

Meeting Notes

15 January 2020, 11.00am – 12:30pm
Creed - The Foodservice Company, Ashville Business Park,
Cheltenham Road East, Gloucester GL2 9QJ

Chair: Tom Beasley, Active Gloucestershire

Host: Martin Holmes, Creed Foodservice

Attendees:

Martin Holmes: Creed Foodservices
Susan Girling: GE
Ramdev Kunnappally: GE
Susan Doran: CCG
Ken Dale: Chelt Borough Council
Ruth Mowday: Invista
Jo Atkins: THINK Travel

Ann O'Driscoll: North Bristol SusCom
Louisa Hancox: Active Gloucestershire
Viva O'Flynn: Love Viva Cakes
Victoria Lukins: GHL Service
Alex Bamberg: engie
James O'Neill: Stagecoach

Apologies:

Laura Stevens: UCAS
Michele Pashley: Gloucs Hospitals NHS Trust
Chris Smith: Cheltenham Racecourse
Chris Pitt: Ecclesiastical Insurance

Audrey Healy: EDF Energy
Ben Murray: SJP
Jen Cleary: Gloucs Managed Svcs

Notes

Copies of slides, guides and information from this and previous meetings are all available to download at: www.northbristolsuscom.org/activebusinessesglos.html

Active Businesses Gloucestershire: Future development

This was the second meeting of the Active Businesses network. The group is currently funded by a social investment grant that was awarded in order to bring businesses together and explore how we can tackle congestion, improve air quality and increase sustainable commuting amongst employees in our county. There is funding available to run a further meeting in March.

We have submitted a proposal to Gloucestershire County Council's Climate Emergency Fund. If successful, we will be looking to press ahead and set up as a formal organisation using [North Bristol SusCom](http://www.northbristolsuscom.org) as a model. If successful in securing funding (we should know in February) we will be seeking 10-15 employers to join us in developing *Active Businesses Gloucestershire*.

Businesses would pay an annual membership fee matched by the Climate Emergency Fund funding to deliver:

- i) a programme of meetings
- ii) an annual travel to work survey
- iii) a number of smaller projects/mode shift activities to be agreed.

More details will be available soon.

Electric Vehicles

Alex Bamberg from [engie EV solutions](#) led a discussion on EV charging

ENGIE is a leading energy and services group employing 17,000 people in the UK, across three main activities: Services, Business Energy & Regeneration.

ENGIE can design, install and manage safe, efficient, reliable vehicle charging solutions. For more information contact Alex: alex.bamberg@engie.com

The [Energy Savings Trust](#) offers businesses a wide range of support:

- Driver Engagement @ Work – fully funded project supporting organisations to help employees identify the benefits of ULEVs (Ultra Low Emission Vehicles)
- EST Support for Businesses – fully funded support to determine whether fleets should make the switch to electric vehicles.
- ECO Driving – subsidised training for business drivers
- E-cargo Bike Grant Scheme – grant covers up to 20% of the total cost or £1000 per bike.

Contact richard.drew@est.org.uk

EVs have a strong role to play in reducing the poor air quality caused by motor vehicles on the road today. But if we are to tackle the issue of congestion we will need to reduce the overall number of vehicles on the road and enable more people to travel by more sustainable modes.

Buses

James O'Neill from [Stagecoach](#) spoke about the bus sector in the UK and how Stagecoach operates in Gloucestershire. James.ONeill@stagecoachbus.com

- Stagecoach is the dominant operator in Gloucestershire – operating as Stagecoach West.
- Year on year passenger growth for the last 10 years.
- Park & Rides are important to helping to accommodate the future growth in both Cheltenham & Gloucester.
- Looking at how they can best reward people who are regular users.
- Keen to work with businesses to identify new, viable routes.
- Stagecoach Bus app has been developed with up to date info
- Forum events to promote the existing network, tickets, app/web journey planning
- Discount on-bus tickets - show ID to driver for a reduced rate ticket
- Discount app ticketing (limited to a defined list of email accounts or a set number of tickets)
- Bulk-rate sales of unlimited travel smartcards (usually 50 or more tickets)
- Free travel for staff, invoiced at pre-agreed discount rate each month
- Extra or adjusted journeys on an existing bus service to cater for shift patterns (e.g. extra bus for an 0600 start time or after a 10pm finish time)

