

MARKETPLACE

The annual review of the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum **2008**



Forum is ready to move forward

by **Peter Godfrey**

Chairman of the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum

This has been an important year of transition for the Forum. Since it was formed in 1995, we have benefited enormously from both financial and officer support from Gloucestershire County Council and from Gloucestershire First. But times are changing and it is essential that we become more self-reliant and therefore sustainable for the future.

Now, with a strong Board of volunteers, all community activists within their own market towns and large parishes, we are confident we can take the Forum to its next stage – with the much appreciated continued support of the team at Gloucestershire First, albeit at a more strategic rather than day-to-day level.

It is important to remember that the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum is regarded as an exemplar of best practice in the South West Region – a fact reinforced by the recent welcome announcement of funding from both the South West Regional Development Agency and from Gloucestershire County Council via Gloucestershire First to support our work for the next three years.

This means we are in a good position financially to continue to support the county's market towns at least until 2011. We will also be appointing a Development Officer who, among other tasks, will be able to source alternative funding for the longer term so that we can concentrate on increasing our efforts to support our member communities by develop the Forum to meet their needs and aspirations.

As part of our commitment to quality, we will be conducting a performance review this Autumn and would encourage all member communities to be our 'critical friends' in this process.



It is essential that we become more self-reliant and therefore sustainable for the future

Unfortunately, the funding we have received will not be able to be used for our highly successful Development Fund which has, since 2002, distributed £140,000 to Forum member communities (in itself generating over £500,000 match funding for community projects).

However, we are so determined to continue to offer this essential quick-win Development Fund that the Board has decided to support it from our reserves for the next year. To find out more about the Development Fund and how member communities can apply see page 10 or visit the funding page on our newly-revamped website at www.town2town.org.uk.

The Forum's regional role

The Forum vice chair, Bob Watters, and I have also been at the heart of the development of a new regional network of market towns forums, called the South West Market and

▶ Continued on page 2

Grateful thanks to...

The GMTF Board is made up completely of volunteers – most of them, by their very nature, extremely busy people in their own communities. I am, therefore, indebted to all of those who take the time and trouble to attend meetings regularly and go out of their way to support not only their own rural towns, but other member towns with their knowledge and expertise.

I am particularly grateful to my vice chair Bob Watters and our fellow members on the Board's Governance Group – John Ellis, Glenys Sykes and Janet Marrott – for their stalwart support and unstinting effort they continue to put into the Forum because they share the Forum's core belief that rural towns across Gloucestershire can achieve more by networking and learning from each other than by acting alone.

The support we have from the team at Gloucestershire First – Stan Jones, John McLaughlin, Claire Edwards, Dan Judges, Lina Jones, Crystal Johnson and Eva Harvie – is invaluable.



John Ellis



Glenys Sykes



Janet Marrott

Forum is ready to move forward

Continued from page 1

Coastal Towns Network, which will help ensure that some of the expertise and good practice of the former Market and Coastal Towns Association (MCTA) will be passed on.

This supportive and informal Network – with some funding from the South West RDA – will enable us to forge closer links with like-minded community activists in Wiltshire, Somerset,

Devon, Cornwall, and, we hope, Dorset to share knowledge, expertise, ideas and enthusiasm across the region for the benefit of all rural towns.

As the longest-standing and most experienced Market Towns Forum in the region, and as a company limited by guarantee, we were asked by the RDA to be the accountable body for the new Network. Although this task has involved a great deal of time and effort, we believe it will be amply rewarded in terms of

being able to share so much best practice across the region.

A warm welcome to...

This year we have welcomed three new members – Caroline Braidwood, clerk to Northleach with Eastington Parish Council, Chuck Pavey from Tewkesbury Town Council and Chris Howell from Coleford Town Council. All have brought considerable expertise to the mix to the benefit of the Forum.

Networking is at the heart of our work

by **Bob Watters**

Vice Chairman of the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum

We have now come to the end of the first year of our three-year Forward Strategy and have moved forward on many of the activities highlighted by members in the annual survey conducted in the Autumn of 2007. You can read a summary of the findings on page 4.

Quarterly networking meetings and Look and Learn visits continue to be highly popular with members – a summary of the events during the last 12 months is on page 3. We produce reader-friendly, illustrated reports capturing useful knowledge and information shared at quarterly meetings and Look and Learn visits outside the county, which are on our website at www.town2town.org.uk and cascaded via links from our regular e-bulletins.

Satisfaction

We have also introduced a satisfaction survey for each event to ensure that they provide benefit for members and to identify improvements. I am pleased to say that satisfaction is consistently marked high, although numbers attending some events have been disappointing. The Board is currently considering options to solve the issues which prevent members attending.

