

CCCP News

Gloucester
City Centre Community
Partnership Newsletter

Autumn 2009

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Information about local matters inside this 16 page edition plus all the contact details to make Gloucester City Centre a better place to live in.

Gloucester City Centre Community Partnership: our aims.

The Partnership covers the Westgate Ward of the City, effectively the City Centre, Docks, Quays, Hempsted, Alney Island, Pool Meadow and St Oswalds. It was set up to reflect the views of the residents to the various bodies which make decisions about your lives – our overall objective is to improve life in the City. We have regular meetings on numerous issues - you are welcome to come along to any meeting and have your say in the future of your community. **If you want to know more please do get in touch by contacting: info@gloscccp.co.uk – or write to GLOSCCCP, P.O. Box 3155, Gloucester, GL1 9AA**

Policing really matters:

Although The City Centre Community Partnership covers the whole of Westgate Ward, the area is divided for policing purposes into **City Centre** and **Hempsted** areas. The immediate points of contact for residents are the Safer Community Teams. The City Centre Team led by PC Mark Mansfield works closely with the CCCP to identify policing matters. Here is his report:

Gloucester City Centre Safer Community Team

The new Quays shopping centre opened to the general public at the end of May. The weather was spectacular and in conjunction with the Tall Ships event at Gloucester Docks attracted 75,000 visitors to our City.

On Saturday 27th June, the team had the pleasure of policing the Rifles Freedom of the County march. All who attended this would agree that our City proudly received the troops with people lining the route waving their flags.

Dispersal orders: There are now two dispersal orders in the City Centre.

One is for Southgate Street to deal with vagrants and drinkers who continually congregate in and around area, causing anti social behaviour. The number of reported incidents has decreased considerably, and the drinkers are taking advice and refraining from loitering in this area. The second Dispersal Order was granted for Greyfriars. Youths were congregating in large numbers with evidence of drug taking, criminal damage and general anti social behaviour. Since the order came into effect, these issues have virtually disappeared.

Crack house closure

On Thursday 2nd July the Team closed a flat in Wellington Court, which was being used as a crack house. Magistrates in Cheltenham granted PC Mansfield the closure notice. This will send a strong message to the community that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated under any circumstance and will be dealt with robustly.

Contact the team by email: gloscity-sct@gloucestershire.police.uk or on the central police phoneline: 0845 090 1234

The changing face of the Police & Community Consultative meetings

We are changing the look of our PCCMs and how we interact with members of the public. They are now taking the form of road shows and the first one took place on Saturday 20th June at Tesco, in St Oswald's retail park.

A number of services, including the emergency services, St John's Ambulance, Gloucester Drug and Alcohol Service, Crime Prevention, and Probation Service, took part in the day when part of Tesco's carpark was cordoned off. Activities included property and cycle marking, police fingerprinting for the children, demonstrations by St John's Ambulance and tours of both a police vehicle and a fire engine. There was also a guess the sweet competition – the results still await!

GLOUCESTER



Crime and Disorder
Reduction Partnership



The Hempsted Safer Community

Team consists of a community beat officer and three Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) dedicated to the area, working closely with the Hempsted Community Panel, made up of local residents and members of key local organisations.

Their priorities are:

Anti-social behaviour in the Soren Larsen estate.

PCSOs patrol regularly and action has been commenced with several individuals regarding their behaviour. A successful children's event was held last summer and it is hoped to do something similar this year.

Speeding on Secunda Way

A speed gun has been purchased with community funding and high visibility checks have been carried out. There have been successful prosecutions for speeding, no seat belts and the use of mobile phones. A lot of drivers have been warned about their manner of driving.

Safe crossing area in Hempsted Lane behind Gloucestershire College

The team is currently working with Gloucestershire Highways to promote safe passage across this busy road. Please contact the police team by email or on the central police number:

elenore.lakin

@gloucestershire.police.uk

adam.stevens

@gloucestershire.police.uk

jordan.white

@gloucestershire.police.uk

manja.tunney

@gloucestershire.police.uk



Did you know?

Every incident reported to the police has a unique incident number which you should ask for when you phone or speak to them. Make a note of it, no matter how small the matter.

Fed up with grotspots in your area? Tell the Council about it, or report it to us here at the CCCP and we'll try to help get something done.

