



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

One Stop Plus 79A Matson Avenue  
Matson GLOUCESTER GL4 6LL

☎ 01452 396094

07954 604042

mail@matson-robinswood.org.uk

www.matson-robinswood.org.uk

05 January 2009

Hi

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holiday season as much as I did and that 2009 will be a great year.

I'm pleased to confirm that Matson Baptist Church will continue to be our meeting place until March 2009. The hall proved too chilly at the last meeting, so this time we'll be in the back room of the church. This is a lot smaller and so may be a little cramped, but it's better than being cold!

I have included an update with this mailing, although having just had a month off not much has happened compared with usual. We're turning this whole meeting over to a brainstorming session on the Association's future and we'll see where this leads us. We have limited time so please be brief when making suggestions. The ideas will then form the basis of an action plan.

As discussed last month, we'll be having a series of meetings to work on the Resident Group Agreement. The first of these will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 11am at the One Stop Plus. There is no set length of this meeting – we'll call it a day when we've had enough and arrange the next one. This is a big document and I don't want to destroy any forests unnecessarily, so if you'd like to take part please let me know and I'll print a copy of the current draft and notes for you. At the end of the process everyone will get a copy and we'll agree the final doc from this.

Thanks for your continuing time and support. I say this each month, but I really do mean it. We've done some brilliant stuff this last year and we will continue to do so, but it wouldn't happen if it wasn't for your support. I look forward to seeing you on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

With my best wishes

Julian Hiles  
Chair



# Matson & Robinswood Tenants and Residents Association

## MINUTES

### Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009 6.00pm at Matson Baptist Church

**Present:** Julian Hiles (Chair), Gill Clark, Sharon Clark, Mark Gayle (Gloucestershire Gateway Trust), Jackie Payne, John Todd.

#### **1 Apologies**

Councillor Kate Haigh, Councillor Jan Lugg, Councillor Steve McHale, Councillor Mary Smith, Dave Roach, Mandy Robertson.

All staff, Police etc. were excused from attending the meeting.

#### **2 Minutes – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008**

2.1 The Minutes were agreed as a true and complete record, proposed by John Todd and seconded by Gill Clark.

#### **3 Brainstorming Session (Mark Gale)**

3.1 The majority of the meeting was given over to a brainstorming session for the coming year. The draft Plan from these notes is attached to these minutes.

3.2 Mark Gale was thanked for organising and leading the session and for his ongoing support.

#### **4 Decisions and Information**

4.1 We can expect a decision on funding from Gloucester City Homes shortly. We've asked for £1,000 for annual running costs and money for other events to be applied for as needed. The general discussion about our annual funding, funding arrangements, support for resident groups and resident involvement will happen in March 2009 and we'd like as many residents from the group to participate as possible.

4.2 The After School Club has invited us to be involved in creating some raised planters.

4.3 A visit to the Gloucestershire Gateway Trust site was organised for Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January, meeting 10.30am at the One Stop Plus.

4.4 A sub group will meet to look at a new document for use by local residents to monitor communal cleaning standards.

4.5 We needed to change the order of estate improvements because of consultation times. Bird mouth railing is being installed with most of the money. Next year's Estate Improvement Budget allocation is to be spent on garden fencing.

4.6 We will ask Gloucester City Council to review their decision to not have a rep from the Association on the Streetcare Forum.

4.7 Volunteers are needed to help deliver the Community Partnership's newsletter.

4.8 The Next Community Partnership meeting is on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm at Matson Baptist Church. John Todd will be our rep from March onwards.

4.9 We will propose that one Committee place may be filled by an independent at

the Annual General Meeting. Residents will be able to vote on this.

- 4.10 A planning meeting will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 11am at Matson Baptist Church for the Vision 21 summer event.
- 4.11 The staff member responsible for the grounds maintenance contract audit has been poorly. We will receive maps later.
- 4.12 The next meeting on the Environmental Plan will be 26<sup>th</sup> January, 6pm at One Stop Plus.
- 4.13 We attended a meeting with Gloucester Enterprise and Gloucester City Homes to agree a way forward for recycling and communal bin stores today. Recycling provision will be extended when the City Council buys new trucks. New communal bin stores will have a place for existing and future recycling facilities where possible. Site meetings will take place shortly.
- 4.14 Dave Roach has retired from writing the Where I Live supplement for Matson & Robinswood. Dave was thanked for his hard work and positive representation of the area. Julian will be writing for the supplement in future, so please make sure as much news as possible reaches him.
- 4.15 We will start using name plates at meetings as soon as possible.