Development Fund

The Development Fund continues to be extremely popular with members. Since the Fund started in 2002, £140,000 has been awarded to projects, generating over £500,000 in match funding. Although it has been necessary to refine the Fund, it will continue to provide quick and easy access to small levels of funding for the foreseeable future. For more information, see page 10.

www.town2town.org.uk

Our Town2Town website has been redesigned to reduce cost and to make navigation quicker and easier. We have retained the look of the main pages so members will still



We have introduced a satisfaction survey for each event to ensure that they provide benefit for members and to identify improvements

recognise them, but hopefully will get a far better experience when they visit the site.

The site includes new support information including on-line access to funding opportunities and a revised Gloucestershire Community Toolkit containing brand new case studies featuring the efforts of many of our member communities and the invaluable 'Four Steps to Success' guide to developing a community project. The toolkit is also available in hard copy. We will be continuing to add new support information over the next few months. I should like to thank Beth Whittaker at Viva Communications for her hours of dedication in administering the changes.

Performance

During the year, the Board has developed a Performance Framework which includes a revised set of policy documents and new performance measures designed to ensure that the Board is meeting the needs of members and providing value for money. The Forum hopes to welcome new Board Members with the experience and expertise to help drive its action plan forward during the next 12 months and to explore new opportunities for future years.

In conclusion, I should like to thank all those who have supported our activities and express gratitude to member communities for their contribution which has ensured a successful year for the Forum. It has been a privilege to serve as Vice Chairman and a pleasure to work with many old and new friends and colleagues over the past 12 months.



The updated Community Toolkit and redesigned website

Sharing **knowledge** and learning from each other

More than 200 people from all over Gloucestershire have attended Forum networking meetings and Look and Learn visits organised to encourage member communities to get together to discuss issues of mutual interest, share ideas and innovation and to learn from each other. Here is a summary of those events – for full reports, visit the Networking and What’s On section of our website at www.town2town.org.uk



Nailsworth hosted our 2007 AGM which was held in Egypt Mill, a fascinating building dating back to the 14th century. Delegates enjoyed an impressive visit to three exemplar projects: the Stroudwater Textile Trust Museum which plays a vital role in preserving local heritage and attracts hundreds of visitors each year, the Forest Green Stadium – a new multi-purpose sports stadium – and an insight to the work underway on the Design Statement to transform the town centre. To hear about the progress made over the past 12 months, read Nailsworth’s report on page 8.



Sherwood Energy Village near Nottingham provided the venue to learn about the innovative approach taken by the local mining

community to regenerate a former colliery. The project has received national recognition for the development of a brownfield site. The way the area has been transformed, environmentally and economically, through the efforts of a community approach and the dedication of its people in challenging bureaucracy to achieve its aspirations, was inspirational.



Salisbury Plain was the setting for a visit to learn more about sustainable community partnerships. There, the garrison town of Tidworth has set up a Development Trust offering a range of local services including community radio run by young people, a drop-in centre, a business training centre and a recruitment consultancy. This is an inspiring social enterprise which is providing local services at affordable prices and is self sustaining. The trip included a visit to the Urchfont Community Shop, a thriving business run by a small group of volunteers selling many lines of locally produced goods.



A fascinating two-day visit to the **East of England** became the talking point for many Gloucestershire communities on hearing their representatives report back. Towns like Walton on the Naze demonstrated how they have overcome major changes in their area affected by a decline in tourism. On a larger scale the Harwich community partnership has picked up failing services such as transport, child care, tourism and enterprise and now employs 38 people and has a national reputation.



Fairford was the venue for the year’s final networking event and demonstrated numerous community projects which any of us would be proud to be associated with – especially the opening of its new community centre which has taken many years of dedication to bring to fruition. The community spirit is visible throughout the town which has been recognised by winning the prestigious 2008 Calor Village of the Year competition and the South West Market Towns Award in the Social & Community category with a special commendation.



Chairman’s report	1
Vice Chairman’s report	2
Sharing knowledge with each other	3
Time to have your say	4
News from the member towns	4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Meet the board	8
Recovering from the floods	9
Development Fund: success stories	10, 11
Summary of accounts 2007/08	12

Time to have your say

The annual membership satisfaction survey conducted each Autumn is designed to ensure that member towns and parishes are satisfied with the quality of service they receive from the Forum, in meeting both their current and foreseeable future needs.

In the 2007 survey, members were asked to rate 34 statements about their satisfaction with services ranging from 5 (strongly agree) down to 1 (strongly disagree).