City Council: the number to call:

01452 396396

Police: the number to call for non emergency:

0845 090 1234

The Numbers Page:
Snip it out and
put it near
the phone

Crimestoppers
0800 555111

Samaritans
01452 306333

Don't forget your Westgate Councillors are also there to help with any problems. Their contact details are:

Cllr. Gordon Heath **01452 501881**
gordon.heath@gloucester.gov.uk

Cllr. Jeremy Hilton **01452 501206**
jeremy.hilton@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Cllr. Pam Tracey **01452 413497**
pam.tracey@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Your MP is Parmjit Dhanda and his contact details are: 01452 311870 Gloucester office, or email: parmjitdhandaamp@hotmail.co.uk

Gloucester Talking Newspaper is a weekly tape or CD recording of local news taken from The Citizen newspaper. It is free to anyone who is sight impaired and is unable to read a newspaper. Contact Gerald Tween: **01452 611498** or Pam Latchem : **01452 532187**

Our contact details: info@gloscccp.co.uk

Public Art or Art for the Public?

The Regeneration of Gloucester includes the commissioning of Public Art projects sited for example by Victoria Basin and Kimbrose Island. Many people consider that money spent on public art is wasted, overlooking the contribution it can make to our environment, economy and quality of life. The Cathedral is Gloucester's greatest example of public art, incorporating centuries of history and craftsmanship. Some public art becomes so familiar we forget it is art. The design of the War Memorial, essentially a public artwork, enables families to gather on Remembrance Day to respect those lost lives. Public art can be small and practical like the carved stone bench at The Cross or fun like the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail.

How much is known about the current, primarily publicly funded, projects? The aim, we are informed, is to mark the key points in the linkages between the City Centre and the Quays Development, to encourage visitors to move between them. Yet there has been no public consultation to elicit what would interest visitors, or to gather ideas from local people.

Artists have been briefed, and selected by a small panel: only one member lives in Gloucester. So, whatever their merits, the artworks are being chosen for us – art for the public, not of the people. This was an opportunity missed for local people to be involved in the development of these projects, to take ownership of them and consequently have pride in the regeneration of our city.

Street art. Could this be a blank canvas?



Boxes – service boxes – circuit boxes!!!! We never notice them on our street corners, they sit there looking blank, silent and ignored! The CCCP is intending to brighten them up and bring them to life! Later in the year we are starting to develop an art project, involving the local community and local artists to place artwork on a small selection of boxes in the City Centre. Anybody interested in helping develop this project contact us at info@gloscccp.co.uk

The 'bookcase' in the photo is one in a series of trompe l'oeil art on circuit boxes in one city centre, but the possibilities are endless. Let us have your ideas.



A black street lamp stands against a clear blue sky. A large, round hanging basket is suspended from the lamp, overflowing with a mix of white, pink, and purple flowers. In the background, there are green trees and the tops of brick buildings.

Blooming lovely! Flowers make all the difference to the city centre.

Gloucester in Bloom awarded **£500** to St. Michael's Square Community Project for a hanging basket scheme this summer. The CCCP added a further **£200** to enhance this.

Fullers Court was also presented with an award of **£500** by Gloucester in Bloom. The CCCP Vice Chair Sue Johnson received the cheque on their behalf.

For further information about any articles on this page contact:
info@gloscccp.co.uk or write to
**GLOSCCCP, PO Box 3155,
Gloucester GL1 9AA**



Old Gloscat creche, no hiding place.

Before

After

Success! Thanks to co-operation between the CCCP, police, City Council and the site owners the derelict nursery buildings in the grounds of the Media College, Brunswick Road have been demolished. In our Spring issue we outlined how the Police and Fire officers ‘were horrified by what they found in the building which had been used as a drug den...’ The CCCP took up the issue with the support of the police and local residents and the results are clear to see.

However the site frontage on Brunswick Road still remains of concern. It is a dumping ground for bottles, empty cans and there are numerous anti-social activities which remain hidden behind the wall fronting the site.

The CCCP is asking for the area to be cleared and the wall demolished, leaving an open green area – although a temporary one.

Are Community toilets the only answer?

A recent report to the City council outlined the current view on public toilet provision in the City Centre. A community toilet scheme is being developed on a trial basis in the vicinity of Kings Square.

The scheme will allow public access to private toilets managed by small and medium size businesses – such businesses entering the scheme will be limited in number. Each participating business will receive £600 p.a. The ongoing development of the scheme will be dependent on the savings made following the closure of the Kings Square toilets. We will not comment here on the risks and short comings of building City Centre toilet provision around a Community Toilet scheme.

We seek your views:

Do you think a Community Toilet scheme is the answer?

Do you use the public toilets in the City Centre?

If so which ones? And what did you think about the standards of cleanliness, sanitary fitting, hand washing & drying facilities, disabled access and baby changing facilities?