There is not one standard offer for bespoke bus services to meet specific need - unique route/timetable tailored to staff postcode data. Do get in touch with James if you would like to explore this further with a good indication of staff numbers, residential postcodes/areas, shift patterns and existing travel to work mode if you would like to explore a bespoke offer to your employees.

Most options usually require a financial contribution to cover either the additional cost of service or the initial fare discount. They are realistic and open about any cost and will provide as much travel data as possible to evidence a return on the organisation's investment. They want to ensure that they set up arrangements that work for both parties in the long term. They will offer a commercial discount if there's a clear evidence of volume growth - for example, if a business pays 25% of face value ticket price, they'll match that discount to ensure the employee sees a 50% reduction in face value cost.

Think Travel

[Gloucestershire's travel information hub](#)

We briefly touched on the need for Active Businesses Gloucestershire to work with Gloucestershire County Council on the future development of behaviour change programmes and content and information available on the website.

Funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) for this activity in Gloucestershire ceased in 2017. It is expected that DfT will be launching a further funding round/behaviour change programme for 2021 which Gloucestershire should be able to bid for.

North Bristol SusCom has been very successful in supporting their local authorities in developing their behaviour change programmes and securing funding from DfT since 2011 (without any breaks in support). Being able to demonstrate business buy-in and support can be very beneficial for local authorities competing for funding against other areas.

Car Sharing

Reducing the number of vehicles on our roads can help free up capacity on congested routes. One way to do this is to enable more people to car share instead of driving to work by single occupancy vehicle. Both North Bristol SusCom and Think Travel have produced guides to Car Sharing.

Gloucestershire County Council has also funded Liftshare to deliver a Gloucestershire wide car sharing tool to enable people to find others to share their journeys with (this site is free to the user). Company specific sites can be set up but there is a charge and you will have to contact Liftshare directly to discuss. <https://liftshare.com/uk/community/gloucestershire>. Louisa has contacted them for more information and will send this through when we receive it.

Car Park Management

Both North Bristol SusCom and Think Travel have produced guides to help you develop a workplace parking policy. Having a robust parking policy in place has shown to help reduce the number of vehicles coming onto site and help nudge those who can easily travel by other means to do so.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Active Businesses will be held in March. Please let us know if you would like to host. The March meeting will cover Gloucestershire's Local Transport Plan 2015-41 which has just been released for consultation.

Actions:

Here are a couple of things your business can do to start tackling congestion and improve air quality:

- **CAR PARKING** do you have a car park management policy, are there measures you could put in place to prioritise parking for those who most need it and encourage others to car share? Use the guides and information at www.northbristolsuscom.org/activebusinessesglos.html to start getting some ideas and taking some action.
- **ELECTRIC VEHICLES** encourage staff to consider cleaner/greener vehicles – look through the slides from the Energy Savings Trust and take advantage of some of the free services available to help your business review its own fleet and to help staff understand the opportunities and cost savings available with electric vehicles.
- **CAR SHARING** encourage staff to Car Share to help tackle congestion – there is plenty of spare capacity in our road system especially at peak times. To tap into that spare capacity we need to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles on the road and encourage more people to share their journey into work. www.carsharegloucestershire.com
- **BUSES** promote the services that run nearest your place of employment. If your location lacks services speak to James O'Neill at Stagecoach to see if you can help develop new services for your employees to be able to ditch the car and get on the bus.
- **TALK TO US** Let us know what you want from our emerging network, feedback on previous meetings and resources, and what topics you want us to cover at future meetings.