The average score across all statements for all respondents indicated that members **agree** that the level of service offered meets their expectation.

Networking meetings and Look and Learn visits achieved the highest satisfaction score followed by Growing Membership, Development Fund, Technical Support, Building Partnerships, Governance and Member Support with the lowest score.

The Board has addressed the findings in its 2008/9 Operating Plan. Action to be taken includes:

- strengthening the number of Board Members with each one appointed as a direct contact for individual towns/parishes
- the appointment of a Development Officer to provide direct support for member towns/parishes
- developing enhancements for existing and new services *and*
- sustaining the Development Fund

The survey will be repeated this Autumn using a similar format and included as part of a face-to-face annual review with each member town/parish.

News from around the member towns

Dursley – Vale Vision Development Trust



Sculpture trail

More than 100 people visited Dursley's new Sculpture Trail – many using the bus provided from the town centre – at its official opening. The Trail, in Twinberrow Wood, was a collaborative project between Vale Vision, Dursley Town Council and other voluntary sector organisations which opened in July.

Business Forum

A Business Forum is to be established to ensure that local businesses are aware of local developments and to provide the opportunity for them to find out more from the developers and planners. This two-way process will enable businesses to feed back their views or discuss any issues that arise from this consultation. The monthly meetings will be centred on a particular local development in the area e.g. the Sainsbury supermarket, the Littlecombe development, the new Stroud College centre. Sainsbury's have indicated that they would be pleased to participate in the business forum and a representative from Sainsbury's would be able to speak at a future meeting.

Country Fair

The Country Fair was run this year by Vale Vision as part of the Dursley Town Festival. The outdoor stalls and displays were particularly attractive this year, with help from the weather. The event was sufficiently well attended to consider continuing next year but will need to be discussed in the context of the future of the Town Festival.



*If you go down to the woods today...
Dursley's new Sculpture Trail*

Cycleway plans

A meeting is being arranged for local Parish and Town councils, county highways and Stroud District Council officers, together with a Sustrans representative to identify the next stage for the development of the cycleway, from Uley to the Cam and Dursley rail station with an extension to the cycle route through Slimbridge.

Transforming a quarry into community amenity

Vale Vision has submitted an expression of interest in the future of Breakheart Quarry with the owners, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, in order to secure the site as a community amenity. The project would include the re-instatement of a nature trail and the establishment of a field study centre for learning in the ecology, flora and fauna of the area. Vale Vision would look to encourage young people and unemployed people, among others, to work on the project to help ensure there is a sense of community ownership.

News from around the member towns

Tewkesbury Area Partnership (TAP)

In depth economic study

TAP's Economy and Tourism Working Group has established the criteria for the Vitality, Viability and Vulnerability Study organised by Gloucestershire First covering Tewkesbury, Winchcombe and Bishops Cleeve. This study will give the baseline data on which to assess future

projects to provide economic benefit to the town.

Reaping energy from the rivers

TAP's drive to examine the viability of obtaining energy from Tewkesbury's rivers has been taken up by one of its partners, Friends of the Earth, who have carried out

a first stage feasibility study. The initial results have proved that sustainable power can be generated at an economical cost. Further work will define the next stage of the plan, including developing the partnership of authorities and landowners that will be needed to put the project into action.

Churchdown

Benefits of GMTF membership

Churchdown has been a member of the GMTF for many years and has benefited from advice on a variety of matters including the formulation of the Parish Plan and from Development Fund grants for its parks and play areas.

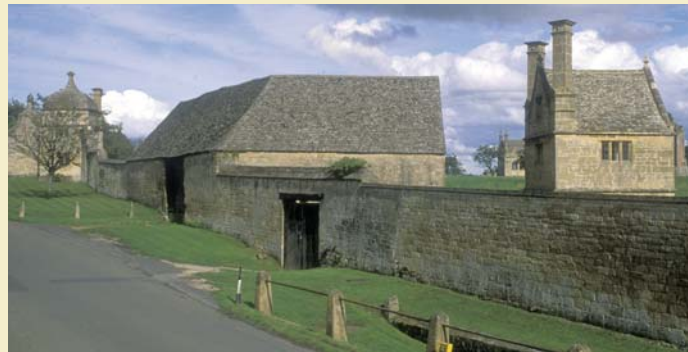
The development of an amenity area for young people at Churchdown Park which includes a teen shelter, half pipe and street skating area has been a particular success. The skateboard area has become a landmark attracting many young people to the Park, serving as a focal point for them and to which they are very welcome.

New approach to community development

During the past 12 months, the Parish Council together with its partners has radically changed its approach to community development by not just providing facilities but also promoting active and full use of them, increasing and widening participation wherever possible.