Do you think the provision of pay to enter toilet pods would be a better and more flexible solution?

Send your views to info@gloscccp.co.uk

Project Orienteer is now on the map.

In our Spring edition we announced our intention to develop an Orienteering Course in Gloucester Park. Good news! The course was completed as planned and formally opened on the 30th May. A Partnership led by the City Centre Community Partnership has been working towards the establishment of a fixed orienteering course in Gloucester Park. Westgate is one of the most deprived areas in the City; Gloucester Park sits on the edge of this area. Whilst the Park offers open space for both recreation and sport, there is little by way of organisational facilities. Sport is widely recognised as an aid to good mental and physical health and yet poor access can represent a barrier. The initiative will facilitate easier access to this sport in a safe environment and encourage greater and more diverse use of the Park.

Orienteering combines racing with navigation using a map and compass and is popular as an outdoor pursuit. Access to the course will be free to all, both individuals and groups. Maps and instructions available free of charge from The Park-keeper's hut, Rikenel Surgery and Tourist Information Office, Southgate Street. We have received a great deal of support from the North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club – being the local 'experts' on the sport, they will be providing training support at planned events and training days. On hand at the events will be expert trainers from North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club to show newcomers to the sport the key skills to enable them to have a go.

This has been an excellent example of Community Partnership at work developing a truly community facility. Our thanks go to all of those who have supported and helped with this project. Plans are now being formulated to design a second course, this time in the Docks so that, more residents and communities can take advantage of the sport.



One of the orienteering points

For further information about any articles on this page contact: info@glosccc.co.uk or write to **GLOSCCC, PO Box 3155, Gloucester GL1 9AA**

Marketing Gloucester? What exactly is being done to put us on the map?

An interview with Graham Walker, the man whose job it is, reveals some of the plans and hopes.

Graham Walker is the chief executive of Marketing Gloucester Ltd., a company formed in 2008 to promote and improve the image of Gloucester through marketing initiatives. Graham took on the job in September 2008 at a point when the company had no money, no staff and no premises. A year on and it has offices in Alexandra Warehouse, a committed team and a turnover in the region of £1m – demonstrating that where there is a will there's a way forward.

Hallmarks of a great city.

Graham considers that his job is a privilege. He maintains that, although Gloucester has short-term challenges, it has all the **hallmarks of a great city** and the potential to be truly great in European terms. He believes this target is achievable and he has the enthusiasm to realise it. His past achievements include working as Commercial Marketing Director for the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. It was his job to raise the money for it. He believed it could happen and it did. The same could happen in Gloucester if people also have that belief.

The task of marketing Gloucester involves working with and promoting business generally but also focusing on culture, tourism, retail and education. Graham would like a strategic masterplan for the whole city. There are public and private sector bodies available to deliver one and Marketing Gloucester is here to bring them together.

Viable rents and rates?

One strategy is to increase occupancy of city centre buildings. In the long term, in Graham's view, there have to be economically viable rents and rates. Currently these are unrealistically high. In the short term, his team has worked with the financial backing of public bodies and prominent local businesses on the Window Displays Project. The aim is to smarten up empty units to counteract the negative effect they create. The theme of Gloucester through the Ages, both informs and expresses pride in the city. In fact, Graham says, there are no more vacant shops in Gloucester than there were 5 years ago. After the interview he was attending the opening of a new business in The Mall, an encouraging sign.

Reduce parking charges

One way to persuade more people to come to Gloucester is to drastically reduce car parking charges, in Graham's view. Car parking should be seen primarily as a benefit for the customer rather than a form of revenue. The utilisation figures show that Gloucester is overprovided for, so an initiative such as 'no charges after 3 pm.' is feasible and would give the city a competitive edge.

Have you got a view on what should be done to improve C

Graham feels that Gloucester is held back by poor public transport links and whilst motorway links to the south are good, the A40 to the west is a big problem.

Tall ships,entertainment, and street theatre

Marketing Gloucester has taken on The Tall Ships Festival and Gloucester Festival. The success of the Tall Ships weekend last May was such that the next one could run for 2 weekends with events in between. Other events in 2009 include entertainment every Sunday for 6 weekends through August into September in the Docks, developing the idea of street theatre in Gloucester after the success of Cirque Bijou at The Tall Ships Festival. In the future Graham hopes to work with the Cheltenham Festivals to improve cultural opportunities in Gloucester – for which there is EU money available. Gloucester has assets that Cheltenham does not – including the Docks, the canal and river locations.

