



## **Matson & Robinswood Tenants and Residents Association**

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1 October 2009

Hi

Sorry for the delay in this month's mailing and meeting. This has been moved to **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 6pm at The Gateway** (what was the old One Stop Shop) in order to properly introduce you all to the new home for the group.

Lots of thanks to give out this month (which is always nice). Firstly thanks to Gill and company for preparing the buffet lunch at our last meeting. Thanks also to everyone for being patient when I wasn't anywhere near my best and for sitting through a very long meeting.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with various tasks over the last month and to John and Sarah for stepping up as our Environmental leader (we'll have to think of a proper title) and Vice Chair respectively. This will strengthen the group greatly and keep us focussed to what we need to do.

I also need to thank Andrea and Jackie for face painting the children at the Scarecrow Trail and Harvest Fayre last Saturday. Yet again, lots of happy and well decorated children (which leads to happy parents, so great all round).

Thanks to Gill and Sharon for being calm ports in a storm and towers of strength, and to Terry, Lyn and Ashley at Gloucester City Homes for being extra patient and supportive during my 'wobble'. And finally (but very importantly as well), thanks to everyone for your general support and commitment to the group and our community.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

With my best wishes

Julian Hiles  
Chair



# Matson & Robinswood Residents Group

## AGENDA

**Meeting to be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009  
6.00pm at The Gateway (81 Matson Avenue)**

- |    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| 1. | Apologies                                | 6.01 |
| 2. | Minutes – 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2009 | 6.02 |
| 3. | Police and Community Safety              | 6.15 |
| 4. | Gloucestershire Gateway and The Gateway  | 6.30 |
| 5. | Environmental, Streetcare and Planning   | 6.45 |
| 6. | Community Improvements                   | 7.00 |
| 7. | Residents Group Plan and Admin           | 7.10 |
| 8. | Any Other Business                       | 7.20 |

The meeting will close at 7.30pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009, 6.00pm  
The Gateway



## **Matson & Robinswood Residents Group**

### **OCTOBER 2009 UPDATE**

1. Gloucester City Council wants to know how you think the budget should be spent with a new on-line survey. The survey will be available on the City Council's website ([www.gloucester.gov.uk](http://www.gloucester.gov.uk)) from 13<sup>th</sup> October. The council will also be holding workshops on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 4.00pm – 5.00pm and 6.30pm-7.30pm at GL1 Leisure Centre. To book a place contact Nicola Hanman on 01452 396401 or email [NicolaH@gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:NicolaH@gloucester.gov.uk) before 14<sup>th</sup> October.
2. Elim Housing intends to block the entrance to The Musket's car park to help deter fly tipping and cars being abandoned.
3. The Big Tidy Up went well, with good "buy in" from other organisations in the morning session and in the afternoon GCH, Enterprise and 1 school teacher supervised a dozen very enthusiastic schoolchildren.
4. We're still waiting to hear from Steve Perkins (Project Manager of Waste Services) about meeting to discuss how the new waste and recycling service can be adapted for residents' needs.
5. Following a recount of properties in our area we now have an adjusted Community Improvement Budget of £13,500 each year. All projects started last year (including the fencing to Prinknash Road) was paid for from last year's budget.
6. We have received an offer from Mo Ginwalla (benefits advice team leader, Gloucester City Council) for a member of this team to attend a meeting. Would we like Mo to arrange a surgery at The Gateway?
7. Gloucester City Homes has secured a £600,000 grant as part of a consortium for hard to fill properties (above 3 storeys) for cavity wall insulation. GCH has appointed the Mark Group to deliver the insulation programme. 302 properties are now being surveyed for the works to be completed. In 2008-2009, GCH insulated 202 properties with either cavity or loft insulation under phase 1 partnership with Severn Wye Energy Efficiency. A further 361 properties are on phase 2 for this year. As part of the Decent Homes programme, GCH has commenced work on a state of the art combined heat and power system for the residents of the Westgate complex which will become operational in the new year. As a result of this installation, GCH will be able to sell energy back to the National Grid which they estimate will create an income of around £25,000 each year. Seriously well done GCH for that.
8. The BT phone line and internet connection at The Gateway is due to go live shortly. Thanks again to BT for the Community Connections grant.

9. Our application to Gloucester City Council's Neighbourhood Pride Fund was unsuccessful as this project was funded from the Fund last year. When we were awarded a grant last year we were told that grants would not be ongoing. The City Council has suggested several other grant sources and I will follow these up as soon as possible.
10. Our Residents Group Agreement with Gloucester City Homes is on hold pending discussions with all residents groups to decide the topics for inclusion. We will have complete flexibility over the document apart from this. Here is an extract from an email about the agreement:  
*"The group as it is categorically will not accept a partnership agreement with GCH – we will make an agreement but we will want the security of knowing we drive the services and priorities. We won't get this with a partnership agreement. We would like you to go back to referring simply to an agreement, rather than a partnership agreement."*  
GCH response: I can assure you that no agreement made with any of the TRAs will directly impact that group's ability to be involved in both shaping GCH services or your ability to identify priorities locally. I can assure you that both myself and the resident involvement officers will work closely with you to ensure that everyone is happy with the final version.
11. Under the new GCH funding proposals (which have not yet been agreed) each residents group would receive £500 plus £1 for each GCH property over 300. This proposal would see us have funding for running costs of £1,572 (there are 1372 GCH properties in Matson & Robinswood). This is a significant step forward but would still not meet GCH's commitment to fund, for example, internet and electricity costs. We have been asked to provide estimates for these costs and we will do this as soon as possible. In addition to this each group may be able to apply for £1 per property funding for additional activities and events (the minimum available the smallest group would be £500).
12. GCH has agreed to provide a plaque for the rose garden in addition to the £500 Community Funding.
13. Community Cashback is a new scheme which gives local people a say in how £4million of recovered criminal assets (for example confiscated cash or property) should be spent in their communities.  
Examples:
- renovate a children's playground or other area for young people which has become unusable due to criminal damage.
  - improvements which would make your neighbourhood safer or help reduce crime.
  - provide better local information, facilities or services for victims of crime and/or anti-social behaviour.
  - restore a local communal area damaged by crime e.g. removing graffiti; putting right other damage; clearing an overgrown area; renovating a community centre or facility or "doing up" a run-down building to provide an area where communities can come together or use shared services.
  - provide new or improved facilities or activities for young people on Friday or Saturday nights to keep them out of trouble and stop them becoming involved in anti-social behaviour or criminal activity.