The new Parish Plan is being used to inform decisions in promoting and running a diverse range of community events, with a special focus on meeting the needs of young people. Events over the past year include the November Fireworks Extravaganza, complete with mini fun fair, regular discos for age 14+, a brand new Youth Club run by Young Gloucestershire at the Community Centre and a month long summer holiday activity scheme at venues throughout the Parish.

Young people (and old) are being recruited to help run these and other events in the community and funds are being generated to ensure the long term sustainability of all projects. New projects being developed include a water feature in Churchdown Park designed to enhance the Park for visitors and improve habitat for wildlife.



A must for lovers of the Arts and Crafts movement – the new museum at Chipping Campden

Chipping Campden

New museum opens

The biggest single development in the town in the past year has been the opening of the Court Barn museum, devoted to the works of Arts and Crafts practitioners in the town and surrounding areas. As its name implies, the museum has been created by converting a Grade 2 listed 17th century barn, adjacent to the historic complex of the church, and the Jacobean Campden House and Almshouses. Court Barn has been restored to its original form as far as possible.

The museum was opened by Sir Christopher Frayling, Chairman of the Arts Council in October 2007. The £1.2 million needed was raised by a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and an international appeal to lovers of the Arts and Crafts movement. All the funding and development work was carried out by a volunteer Committee.

Response to 2007 flood

The town was devastated by flooding on July 20 last year, when a torrent of surface water rushed through the streets at a depth of four to six feet. Over 100 houses were damaged, and some people

are still unable to return to their homes.

The Town Council set up a Flood Resilience Committee to develop ways to minimise the risk of further flooding. It applied successfully for a grant of £10,000 from Cotswold District Council to enlarge the channel of the river Cam by volunteers, and contribute to the cost of flood boards for residents.

One major problem reported has been the proliferation of public bodies involved in flooding, with uncertainty and confusion about where the responsibility lies. In particular, Chipping Campden reports that the Environment Agency has caused great problems. The watercourses in Cotswold District, with the sole exception of the Cam, flow east into the Thames region of the EA.

Cotswold District Council has had a positive and helpful response from Thames Region, but attempts to get similar response from Midlands, even to acknowledge their responsibility, have so far failed. Chipping Campden is now trying to get responsibility for the Cam transferred to Thames Region.

News from around the member towns

Coleford

New community enterprise centre finally bears fruit

Achievements sometimes take a long time in their fruition – and the new Coleford Community Enterprise Centre is no exception. After almost a decade of uncertainty surrounding retaining community facilities in the town, an agreement between Gloucestershire County Council, Forest of Dean District Council and the South West Regional Development Agency, was signed in April this year.

The present Community Centre is to be replaced with a new building at Old Station



Way housing a Disability Day Care Centre, the Library, youth facilities, community rooms and rooms available for community enterprise. The vacated site will be redeveloped for housing, some affordable and hopefully some for special needs, together with the continuation of some car parking. In spite of some local opposition, this will be a flagship development for the county and will provide for changing community needs in the 21st century.

Unblocking a sewage issue!

The Coleford Area MCTI Partnership has also been extremely busy in bringing together the County Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Welsh Water, Coleford Town Council, Newland Parish Council and the Valley Brook Action Group to try, once and for all, to resolve the flooding and sewage problems in the area.

Thanks again to SWRDA, a Feasibility Study is now in progress following the drainage surveys that have been carried. The information gained will assist all authorities to draw up a firm working plan for the future. Drainage is the biggest single factor affecting redevelopment in the area.

Cirencester

New beginnings

The past year has been a time of new beginnings for Cirencester with Andrew Tubb appointed as Chief Executive Officer, a newly elected Council and Councillor Mrs Shirley Alexander as the newly appointed Mayor.

The Town Council aims to ensure that everyone in the community is valued and enabled to play their part in making the town cleaner, safer and vibrant and is structured to provide an effective leadership role on behalf of local residents and businesses.

New for 2007 was the launch of a quarterly newsletter, working towards Quality Status and the enhancement of local policing through £22,500 funding targeted on specific police operations in the town.



Energy Neighbourhood

Cirencester has also signed up to the 'European' Energy Neighbourhood initiative – a climate change challenge which encourages local communities to work together and support each other to achieve energy savings through behavioural change.

Environmental initiatives

The Council, in its management of open space, is keen to encourage habitat and food sources for wildlife, while improving and enhancing areas for the community. It is also working with a local Explorers Scout Group along a former railway cutting in support of their 'Go Green' initiative, which seeks to promote environmental awareness in a practical way.