A new deal for business in the city

Graham wants to promote a new deal for Business in Gloucester, working with Gloucestershire First and the City Council to build up a library of information. Marketing Gloucester has one project already underway. It has leased half a floor in Alexandra Warehouse where Graham plans to encourage the setting up of small creative and media businesses. He has with other stakeholders made a successful bid for public money in a scheme called ‘Accelerating through the Downturn’.

The success of Phase 1 of The Quays, which opened on time, and the progress of Phase 2 is encouragement for the regeneration and success of the city. Businesses in the city centre have found that the opening has not had an adverse effect on them.

Operation Clean-up

Not all marketing is done with a lot of publicity. Marketing Gloucester is working behind the scenes on Operation Clean-Up to tackle anti-social activities and cleanliness in the city. Subtle improvements are happening. In July, Marketing Gloucester appointed a City Centre Coordinator, Verity Brain. One target is to make Gloucester “clean, safe and accessible”. ‘Hotspots’ have been highlighted, including the bottom of Northgate Street and the old Gloscat building. It is working with other organisations such as Community Payback, Young Gloucestershire, Streetcare and Enterprise.

Take pride in Gloucester

A recent project has been the improvement of Aviation Gardens, working with Groundworks, Heritage Lottery Fund and Gloucestershire College to create a pleasant environment and remove the anti-social behaviour. Graham was keen to stress, however, that Gloucester’s anti-social problems are no worse statistically than in other towns and cities.

To a great extent it is a matter of overcoming the perception and image the city has by taking a pride in its achievements and heritage, and building on that.



A New Era for the Waterways Museum?

Hopes are high that the Waterways Museum can develop into a community project with much input from volunteers. Visitor numbers have fallen in recent years, affected no doubt by the major building works in the area and the general decline in numbers visiting the docks, and this has led to a significant reduction in staff with talk of possible closure. In this difficult situation, the Waterways Trust, who run the Museum, are looking to work with local partners to build a new future for the Museum with a new emphasis on local and regional waterways and a new local name.

Recognising that the Museum is needed to play a vital role in bringing visitors back into the docks, a range of local authority and community organisations (including the City Centre Community Partnership) have joined a steering group to provide advice and support to the Museum management. At the same time, the Friends of the Museum have helped to recruit individual volunteers to assist with

the day-to-day running of the museum – although more volunteers are still needed. These initiatives, aided by the opening of the nearby designer outlet centre, have already brought more people into the Museum while still keeping operating costs low.

To help keep the Museum sustainable in the longer term, Gloucester Civic Trust leaders are considering moving their visitor information point from College St to the Museum foyer and encouraging their volunteers to help the Museum in other ways.

Hopes are high, therefore, that a partnership can be forged between The Waterways Trust and local organisations that will enable the Museum to stay open and develop as a community project with a new name. If you can spare some time to be a part of this vision, please do contact Doreen Davies at the Museum (01452 318201).

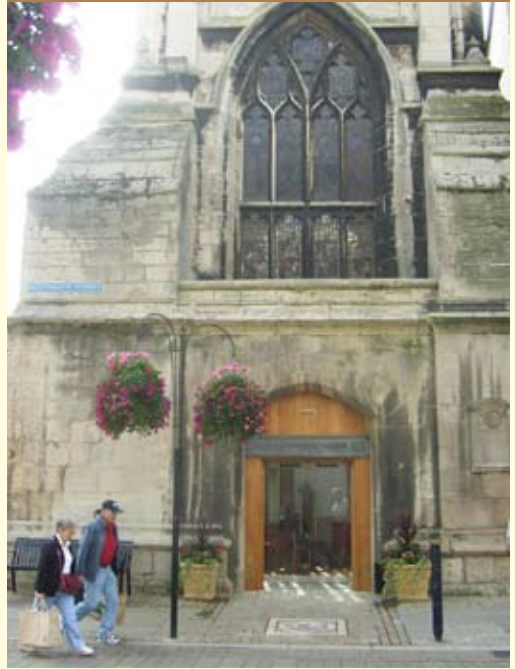
Small victories:

Our continuous pressure has seen some small victories in the Lower Westgate area. On our community walkabout in August 2008 numerous issues in need of attention were raised. Since then the **CCCP** team has been pushing for solutions:

'What a floody mess!' article from Spring issue. **Problem solved**, the site doesn't flood anymore;
Litter bin sat in middle of pavement and outside fire doors. **Problem solved**, the bin has been moved to a wider part of the pavement and outside a takeaway;
Flower bed wall badly damaged with loose bricks vanishing daily. **Problem solved**, County Council have now rebuilt the wall and the flower bed in secure again;
Low walls around the Westgate Gyratory in **serious need of repair**, with bricks falling into road. **Problem solved**, following discussions with the County Council the gyratory walls have been fully repaired. Not only safer for motorists but also this gateway to the west of the City looks so much better and attractive.

