

GLOUCESTER HERITAGE URBAN REGENERATION COMPANY LTD

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS FORUM MEETING

Venue: British Waterways Board Room – Commercial Road

Monday 24th May 2010 at 6pm

Present	Business Forum - Board Members	
	Peter Foyle - Vice Chair	
	Martin Seccombe	
	Forum Members	
	Angela Presdee	Phil Hanman
	Chris Gabb	Roger Hanbury
	David Tate	Sholto Thomas
	Neil Draper	Tommi Nielsen
	Peter Rust	Tony Markey
	GHURC	
	Chris Oldershaw	Ian Williams
	Martin Wallace	
	Guests	
	Kelly Ramsay	Ahmed Goga
	Sarah Danson	
198/10	Apologies	
	Mark Owen, Sam Hoad, Geoff Day, Ian Simpson, Mike West, Rachel Hossle, Richard Hardy	
199/10	Declaration of Interest	
	None	
200/10	Minutes of the Business Forum meeting held 22nd March 2010	
	Amendments to paragraph 193/10 from Mick Thorpe via email (as he was unable to attend this meeting. <i>The sentence... "Ultimately, the aim is to avoid businesses moving out of Gloucester"... was directed specifically at the Bristol Road area</i>	
	<i>Last paragraph amend. 'MT commented that having completed a number of planning briefs for the city centre we can turn our attention to preparing one for Bristol Road'.</i>	
	Above amendments made on original minutes	
201/10	Matters arising from those minutes:	
	None	
202/10	Feedback from the Board meeting 26th March 2010	
	CO advised that the March Board meeting had the single item of the URC Business Plan 2010 / 2011 which was approved. He advised that areas that might be at risk included Blackfriars and added that there was uncertainty about the future of RDAs	
203/10	Business Champions – Marketing Gloucester	
	Kelly Ramsay gave a presentation and overview of the Business Champions initiative: She spoke about best practice examples of Marketing Derby, Business Southampton, Hull Forward and GWE Business West. She spoke about the Champion Program being about the 'Business of Gloucester' and not necessarily about the individual businesses. It was also about improving the perception and	

	<p>profile of the city as well as providing networking opportunities and the programme would address inward investment. Some of the issues raised included Transport, Parking, and Regeneration. There were still a number of businesses unaware of the amount of regeneration taken place. The most immediate event was the forthcoming Community Cleanup Day, 6th June. Kelly went on to give an overview of the Summer events programme</p> <p>PF: How are you going to ensure everyone in Gloucester knows about all these events? KR: Working closely with Gloucestershire Media (the Citizen) Heart FM, and a marketing campaign about the engagement of residents</p> <p>Note: the presentation can be downloaded from the GHURC Intranet</p>	
204/10	<p>Main Board Agenda Items</p>	
	<p>391/10 GHURC Annual Report 2009/10 CO gave an overview of the 2009/10 Annual Report noting 2009/10 was the URCs best year to-date with a number of developments delivering on URC targets e.g. Gloucester Quays Designer Outlet Centre, Bloor Homes and Persimmon Homes</p>	
	<p>392/10 Programme Performance Update CO drew attention to the summary page with some highlights of the report e.g. Planning application in for the Language Immersion Centre (LIC), expected determination 22 July 2010, Fleece Hotel planning application due for submission in July 2010; Gloucester Docks, Southgate Moorings, EIG decision expected in June 2010, Kings Quarter, Development Partner, anticipated announcement in June</p> <p>ND queried the completion date of the Linkages work CO confirmed the Docks Linkages expected completion in late summer 2010 with the linkage works through Kimbrose Square / Southgate St anticipated completion late autumn PH wanted an opportunity to view the plans for the LIC CO advised that they were available in the URC offices and suggested making arrangements with Richard Owen or other members of the Executive team</p>	
	<p>393/10 HCA Single Conversation CO: informed the forum that this was a new method of investing resources over a 15-year plan. GHURC had submitted a number of projects including the Railway Triangle, Greyfriars, Bakers Quay, and Blackfriars for consideration. HCA are looking for priority bids for the County. The URC are arguing its case for significant funding</p>	
	<p>394/10 Gloucester Waterways Museum Roger Hanbury of the Waterways Trust gave a presentation of the museum and its future plans. Roger cited the Museum as an enabler for regeneration for the City as well as the Docks. They would be targeting a younger audience (16-24) and building the volunteer base. Volunteers were integral to the management model. The Trust nationally had raised £1.4m last year and had inherited 3 sites at Ellesmere Port, Stoke Bruene and Gloucester Docks.</p> <p>Ellesmere Port had taken the National status, Gloucester would be concentrating on things of a more local relevance</p> <p>As part of Gloucester's Renaissance the museums renaissance was refreshed in 2008 and finally "came to life" in 2009 with the opening of Gloucester Quays</p> <p>What next?... Marketing, access signage, interpretation, car & coach parking, toilets</p>	

