

GLOUCESTER HERITAGE URBAN REGENERATION COMPANY LTD

MINUTES OF BUSINESS FORUM MEETING

Venue: Cory Room, British Waterways Museum, Gloucester

Monday 23rd March 2009

Present	Business Forum - Board Members	
	Michael Tallett-Williams (MTW) (Chair)	Peter Foyle (PF)
	Mark Owen (MO)	
Present	Panel Members	
	Angela Presdee (AP)	Paul Hopkins (PH)
	Neil Draper (ND)	David Tate (DT)
	Paul Bolton (PB)	
	Phil Hanman (PHa)	
	Sholto Thomas (ST)	
	Howard Francis (HF)	
	Ian Simpson (IS)	
	GHURC	
	Chris Oldershaw (CO)	
	Sam Hoad (SH)	

Refs.	Item Title	ACTION
151/09	Apologies Grenville Bird, Geoff Day, Roger Hanbury, Fred Reed, Chris Hayes	
152/09	Declaration of Interest: PHa – Graphics/signage	
153/09	Minutes of the Business Forum Meeting held 26th January 2009 Agreed as an accurate record of the meeting	
154/09	Matters arising from the minutes of previous meeting – 26th January 2009 MW to follow up advertising on the sides of taxis with Paul Hopkins – PH has received an email from Philip Cooke advising that no funding has been allocated to this in the latest budget. CO confirmed this, advising this may be revisited later in the year. CO gave an update on Bakers Quay – there will be a presentation on the site to the May Board. Expected demolition of the concrete silo in the near future along with the 3 cottages on the other side of Downings Malthouse. Looking at wrap-around hoardings for the rest of the site and sponsorship for these will be sought. The future plans for the site will be mainly residential in Downings and Provender Mill.	
155/09	Feedback from the Board meeting 30th January 2009 CO gave update.	
156/09	Completing Gloucester's Regeneration – Draft Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company Ltd Fourth Annual Business Plan 2009-2016 CO gave a presentation. Questions/comments: PB queried available funding for the Canal Corridor BID (Business Improvement District).	

CO advised that it was thought that previous funding would carry the process through to the ballot stage, but as the date has been put back until July 09 GHURC have allocated a further £10k of funding. Hoping to link with the BID on a water based strategy in the future.

ND asked if there was an over reliance on retail in the Blackfriars area?

CO – development plans are following the original Area Regeneration Framework. Gloucester has considerable scope for retail because of it's natural catchment area, but the right mix is important. Independent retail is currently very poor in the City.

CO asked members what level of importance they would attach to plans for linkages, suggested improvements to the Cathedral setting and proposals for the Railway Triangle site?

ND felt linkage Route 1 is critical and the City needs to benefit from the Quays development, Route 4 is more of a 'nice to have'.

CO advised that we need to make more of the river and canal.

AP felt because of this and aspirations to increase tourism, Route 4 is equally important, it would also open up the lower end of Westgate Street.

PH advised that it is important to have a mix of day and night time attractions. City needs to capitalise more on the visitors to Kingsholm.

PB stated that other cities have good and attractive transport systems.

IS felt the Cathedral was keen on improving it's setting.

PH asked if it is permit holders only parking currently in the Cathedral grounds and will they be consulted on any changes?

CO advised that the Cathedral do not want to lose the revenue from parking and it would be fairly easy to re-locate within the grounds and a potential site has been identified, but consultation would be part of the process.

AP felt the Cathedral grounds could then be more extensively used for events.

IS felt that an attractive transport system could be used to sell the history of the City, this maybe more appropriate towards the end of the regeneration projects.

PB asked if a tram system could work.

CO advised there would be issues with funding, but this could be re-visited when the Quays had been open a while.

ST advised that Stagecoach have been experiencing problems in sorting out locations of bus stops on the Quays development.

PH advised that only 4 taxi rank spaces have been provided and the locations were not ideal.

CO suggested Franco Muccini be contacted on these matters.

IS felt that the development of the Railway Triangle site is important as it is a first impression of the City. Questioned if there would be a problem in cleaning the land?

CO advised that there is pressure to demolish existing structures on the site, but this will not happen until agreements with HCA (Homes and Communities Agency) have been finalised.

PH asked if any further information was available on tenants for the Quays?

CO advised that the aim is for 75-80-% let at time of opening, currently over 60% with a further 12% in negotiations.

MTW asked members their priorities in the regeneration plans considering the current economic climate, what is less important?

CO advised that other areas such as Plymouth, Swindon, Cambourne and Redruth have only recently begun their regeneration process, Gloucester is further down the line and it is important we stick to plans and fight tactically for funding.

AP stated that other area's have access to other funding streams.

PF felt that it is important that funding be aimed at the more 'deliverable' schemes.

CO advised that schemes that were felt to be more achievable are being accelerated, but also we need to prepare the way for the economic up-turn and keep site of the long term vision.

PH asked if there was an alternative plan if Ramada decided not to build on the Quays development.

CO felt that this is a good site and there would be interest from elsewhere in

	<p>developing this site for hotel use, though this may be 2/3 years ahead. ND asked when the shop-fronts campaign will be visible? MO gave a general update and advised that 5 shop-front must be fitted by the end of March 09 and the Hawkshead store should be first, followed by Merchants Quay. MO also advised that the Tall Ships Festival would be held in conjunction with 'Gloucester Through the Ages' on the weekend 29th – 31st May 09.</p>	
157/09	Any Other Business	
	<p>SH advised that MW has provisionally arranged a pre-opening tour of the Quays development, dates (2 out of 3) – 14th, 15th, 16th April. Numbers will be limited to 10 per visit and the invitation will also be issued to the Community and Residents Forum. Please provide own safety shoes if possible. MW to e-mail official invitations.</p>	MW
	Dates of Future Meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tuesday 26th May 2009 – 6:00pm – Cory Room, British Waterways Museum 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monday 27th July 2009 – 6:00pm – Cory Room, British Waterways Museum 	

Author: Sam Hoad