



Meeting Notes

2nd October 2019, 11.00am – 12:30pm

Barnwood Trust, Overton House, Overton Road, Cheltenham GL50 3BN

Chair: Tom Beasley, Active Gloucestershire

Attendees:

Phil Creed: Creed Foodservices
Susan Girling: GE Aviation
Susan Doran: CCG
Ken Dale: Chelt Borough Council
Chris Pitt: Ecclesiastical Insurance
Ruth Mowday: Invista
Joy Elkins: Hazlewoods
Rosie Branney: Barnwood Trust

Jo Atkin: THINK Travel
Michele Pashley: Gloucs Hospitals NHS Trust
Jen Cleary: Gloucs Managed Svcs
Ann O'Driscoll: NBristol SusCom
David Callaghan: HP Enterprise
Tom Beasley: Active Gloucestershire
Louisa Hancox: Active Gloucestershire

Apologies

Laura Stevens: UCAS
Audrey Healy: EDF Energy
Chris Smith: Cheltenham Racecourse

Notes

Purpose of meeting:

To explore whether there is an appetite from leading employers in Gloucestershire to work together to enable the growth of active travel and sustainable transport – providing a united voice to influence the Local Transport Plan and initiatives in the county.

North Bristol SusCom-shared learning from Bristol:

North Bristol SusCom (SusCom) is a group of businesses based in South Gloucestershire who work together to enable more of their 45,000 employees/30,000 students to commute more sustainably. There are many lessons that can be learned and shared between the proposed Active Businesses Gloucestershire network and SusCom.

More notes on slides attached but its key focus is to encourage **Sustainable Commuting** to

- reduce congestion
- improve employee health & well-being
- reduce air pollution
- improve quality of life
- increase productivity/efficiency
- attract employees/students to live, work and study in the area

With 2 key strands to their work:

- 1. Strategic Influence (Policy & Planning)**
- 2. Mode Shift (Action & Delivery)**

Local Transport Briefings:

We briefly discussed a few transport projects/plans/strategic groups that a formal Active Businesses Gloucestershire Group may want to be aware of or engage with in the future:

- Cyber Central <http://bit.ly/CyberCentralCheltenham>
- Boots Corner - <http://bit.ly/BootsCornerCheltenham>
- Local Transport Plan will be out for public consultation in January <http://bit.ly/GloucestershireLocalTransportPlan>
- Cycle Links - <http://bit.ly/CycleLinksGloucestershire> / <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2092291/travel-by-cycle-around-gloucestershire-booklet.pdf>
- Western Gateway - <https://westerngatewaystb.org.uk>
- A Powerhouse for the West - <http://bit.ly/APowerhouseForTheWest>
- Think Travel - <https://www.thinktravel.info/>

Group Discussion:

The group felt that they would like to see the development of a Gloucestershire Active Businesses Network, to have bi-monthly meetings but would like to agree a clear focus. There is so much that we can do that we need to agree where we want to start and what we want to see delivered.

Other comments:

- Cost of public transport can be high and puts people off
- E-bikes are a great way to get people into cycling and greater physical activity
- Travel Surveys are a good way to identify issues and barriers preventing people from travelling more sustainably, being more active. GCC recently surveyed staff – awaiting findings. Gloucestershire Business Park also conducted a survey. Ecclesiastical also conducted a survey in advance of the office relocation.
- All agreed that supporting workforce to be as active as possible is important for wellbeing
- Appetite to explore an Active Travel Survey for Gloucestershire
- Highways England have a designated fund and have funded cycle links before to help ease traffic and congestion

Hospital – real challenges with parking onsite with shift workers overlapping. Too many cars on site is causing air quality issues and congestion. Have to think not only about staff but visitors too. Run a bus service between the two hospitals to help reduce car use. Currently undergoing a new travel strategy.

Gloucestershire County Council – has spoken with GWR about discounted train tickets. All agreed that having those conversations as a group of employers with a united voice would give it more weight.

NHS Gloucestershire CCG – NHS has a mini- bus to shuttle people from the car park to site. This is a challenge as it is an opportunity for staff to do the 10-minute walk at the start and end of their working day. Need to help people to make the changes needed to have a more active and healthier workforce.

Next Steps:

We will organise a follow up meeting to be held in January. Creed has kindly agreed to host. Date for the meeting is: **Wednesday 15 January 11-12.30pm**

Actions:

- 1. Please could you send us the top 3 issues that affect your business in terms of sustainable commuting and having a more active workforce.*
- 2. Please let us know if you have a specific topic or issue that you would like to raise at a future meeting by Monday 21st October.*
- 3. Please take a look at the notes from the meeting and confirm your attendance at the next session on Wednesday January 15th at 11am.*