



ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11TH JUNE 2009

Present

Ken McKay, Chair
Trevor Gibson, Opportunity Peterborough, Vice-Chair
Nick Goodman, GPP
Charlotte Palmer, PCC
Wayne Stimson, Eco Art Projects
Cllr Kreling, City Council
Simon Pickstone, Peterborough City Council
Brian Armstrong, City Council
Paul Pace, Peterborough City Council
Mark Grant, Environment Agency
David Denson, PCC
Mike Lennox, PCC
Julia Chatterton, OP
Kerrie Ginns, Environment Agency
John Turner, Railworld
Richard Astle, GPP Director
Matthew Woodcock, Work Experience with GPP
Sally Ann Jackson, Peakirk Parish Council and Rural Working Group
Cllr Samantha Dalton, Cabinet Advisor for Environment Capital
Cllr Matthew Lee, Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Deputy Leader
Phil Newby, Green Ventures
Claire Higgins, Cross Keys Homes

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from: Rev. Richard Paten, Peter Slinger, Nick Hammond, Peter Brotherton, Clive Morton, Teresa Wood, Mike Barnes, Paul Phillipson, Hugh Cripps, Matthew Hunt, Vanessa Tilling, Steve Robinson, Mark Edwards and Gareth Jones

1. Minutes of Last Meeting held on 14th May 2009

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

NG and BA reported that discussions were on-going regarding Net Biodiversity gain through planning policy in Peterborough. Such a policy would thrust the city to the forefront of Sustainable growth. It is anticipated that the ECP will receive an update at the July meeting.

Engagement with the voluntary sector continues and the ECP is being represented at a forum with the voluntary sector as part of the Informing and Involving week. This is a real opportunity for us to work better and communicate more effectively with our voluntary sector partners.

NG and RA reported that GPP were launching a Funding Gateway in order to co-ordinate and create better visibility of who, what, when and how with regards to funding bids, applications and activity in the city. The purpose of the gateway is not to add an extra layer of information but to ensure that the city was taking advantage of external funding, pooling resources where appropriate and working effectively to deliver on the outcomes of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

NG reported that due to prior commitments, the agenda item covering the challenges of delivering on our recycling targets had been postponed from June's meeting until July's.

3. Environment Capital

The ECP listened to an interview with Marco Cereste, new leader of PCC outlining his priorities for the city and specifically his desire to make the Environment capital happen in the city. The Chair welcomed this priority and also welcomed the two Councillors with Environment capital responsibilities to the group.

4. Water Framework Directive

Mark Grant from the Environment Agency outlined the principals and consultation time frames of the Water Framework directive for the region. You can find Mark's presentation at <http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/ECMinutes.php>. Mark suggested that the actions and proposed measures contained in Annex C would be a good place to attach an large document (over 2000) pages!

Julia Chatterton noted that many of the issues have also been picked up in Peterborough's Water Cycle Study and surface water management plan. RA suggested that an abridged version incorporating just the pages affecting Peterborough would be helpful, **Mark Grant would co-ordinate and circulate**. Hard copies of the WFD could be viewed at Kingfisher House. The partnership's attention was drawn to the fact that many of the water quality issues faced in Peterborough (effect) are caused by source outside our unitary boundaries, highlighting the need to be working with our neighbours and on a catchment wide basis.

Trevor Gibson requested that some of the data could be used as part of the on-going piece of work looking at measuring and monitoring a whole range of environmental indicators in the city. The Environment agency website and the *Whats in your backyard* function should help.

5. LPSA

- a) The Assessment panel have completed the assessment of all 13 LPSA bids and are recommending 6 bids should be prioritised.

Planning Evidence Base

Living Roofs

Green Backyard

Just add water

Investors in the Environment

Green Glington

- b) This proposal was welcomed by the group and Nick will talk to each project to negotiate exactly how much each project will receive, given that the total for all 6 would exceed the budget by over £30k.

There was some concern that we were using LPSA money to fund the planning evidence base project and the Chair suggested that this is something that could/should be funded from within the City council and OP. Julia Chatterton responded that the new planning policies and this kind of activity should be a reflection of partnership working and hence the LPSA award was a good example of this.

It was decided that the **Chair would write to both Cllr Lee and Paul Phillipson explaining that whilst we are happy to contribute a token amount to the evidence base work, we would like to see all other avenues explored that we might have access to the LPSA money to spend on community focussed and innovative projects.** Nick asked for it to be minuted that Simon Pickstone had championed the cause for this piece of work and his dedication is much appreciated on behalf of the partnership.

BA requested that those bids that were unsuccessful would receive feedback and Nick added that the role of this Partnership should be to support the projects that weren't funded this time round. It was also requested that remember that the LPSA projects are very much pilot projects and we must also retain a light touch to the reporting. **NG to inform all successful projects and invite projects to present their proposals at future meetings, not for debate over whether the project should have been funded but for clarity and for profile amongst the partnership.**

6. GPP update

LAA progress was still indicating a fully Green status for the environment capital priority, the challenges around recycling targets would be picked up at the July meeting.

7. AOB

The ECP expressed serious concern that the Growth Area Funding 3 has been diverted away from Green Infrastructure projects following a recent Project Governance Board meeting. This means that only 3% of the GAF is being spent on Green Infrastructure projects, the figure doesn't really match our Environmental aspirations. Nick also reminded the group that this decision would be met with great consternation by the Natural Networks partnership and would affect some of the excellent relationships we have been developing through that group. It was agreed that the **Chair would write to the GPP Exec and Chief Executive of PCC** outlining the partnerships concerns. **It was also requested that we got a copy of the minutes from the meeting where the decision was made.**

Cllr Lee outlined his priorities and introduced himself to the group. The council are looking to demonstrate their commitment to Environment capital through some clear and tangible activities and will be looking to the ECP to provide ideas and input. Cllr Lee requested that partners tell him what they would like to see and together we can deliver.

Wayne recognised the need for citizen led activity and involvement, public engagement in the Environment Capital aspiration. Ken reminded the group of the impact of private sector housing stock and the contribution that an energy efficiency programme could have on the cities aspirations and carbon reduction targets. A bid had been made to the Technology Strategy Board which involved retrofitting demonstration homes, this had been submitted in conjunction with Registered Social landlords.

Wayne also explained that the Peterborough Artists Open studios would be taking place in July.

Brian reported that progress on the Biodiversity strategy was good and an update was expected shortly.

8. Date of next meeting 9th July , 2-4, Venue to be confirmed

Meeting closed at **16.00**

RESPONSIBLE	ACTION	DEADLINE
Mark Grant	Circulate a Peterborough digest of the water Framework Directive Annex C	asap
KM/NG	Write to Cllr Lee and Paul Phillipson regarding LPSA evidence base reward grant	asap
KM/NG	Write to GPP Exec and Gillian Beasley regarding the £% allocation of GAF3 money to Green Infrastructure projects.	asap
NG	Work with LPSA projects to negotiate funding allocations and invite to present at future ECP meetings	asap
NG	Speak to Richard Astle regarding GPP role in funding co-ordination	asap
NG	Request a copy of minutes from the Project Governance Board where the GAF3 decision was taken.	asap
NG/PP	Organise next meeting with potential meeting at the MRF on Fengate	Next meeting