- keeping your community informed about what happened in particular cases of concern or what services you can expect from your local crime and justice organisations, through an improved newsletter, local website or other information service.
- encouraging more people in your area to get involved in preventing and repairing harm in their neighbourhoods, giving them a say in the running or selection of other local crime and justice services; setting up community panels or advisory groups where they do not already exist and local training for community members to help them contribute to tackling local issues and making their communities safer.

14. Ebico Ltd is a not-for-profit gas and electricity supplier aiming to offer a better, fairer deal for domestic energy to British households. Whereas traditional energy supply companies charge cash (pre-payment meter) customers more, to service their payment method, Ebico evens out their prices between different payment methods. As a result, nobody is penalised because of his or her budget or circumstances. Everybody pays at the same fair rate and there are no standing charges.

Current Ebico energy prices (including VAT) for this area are:

Gas: 3.675p per kWh

Electricity: General Domestic tariff – 13.67p per kWh

Economy 7 – Day 16.56p per kWh

Night 5.56p per kWh

0800 458 7689 or 01993 608404

Ecotricity also supply green electricity with two available tariffs.

All the Green energy in the New Energy tariff comes from Ecotricity's own wind turbines (this year it's 46% and rising fast). The balance is 'Brown' electricity bought in the market and that reduces each year as the green increases. For every pound customers spend through their Ecotricity bills they spend another pound building new sources of Green energy. The New Energy tariff is price matched to each regional supplier (in our case npower. This is 14.68p and 13.61p per unit.) so there is no premium attached to it.

The New Energy Plus tariff is for those who want to impact climate change with a 100% green tariff before new green power sources are built. It's New Energy, topped up with green electricity from existing renewable sources (instead of Brown). It isn't any better than New Energy, but some people just want 100%, so Ecotricity offer it. The existing green energy used as a top up is a scarce resource though, so there's a small premium of 0.5p per unit, which works out at about £20 a year for a typical household - over and above the price of Brown electricity from each regional supplier. The current rates for this are 15.21 and 14.14 per unit for New Energy Plus.

08000 302 302

15. The Link Children's Centre holds regular multi-agency meetings so that joint ideas and working can be planned. The Link has asked us to join them.
16. The memorial bench has now been installed and opened. The work needs a little upgrading (new fixings and some filling to the concrete base) and Enterprise has committed to do this. Unfortunately the manager at Enterprise had a lousy attitude towards residents and this has resulted in a complaint. We await Enterprise's response.

17. Resurfacing Matson Avenue has been postponed until next year due to works by Severn Trent. We have proposed replacing the speed bumps with new traffic calming measures like crossings and chicanes. Councillor Steve McHale is looking into this.
18. £850.00 was approximately spent on the Community Pride Day. We don't have a cost for ongoing maintenance as this is Community Pride Days are new and we do not know what this will be. The future costs could be for replacing plants, painting the planters, weeding/pruning and topping up the bark chippings.
19. The Scarecrow Trail & Harvest Fayre on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October was a great success, with lots of creative entries. The Robinswood trail was not a success but the Matson Trail and Harvest Fayre were. We contributed £115 for 3 giant games for the Fayre.
20. There was a good atmosphere for the Big Brunch in Matson Park on 28<sup>th</sup> July. Jeni would like to see this incorporated into the next Eco Fun Day (which we're now hoping to make a regular event).
21. Planning permission for the improved fencing on the grass side of the Garnalls Road parking compound has been granted. This will be paid for from a different budget to the Community Improvement Budget, therefore having no impact on our improvement plan. We have written to residents about securing this improvement from GCH.
22. Planning permission for the 10 flats and shop on the old Painswick Road garage site has been granted. Planning permission has also been granted for 13 new homes on the site of The Musket.
23. The overall result of the Places survey showed that six out of ten people are unhappy with the County Council, 82.9% thought people from different backgrounds get on well, 84.4% are satisfied with their area and 14.9% believe there is a lot of anti-social behaviour. Gloucester scored low on sports and leisure facilities.
24. We are waiting for the outcome of GCH's review of the One Stop Plus. There were 1226 visitors to the One Stop Plus in 2008/09, but there is no breakdown of the issues customers came in with as they are so varied.
25. Mark Gale has invited us to a small gathering to officially launch the new shop – The Gateway. The event will also be used as an opportunity to tell us of recent developments relating to Gloucestershire Gateway services. The event will not last longer than 45 minutes but there will be plenty of time subsequent to the formalities for those who can stay a little longer.

**Julian Hiles**  
**6<sup>th</sup> October 2009**