Support for younger residents

A Teen Shelter and two multi goals in the Two Acres Playing Field have recently been installed by the Town Council. The state-of-the-art shelter has solar powered radio, lighting and bluetooth connection. This provision was partially funded by a successful bid to the Big Lottery Fund in partnership with Cotswold District Council and represents our commitment to providing quality leisure facilities for all ages throughout the town.

Looking to the future

Cirencester is looking to the future with its Community Plan 'Our Future Cirencester' to be launched in September 2008. This sets out 16 community projects which will serve as the blueprint for the future.

The Town Council is determined to take the Plan beyond aspiration towards delivery and its success is very much dependent on everyone working together in partnership, as a community, for the people and place of Cirencester.

Winchcombe

GMTF Development Fund support

Read how the GMTF Development Fund has helped elderly residents get out and about this year on page 10.

In 2006 GMTF also provided major funding for cinema equipment at Abbey Fields Community Centre which is now screening two film shows each month. In addition, special 'oldie' films are shown at regular intervals for the old folk who attend the local Day Care centre. It is also hoped that special films for younger folk will be available soon.

Last year GMTF provided most of the funding for a new PA system combined with an amplified hearing loop at the Day Care Centre. This has been an outstanding success and the staff are delighted with the improvement and no longer have to shout to those who are hard of hearing!

Two modern gas fired turbo condensing boilers provided largely by GMTF funding in 2006 are now reaping dividends from a £600 reduction in last year's heating bill.

News from around the member towns

Newent

Community events

Newent has been very busy with events and infrastructure improvements over the past 12 months. Events have included the hugely successful Joe Meek weekend to remember a former Newent resident and '60s icon with his *Telstar* number 1 hit and an appearance by his old group The Tornados.

The Forest of Dean Car Club provided a huge display of 1960s cars and motorbikes – including a '60s police car and Western National bus. It took many back to their youth and the event was such a success that another, this time with John Leyton and the Rapiers, is being planned for November. Christmas, Easter and Summer festivals, Lakeside brass band concerts and even a hot air balloon to give rides above the town have been organised.

The major event in the town continues to be Newent in Bloom, which is driven by volunteers and local businesses with a welcome grant from the Town Council and is highly popular with residents and visitors. The town has entered the Heart of England competition again and hopes to repeat the success of previous years.

Business Club

The newly-launched Newent and District Business Club is pulling the town's 200 or so businesses together. It operates through short, sharp quarterly meetings supplemented by regular e-communication and is already demonstrating the benefits of collaborative working.

Visitor attractions

Sadly, Newent lost the Shambles museum, a major visitor attraction, in September but the town is working hard on upgrading its other attractions and new brochures for the Arboretum, Lake and Market House have been published. Major projects such as the Town Centre Improvement, Lake Open Space and the Community Centre continue as long term projects and there will news on the GMTF web site as and when these are achieved.

Thanks to GMTF

Finally, Newent gets a lot out of the GMTF Networking visits – particularly the East Anglian trip which has spurred us on to become more sustainable and robust like the three towns visited.



Fairford

New £1.2m Community Centre

Fairford has opened its recently restored and extended Community Centre at a cost of £1.2m. This ambitious programme was developed through a partnership between the Town Council and St Mary's Parochial Church Council.

The building has been transformed from a former school to a multi-use Centre with modern facilities for meetings, small business conferences, space for youth activities, parties, community activities and other events, and an information/resource centre for local people. It also provides a Heritage Centre for the town archive, a visitor centre for the church and council chamber and offices for the Town Council.

Business Club success

The Fairford and Lechlade Business Club, formed from two separate Chambers of Commerce in Fairford & Lechlade both of which were in decline, is now flourishing. It has 55 members including several large businesses and meets regularly, attracting influential speakers offering advice and assistance to local businesses. It is actively working with young people to encourage them to take an interest in business.

The Situations Vacant and Jobs Wanted section on its website acts like the card in the newsagent's window and is geared to young people to help with part time jobs, holiday jobs and work experience.

Last February it launched its Business of the Year and Business Person of the Year award to recognise and applaud the achievements of local entrepreneurs. Over 60 people attended the ceremony which has now become an annual event celebrating not only the achievements of local firms, but also the success of the rapidly growing Club. David Cameron has agreed to put in an appearance at the 2009 Awards Ceremony.

News from around the member towns

Nailsworth

Design Statement

With financial seed money from GMTF's Development Fund, Nailsworth was able to take the next step from its Action Plan to formulate a Design Statement for the town. This is an audit of the existing built environment, the open spaces and countryside that residents and visitors enjoy.