### **3 Next Meeting**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009, 6.00pm at Matson Baptist Church.

The meeting closed at 7:05pm.



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

## **JANUARY UPDATE** *(in no particular order)*

1. We have received a generally positive response to the first of our comments on support for the TRA from GCH, which will feed into the Resident Group Agreement. We're following up a couple of items which need further clarification.
2. We will be submitting a paper to January's Customer Forum about our annual funding, funding arrangements, support for resident groups and resident involvement. All of the questions have arisen from the current arrangements, during preparation of the Resident Group Agreement, and we hope this will address them once and for all.
3. We have been offered a training grant of £100 from Gloucester City Council for a place on a resident empowerment session which took place in November. We will be working on the paperwork shortly to claim this.
4. We attended the Community Pride Days and Estate Improvement bus tour on 9<sup>th</sup> December. To complement the upcoming £80,000 investment in Winnycroft Lane and Quenneys Close we have proposed improvements such as raised planters to be installed on our Community Pride Day.
5. In December we participated in the Small Area Survey focus group. This survey asked people how satisfied they are with their local area and services. No specific actions have been promised, but it gives a starting point for improvements.
6. We had a positive meeting with Matt Hill to talk about young people's play facilities. We will now get the same information as the Partnership.
7. The Community Partnership need help to deliver their newsletters 3 or 4 times a year. Even if it's a few houses in your street this would be very much appreciated.
8. The After School Club has invited us to be involved in creating some raised planters. Would anyone else like to join in?
9. Gloucestershire Gateway Trust recently took residents and reps to see the potential site for the service station. For those who missed it we are arranging another visit at the meeting.
10. We're putting together some information on Regional and National Tenant / Community Groups that we may wish to join as part of the discussions on the Residents Group Agreement.
11. Work has begun on a document supplied to us by GCH that can be adapted for use by local residents to monitor communal cleaning standards.
12. The Gloucestershire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership 'Have Your Say' days in December went really well, with a good turnout of local community

volunteers. We will hopefully have feedback in February.

13. Estate improvements will continue once the snow has gone! We are just making final arrangements for the garden fencing. Hopefully it will be ordered later this week or early next.
14. We've had a response from GCH about young peoples' rights and facilities. We'll follow this up and have also written to Gloucester City Council for separate action.
15. There appears to have been a mistake by Gloucester City Council in offering the TRA a place on the Streetcare Forum. It seems there should only be a rep from the Community Partnership. At this time this is Ruth Jacobs. Please let me know urgently of any issues you wish to have forwarded for consideration. Communication in this area has demonstrably been poor and we will address this issue through the Community Partnership.
16. The tree planting with Robinswood School on Oak Tree Green went ahead as planned. Tree planting will form part of the Neighbourhood Plan.
17. We'll be working behind the scenes on the proposed changes to the Constitution. In addition to our discussions we would like to put in a proposal that one Committee place *may* be filled by someone not from the area. There are skills and opportunities we are missing out on at the moment and this is a potential way to help this. Incidentally, we do have a willing volunteer waiting to help out, but to be involved at the level they wish to be would require this authority.
18. We're waiting on several parties to agree before we can prepare for the Vision 21 event in summer 2009.
19. The first beds in the Rose Garden were too wet to work on, so bed number 2 on the plan has been prepared instead. If we raise this year's money in good time we will ensure that bed 1 is dug out early for planting.
20. We received an overwhelmingly positive response to our suggestions for the GCH Tenants Charter. There wasn't time to bring it to the full meeting, but this will be allowed for by GCH in future. Not wishing to knock anyone else, we are proud that we are the only Residents Group to have formally responded and it shows how hard the Committee work behind the scenes. Thank you for your efforts.
21. GCH has £1.9 million within the Decent Homes programme over the next three years to carry out improvements across its neighbourhoods. This will not make some of the major changes that are required to some areas particularly around flatted blocks. Major consultation has taken place over the last 18 months to identify tenants' priorities and further consultation will help prioritise work and determine where it should be carried out. GCH will be holding estate based community engagement sessions (awful term) over the coming months to start to develop the programmes over the next three years. We will be heavily involved in this and will make the most of the opportunity to get residents involved in taking ownership of Matson & Robinswood.
22. The eligibility age for the Gloucester Works programme has now dropped from 19 to 16 years of age. We were recently sent the second edition of the Gloucester Works Bulletin. If anyone would like to receive a copy regularly please let me know.

**Julian Hiles**  
**5<sup>th</sup> January 2009**