There is still much more to do throughout the CCCP area – we will continue to press for solutions especially when it appears that the voice of the residents is being ignored.

The Tower opens its doors again



An official opening of St Michael's Tower takes place on September 9th at 12 noon when Bishop Michael will carry out a dedication service of the building. A Civic Party will be present together with all grant providers and supporters.

The hours of opening will be from Tuesday to Saturday from 10-30am to 4-30pm. Members of the *Civic Trust* will be available to explain the history of the Tower, its regeneration into a City heritage centre and the extensive programme of events planned for the coming months.

This opening comes after five years of hard work by Civic Trust members and Friends of the Tower and brings back to life a City landmark which has lain idle for more than a decade.

For further details of St Michaels Tower and Gloucester Civic Trust and its plans go to: www.gloucestercivictrust.org

Park Road, close to the city centre

Rubbish report

Do you wander our city centre streets and complain to yourself about the state they are in? Or are you delighted at the quality of our street cleaning? Views and perceptions differ widely but two areas seem to come to the fore repeatedly. One is the never ending carpet of cigarette butts that cover our wonderfully paved roman roads. They were never there in Roman times. The City Council have installed 15 new bins in Eastgate and Southgate. These bins have integral cigarette stubbers in the top. If you are a smoker please use them and get rid of that carpet. The judges of Gloucester in Bloom, reflecting on the beauty of the floral displays must surely notice this blot on the landscape. Lets help to win for our City.

If you attended the carnival you probably would have noticed on the route the preponderance of "wheelie bins" on the pavements and in several cases the amount of rubbish deposited outside blocks of apartments. The City Council are aware of the problem but it seems to us that the problem starts at the planning stage when inadequate provision is made for the storage of wheelie bins. However if you live in an apartment, if you are a landlord of a block of flats. or a housing association please ensure that any such blot on the landscape is removed. Bulk rubbish can be reported to that magic City Council number 396396 and arrangements made for collection.

Recycling in a whirl

A new recycling collection service is to be introduced throughout Gloucester in February 2010. Separate kitchen waste bins will be supplied and the recycling box items extended to all plastic bottles and domestic batteries – but cardboard and textiles will have to be taken to recycling centres. It's good news for gardeners in Westgate as a fortnightly garden waste collection will operate on request. Black wheelie bins will be collected fortnightly – the alternate week to garden waste.

How will it work in practice? Many households have difficulty with the current arrangements so it could be even more confusing with up to 4 bins to manage and alternate week collections. Some flats have no recycling service now so will they still be excluded? The number of bins kept permanently on the streets could double – and how do you stop people putting the wrong item in a bin as they pass by?

To learn more come to the CCCP meeting on 9 September, 7.30 pm at St Michael's Tower. The GCC Waste Manager, Stephen Perkins will be the guest speaker.

Our aim at CCCP is to work with the City Council to ensure a clean and welcome city. We will complain. and we do, if we think the Council is not coming up to scratch but we can all play a part in achieving that goal.

Diary:

**September 2009 to
2009 January 2010**

9th September, 7.30 p.m. Partnership Co-ordination Group: speaker Stephen Perkins, Waste Manager, GCC on recycling; venue: St Michael's Tower, The Cross; all welcome.

16th September, 7.30 p.m. Greyfriars Development: first session on the plans to develop the Gloscat and Media College sites: venue: Meeting Room 1, Guildhall, Eastgate Street; all welcome. For updates on this project register with greyfriars@gloscccp.co.uk

7th October, 1.00 p.m. Community Walkabout: A walk for residents round part of the City with Police, Streetcare, Councillors to highlight problems and discuss solutions. Contact CCCP for details of area to be covered. Start point junction Parliament and Southgate Streets;

14th October, 1.00 p.m. Community Walkabout: as above. Start point The Cross;

16 December, 7.00 p.m. Xmas Ghost Walk and Meal: – meet at Tourist Information Centre. Contact CCCP for full details. Booking essential.

2010

13th January, 7.30 p.m. Partnership Co-ordination Group: – venue TBC

Further events will be added to our programme as the year progresses.

Don't just sit there complaining about Gloucester, jump into the deep end and make your voice heard with the CCCP!

*Photographs in this issue are from residents, if you would like to submit images for consideration please let us know email: info@cccp.co.uk
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