	<p>& events. The Museum is now in its 3rd season since refreshed, other plans in the pipeline include the return of the Robert Opie Collection, Voyage to Prosperity, Waterspace Animation, New audiences and a local focus</p> <p>PF: Encouraged and heartened to see the way things have turned around with the increased numbers and improved financial figures.</p> <p>RH: Completion of building work in the Docks around the Museum and footfall from the Quays DOC through the Docks has helped; leaflets distributed and now working with Marketing Gloucester, however still more needs to be done</p>	
	<p>395/10 Gloucester Works – Report</p> <p>Ahmed Goga gave an introduction to the Gloucester Works programme. They had worked with over 900 clients across the city. It had proved to be a harder task given the current employment market and the number of skilled persons now made redundant. There are a number of initiatives currently underway to address the current and future issues. Gloucester Works were looking for support from the Business Forum to identify local vacancies. They were already supporting and developing clients to be job ready but needed more help using broader networks. Ahmed then circulated a case study of ‘Working with Employers’</p> <p>CO: how many of the Jobs created were in Gloucester Quays AG: Approx 40%. Some employers had not engaged with the programme and were recruiting directly CG: Experience of working with Job Centre Plus was not good enough for Barnwood Builders and as a result have stopped using them AG: Encouraged the businesses to use Gloucester Works TM: endorsed the comments of problems with Job Centre Plus AG: commented that there was a dichotomy with those having the least skills etc being from the most deprived wards e.g. Barton & Tredworth and on the other hand employers wanting the best / skilled people for the job PR: commented that job agencies were better placed than the job centre SD: commented that Job Centre Plus can be a benefit i.e. offer trials and check suitability, things are getting better AG commented that via the partnership vehicle, stigmas can be broached. He wanted to bring resources into the city, focusing as widely as possible PF added that the Board will consider the report and issues in more detail</p>	
	<p>396/10 Blackfriars Progress Report</p> <p>CO: The report addressed the vacant properties @ No.11 & 17 Ladybellegate St and addressed the creative & cultural industries. The report also addressed buildings such as the Royal British Legion building and Tile shop. Negotiations are underway for the former E&J Printers building as a site for the new City Centre Police Station for Gloucester Police,</p>	
	<p>398/10 Kimbrose Square Public Art:</p> <p>Presentation by Ian Williams who informed the forum that the new “Kimbrose Square’s public art had been based on the concept idea of a well following the local legend of St Kyneburgh</p> <p>Constructed of galvanised steel the Kyneburgh Tower would stand approx 18m. The public art would also consist of a City Wall Art-Screen</p> <p>The artwork design images shown were at a concept stage and are currently being developed. It was hoped a planning application would be submitted shortly</p> <p>There would be further opportunity for more public comment / consultation. The public art would be delivered in conjunction with the completion of Kimbrose Square</p>	

	<p>by November 2010</p> <p>ST: Who cleans it? And we should expect an element of vandalism IW: Expected that it would be the city council, tbc There was concern about the seagulls damaging the public art</p> <p>PH: commented on preventative maintenance as seen in Sheffield, building in a maintenance programme (bronze, silver, gold) CO: commented that it would form part of the detailed maintenance schedule PF: commented that from the Best Practice visit to Dublin, they had proper structures in place to ensure joined up street care which included artworks</p> <p>There was general support for the Public Art in 'Kimbrose Square'</p>	
	<p>400/10 Monitoring GHURC's 'Heritage Impact' CO advised that as a result of the report from Alan Baxter Assoc approximately 18 months ago, the Heritage Audit the Heritage Impact group was set up being chaired by Jan Wills of the County Council, looking at heritage across all the Magnificent Seven sites and in particular Blackfriars and Greyfriars</p>	
<p>205/10</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p>	
	<p>ST: Queried who was responsible for Destination Marketing and in particular the fact that the Tourist Information offices closed on Good Friday when the city had a number of tourists It was commented that Tourism could be a feature at the next meeting and suggested Chris Dee to be invited to discuss the Tourism offer in the City Tommi advised that artworks outside the regimental museum were going in over the next 2 weeks, completion expected by July 2010</p> <p>PF: encouraged members to send in items of concern to them or business in general, to include on the forum agenda</p>	<p>MW</p>
	<p>Future Meeting Dates: Monday 26th July 2010, 6:00pm, British Waterways - Board Room - Commercial Road Monday 20th September 2010. 6:00pm, British Waterways - Board Room - Commercial Road</p>	

Author: Martin Wallace