Through public consultation it describes what people most like and possibly dislike about the town and it identifies what people want to see in any future plans and developments proposed for Nailsworth. The Statement has now been completed and has been submitted to the District Council for incorporation in planning guidance for future developers.

New Community Hall

As part of planning conditions, a housing developer is transferring a parcel of land at Forest Green to the ownership of the Town Council to build a community hall for local residents. In the meantime, Redrow Homes are hiring their Marketing Suite to the Council for a year or more, creating a small temporary hall to meet local needs and to 'test the water'. It is due to open at the beginning of October.

Nailsworth Games

The Nailsworth Games, Gloucestershire's answer to the Beijing Olympics, are featured on page 11, GMTF was able to help financially in the organisational costs through the Development Fund. The Games were a great success, drawing many young people into new sporting activities and, hopefully, helping business prospects. The Council is now thinking of next year and will be approaching other market towns to see whether they are interested in inter-town activities.

Listed monument

One of the delights of town is the Nailsworth Fountain,



The Nailsworth Games – the town's answer to the Beijing Olympics and a great success

originally built in 1862 and a listed monument. It belongs to the District Council and has fallen into disuse but the Council has developed a partnership with the District Council to refurbish it and move it closer to its original site by William's Kitchen. Hopefully work will begin this Autumn in what will be a big plus for this part of Nailsworth's restoration.

Youth Worker

Nailsworth appears to be the only market town in Gloucestershire without a full-time County-funded youth worker; if you know differently, let Nailsworth Town Council know! Four years ago, the Council mounted a campaign that led to a partnership with the County Council to jointly fund a Youth Worker for the town, but only for four years. Negotiations are now in an advanced state to make this a permanent post on the County's establishment.

Thanks to GMTF

Town Mayor Norman Kay said: "For all these, and other, projects, our membership of GMTF is invaluable and greatly valued."

Meet the board

Listed below are the Forum's Board of hard-working volunteers:

Peter Godfrey	Forum Chair, representing Lechlade Town Council	peter@pjga.com
Bob Watters	Forum vice chair, Lydney Area in Partnership	bobwatters@gmail.com
Janet Marrott	Coleford Area Partnership	marrott@tiscali.co.uk
Glenys Sykes	Wotton under Edge Town Council	clerk@wotton-under-edge.com
Roger George	Stow on the Wold	roger@rggeorge.plus.com
John Ellis	Chipping Campden Town Council	ellis.consultant@virgin.net
Pearl Stokes	Churchdown Parish Council	pearl.stokes@ukgateway.net
Martin Harwood	Fairford Town Council	martinharwood560@btinternet.com
Chris Howell	Coleford Town Council	chris@howell1706.fsnet.co.uk
Chuck Pavey	Tewkesbury Town Council	malcolm@chuckpavey.orangehome.co.uk
Caroline Braidwood	Northleach with Eastington Town Council	clerk@northleach.gov.uk

Recovering from the floods

by **Dan Judges**

Gloucestershire First

When we last produced Marketplace, the county was still reeling from the impact of last July's floods and this was very much reflected in my report. This year, while looking back to those difficult days, I am focusing on what has been achieved in those communities since then – and plans for the future.

All agencies and organisations at the centre of last year's response to the floods have been working hard to secure funding, make changes to the way they operate in times of emergency – and to listen to those communities affected.

The recent Gloucestershire Flooding Conference: Future Resilience showed how important the issue has become within the County with over 200 people attending to listen to presentations and express their thoughts and concerns for the future.

Within the County, both SWRDA and Severn Trent Water made significant contributions to the Gloucestershire First Flood Recovery Programme, with those Market Towns badly affected receiving good support for initiatives to promote the fact they were 'Open for Business'.

- **Tewkesbury** developed significant schemes designed to attract people back to the town including Autumn promotional campaigns, October Half Term activities, a Christmas Ice Rink, expansion of their Food Festival and the development of a Retail Support Programme.
- **Painswick** received support for their 'Open for Business' campaign following the closure of the A46. This enabled the creation of a new town leaflet – both printed and an interactive version for websites – developed in partnership with traders and the parish council, the commissioning of professional photographs and extensive media coverage in Cotswold Life – not once but twice – and through the Weekend supplements in the Citizen



The badly affected Market Towns received good support for initiatives to promote the fact they were 'Open for Business'

and Echo. This work has also unlocked the potential for the creation of a new business network in the town through the successful Rural Renaissance programme.

- **Bourton on the Water** had support for their Victorian Evening in December last year and a contribution to their town guide.
- **Coleford** received support to add value to the Carnival of Transport over the Easter weekend in conjunction with Newent who joined forces to jointly promote a range of activities which included craft and arts fairs and a motor rally.

