are doing and ensure they are all linked into the Neighbourhood management model.

GJ requested a copy of the mapping exercise as the Environment VCS sector has direct correlations with the Envirocluster.

WS asserted Timebanking could provide a perfect catalyst for better engagement and NG will update NJ on the progress in this area. SP suggested that a simple web interface could be developed to link the groups with providers and other groups. HC suggested that it might not be too late to link groups into the Green Festival in some way and also that a meeting bringing together all the groups would be beneficial. NJ and NG

to explore opportunities around the Peterborough Infrastructure Group and activities on the environment.

ME reminded the partnership of the commitment of the ET to Environment and he was thanked from the Chair for the coverage of the Cycle race so far.

NJ was thanked for her time and work will now continue of Voluntary Sector engagement on the Environment capital agenda.

4. European Funding

NG gave an overview from the training he recently attended and posed a number of questions as to how we as a city can pursue European funding and more importantly, sharing innovation, new ideas and best practice with European partners (presentation on the GPP website).

SP reported that he and a delegation from the city were visiting Forli (Italy) in late June to present at an energy conference involving 10 partners from across Europe. Events of this kind are a great way to make contacts and networks with other European regions and cities.

WS requested more information on ERDF, NG to send through. WS also questioned how Peterborough could work with neighbouring authorities and NG reported that the GPP Forum on the 25th June was picking up this issue, how Peterborough works in partnership with neighbouring areas.

TG explained that the most difficult issue with European funding is trying to find match funding (often as much as 60%). To this end, a co-ordinated and efficient approach to European funding is needed. It was suggested that European funding could be added to the work going forward through GPP on co-ordinating funding applications across the city. NG to speak to Richard Astle to explore.

HC suggested that there should be an appetite for European funding in the city and that individuals could take it in turn to do partners searches. We could have it as a running item on our agenda. It was agreed that we would return to this at subsequent meetings.

5. LPSA

NG gave a brief update explaining that there is a delay in assessing the applications due to the volume of bids (13 in total, over £280k). Given the need for a quick decision on the Resource Efficiency evidence base, a decision is expected w/c 18th May and ratification of all decisions at the June meeting.

6. GPP update

NG reported that the GPP Exec had now re-aligned to include Chief Executive's and will provide a powerful decision making body. This will be particularly useful for us when looking to overcome obstacles and remove

blockages. NG also reported that Regional Improvement East had commissioned some work to examine the effectiveness of partnership working in the city, the Environment Capital partnership would be part of this. There is also a piece of work looking at the role of partnerships and GPP will be working with the Chair's over the coming weeks ensure that each of the main 8 partnerships is working effectively and efficiently, assuring the delivery of our Community Strategy.

TG updated the Partnership that for the 8th month running all the outcomes under Environment Capital are Green. As ever our challenge is to identify how we provide cross cutting solutions to delivering the Community Strategy, using the Green performance to drive other outcomes (and vice versa).

TG gave a brief update on the CAA which is now nearing completion. The CAA will be submitted shortly and Environment capital performance is strong.

7. AOB

HC outlined a project bringing a Building Material Re-use centre to the city incorporating skills and training, and thoughts, ideas of offers of support would be welcomed.

PPa reported that he has had a couple of productive meetings with NHS hospitals exploring how they can reduce their waste, they currently recycle nothing. Paul also updated the group that there were a number of challenges around delivering on the recycling targets. TG requested that this be included on the next agenda so the Partnership could identify how they can support this work.

TG reported that a small delegation had met with Forum for the Future and that a number of ideas had been formed, particularly around measuring performance and developing an environmental skills provision for non-graduates in the city. TG also noted that he and GJ had appeared on the politics show, had significant interest from Municipal journal on the "Inconvenient Truth" DVD and the cycle race was taking place on the 4th June.

NG reported that a hugely positive Environment education had taken place on the 12th May. There is lots of great work going on in Peterborough schools and they are being engaged on a variety of different projects.

NG also tabled the idea of reducing the frequency of Environment capital Partnership meetings but it was felt by the group that given the momentum, energy and business involved in the Environment capital meetings, we should stick to monthly. HC suggested that we have more task and finish groups where appropriate.

7. Date of next meeting 11th June 2009, 2-4 Viersen Room, Town Hall

Meeting closed at **16.00**

RESPONSIBLE	ACTION	DEADLINE
PPh, SP, TG, NG	Liaise to ensure that LPSA decision and subsequent actions on Resource Efficiency evidence base take place	w/c 18 th May
GPP	Revisit "net Biodiversity gain" at the next ECP meeting (June)	Next meeting
NJ	Ensure that Community and voluntary sector are engaged with elected members, ward councillors and Neighbourhood management model	On going
NJ and NG	Work with PIG group on environment agenda and work with HC to run Environment focussed VCS group meeting.	Next meeting
NG	Speak to Richard Astle regarding GPP role in funding co-ordination	asap
All	Volunteers to undertake European partner searches and feedback – standing item.	Next meeting
NG	Challenges around delivering Recycling targets in the city to be included on next agenda.	Next meeting