This is obviously just a snapshot of those Market Towns that received direct support from the Gloucestershire First Flood Recovery Programme – there were many wider benefits from a co-ordinated tourism promotional campaign which included profiling the county in the National Sunday papers, encouraging travel writers to come to Gloucestershire and raising its profile overseas.

The passion that thrives in our communities has been evident in the support over the last 12 months – let's not lose this. Our local communities are the heart of what makes Gloucestershire a great county to live and work in; it is our responsibility to nurture this county to ensure there is something to hand over to our children's children.

Fund generates more than **half a million** in match funding

The Forum's Development Fund continues to be extremely popular with member communities. Since the Fund started in 2002, £140,000 has been awarded to projects, generating well over £500,000 in match funding.

Although it has been necessary to refine the Fund, it will continue to provide quick and easy access to small levels of funding for the foreseeable future.

Since 2002, the communities listed here have received GMTF Development Fund for local projects, ranging from support for their town Healthchecks to street furniture and from children's play equipment to taxi vouchers for the elderly.

Bourton on the Water	£3,000
Cam	£5,500
Chipping Campden	£10,000
Churchdown	£5,500
Cinderford	£3,100
Cirencester	£3,000
Coleford	£3,250
Dursley	£3,000
Fairford	£5,950
Lechlade	£9,500
Lydney	£6,500
Nailsworth	£9,300
Newent	£11,685
Northleach	£6,500
Stonehouse	£3,000
Stow on the Wold	£3,000
Stroud	£2,250
Tetbury	£9,300
Tewkesbury	£13,500

Vale Vision (Cam & Dursley)	£2,000
Winchcombe	£9,335
Wotton under Edge	£11,500

Case studies of how some of these communities have used GMTF's support are featured on our Development Fund page on our website at

www.funding.town2town.org.uk

If your community wants to find out more about how to apply, click on Funding on our website www.town2town.org.uk or e-mail Geoff Wheeler, who co-ordinates the Fund for the Forum, at geof.wheeler@btinternet.com

Featured on these two pages are a number of recent examples:

A ticket to ride... in Winchcombe

Some of Winchcombe's most vulnerable and needy residents are now able to get to the local doctor's surgery by taxi, thanks to a voucher scheme operated by the Town Council with support from the GMTF Development Fund.

Books of taxi vouchers, worth up to £50, are distributed to up to 75 local people by the Town Council each year, helping them get to vital appointments, including visits to the doctor or to hospital in Cheltenham, if they don't have the use of a car.

"The scheme originally had one year's funding from Tewkesbury

Borough Council which, through good financial management, lasted us for three years. However, we were faced with having to close the scheme when the Borough Council funding ran out," explained Town Clerk Terry Willett (pictured below right with Assistant Clerk, Patricia Poole).

"The Town Council felt that it was too good a scheme to lose, and decided we should fund it ourselves. We applied for £500 from the Forum Development Fund to pay for the printing

of the 75 voucher books and as a contribution to the cost of running the scheme. We were extremely pleased to receive the money – the remaining £3,500 is funded solely by the Town Council."

■ For more information about Winchcombe's taxi voucher scheme which is making such a difference to local people, check out our Development Fund page on our website at www.funding.town2town.org.uk

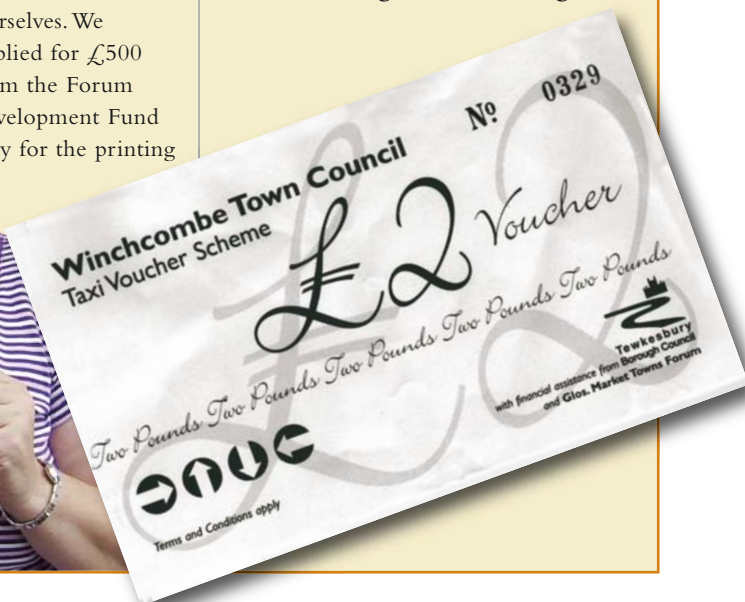




Photo courtesy of Cotswold District Council

State-of-the-art games area for Tetbury youth

A £2,000-plus boost from the Forum's Development Fund for a project to create a new multi-use games area at Tetbury's recreation ground played a big part in bringing in another £9,000 from the Youth Capital Fund.

"The fact that we had the support from the Forum gave our bid for further funding even more credibility and I am sure had an impact on our success in getting additional money," said Julie Wickham, Tetbury's Community Projects Officer.

The total cost of the youth project is £23,000 but the initial funding from GMTF has enabled the Town Council to install two multi-use goal ends.

■ For more information about Tetbury's plans to support young people, check out our Development Fund page on our website at www.funding.town2town.org.uk

Public has a say on Northleach Town Plan

A £2,500 contribution from GMTF's Development Fund to Northleach with Eastington Town Council's town plan consultation is 'vital' to its success.

Philip Moore, chair of the Town Plan Working Group, said: "We're determined to involve and include as many local people as possible to find out what they like and don't like about the town, so we can develop a really responsive plan.

"The full questionnaire is being developed with the support of the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, but without the Development Fund contribution we would not have been able to pay for this support. It is absolutely vital to our consultation programme."

■ To find out more about the innovative ways in which Northleach encouraged feedback from local people, check out our Development Fund page on our website at www.funding.town2town.org.uk



Gloucestershire's Olympics - in Nailsworth



Hundreds of people of all ages enjoyed a highly successful fortnight of sporting activities organised by Nailsworth town council and local sports and youth clubs to mark the 2008 Olympics.

And the Nailsworth Games could become an annual event – possibly challenging other market towns across the county, leading up to the 2012 London Olympics.

With a £2,000 grant from the GMTF Development Fund, the Nailsworth Games were launched with a family

fun day in July with Olympic-style medals for those taking part. Over the next fortnight, hundreds of people of all ages had the chance to 'have a go' at 15 different sporting activities involving almost all the local sports and youth clubs... who responded enthusiastically.

■ For more information about this innovative way of bringing people of all ages together to have fun and keep fit, check out our Development Fund page on our website at www.funding.town2town.org.uk

Forum summary of accounts 2007-2008

Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income & Expenditure accounts) for the year ended 31st March 2008

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2008 £	Total Funds 2007 £
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income:				
Grants	20,494	28,802	49,296	82,134
Memberships	8,209	—	8,209	9,420
Sundry income	366	—	366	—
Investment income	3,056	—	3,056	2,136
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
GCC Service Level Agreement	—	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total Incoming resources	32,125	43,802	75,927	108,690
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds:				
Publicity	—	—	—	10,512
Charitable activities	26,931	60,950	87,881	80,002
Governance costs:	1,762	—	1,762	3,320
Total Resources expended	28,693	60,950	89,643	93,834
Net incoming resources	3,432	(17,148)	(13,716)	14,856
Total funds at 1st April 2007	96,642	19,743	116,385	101,529
Transfers between funds	(735)	735	—	—
Total funds at 31st March 2008	99,339	3,330	102,669	116,385

Balance sheet as at 31st March 2008

	2008 £	2007 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	—	—
Current assets		
Debtors	786	10,450
Cash at bank and in hand	105,408	109,180
	106,194	119,630
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(3,525)	(3,245)
	102,669	116,385
Net assets	102,669	116,385
Represented by:		
Restricted funds –		
Technical Fund:		
Tewkesbury	—	1,418
Development fund	3,330	5,665
Cirencester Town Council	—	2,209
Partnership fund:		
Tewkesbury	—	4,020
Rural Social and Community Programme	—	6,431
	3,330	19,743
Capital funds –		
Unrestricted funds	99,339	96,642
	102,669	116,385

The trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 1985 (the Act) relating to the audit of the accounts for the period by virtue of section 249A (1), and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 249B (2) of the Act. The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 221 of the Act, and
- preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial period and of its profit or loss for the financial period in accordance with the requirements of section 226, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:



P Godfrey

The summarised financial information shown here has been extracted from Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008. These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum. Copies of the full audited accounts may be obtained on request from Mrs Crystal Johnson, GMTF c/o Gloucestershire First, Chargrove Business Centre, Main Road, Shurdington, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 4GA.



Published by Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum, c/o Chargrove Business Centre, Main Road, Shurdington, Cheltenham GL51 4GA

Written and edited by Viva Communications Limited www.viva-communications.co.uk

Designed by The Design Co-operative