



FOREST

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Delivering a thriving economy

Forest Economic Partnership Stakeholder Meeting

30 June 2020

Agenda

1. Welcome (Andrew Callard Chair FEP)
2. Community Interest Company (CIC) Update Q&A (Wendy Jackson)
3. FoDDC Business Support Q&A (Bernie O'Neill)
4. Presentation & discussion: What is FEP's role going forward? (Andrew Callard)
5. Q&A and discussion on Economic case for cultural economy (Carolyn Black, Creative Canopy)
6. Projects Update Q &As:
7. IF- Inspiring the Forest (Andrew Callard)
8. Digital Projects; (David Trevelyan, Chair Digital Connectivity)
9. Heritage Forest Biosphere Reserve (Andrew Callard)
10. Procedural issues: Severn Vale Board update; Election of Chair due at September meeting
11. AOB



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FEP Community Interest Company Update

Board Membership

- Cllr Richard Leppington resigned his position as CIC Board Member due to changes in FoDDC Cabinet Portfolio responsibilities
- Cllr Bernie O'Neill has been duly appointed as CIC Board Member and Vice-Chair of the FEP Stakeholder Group
- All changes formally notified to Companies House

Board Members Skills Self-Assessment

- Annual self-assessment process completed
- Board members ranked skill levels from 0 – 4 (0 = no experience through to 4 = trainer level experience)
- Training threshold of 3 members agreed for any scores of 0-1
- Results indicate three areas of training required in 2020-21
 - ❖ CIC non-for-profit experience
 - ❖ Board experience
 - ❖ Marketing/ Communications

CIC policies and procedures

- CIC policies prepared to support good governance:
 - ❖ Health & safety
 - ❖ Safeguarding
 - ❖ Whistleblowing
 - ❖ Expenses
 - ❖ FEP Privacy Notice (GDPR & website compliance)
- Directors handbook



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FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Listening to Businesses

- By visiting local businesses we aim to learn more about the real issues that are facing the district and see how we can help those businesses
- Successful visits up until Covid - 19

Business Matters

- The Forest edition of the Business Matters e-newsletter was first launched on 26th March 2020. At present it's issued weekly and so far there have been 15 editions sent out
- You can view them here:
<https://us19.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=dd696c9cb6fd3a8e52db48aaa&id=16cf0612b9>
- The number of sign-ups to receive the newsletter has been growing steadily and currently is goes out to 520 contacts. They are a mostly local businesses, but parish councils and forest councillors, and some Publica staff are signed up to it too

Safety for our Towns

- Town centre packs have been distributed to all shops and business premises with posters, social distancing floor stickers and a health and safety checklist
- The Council is actively looking at providing safe access for pedestrians now that shops are opening and some restrictions have been relaxed - identifying pinch points for pedestrians through practical temporary changes to on-street parking and other measures such as signage and hand sanitisers
- 5 Free Parking spaces in each Car Park for 30 minutes and free parking on Saturdays through to September
- Aim to make shopping a safe and pleasant experience

Lydney Harbour

- The £2.1 million Lydney Harbour Regeneration Project has begun
- Funded by MHCLG (Coastal Community Fund)
- Skiff (boat building) Project - suitable premises have been identified at Marina Business Park and we are currently in the process of agreeing terms



- Public Artwork – FoDDC will now tender for an artist to design and install the A48 roundabout and harbour-site artworks
- Signage and heritage interpretation/walking trail - work underway to develop this scheme aimed at creating an engaging, informative and exciting visitor experience
- FoDDC working with Environment Agency on their plans to invest in maintenance of Lydney Harbour

Future High Street Fund



*former
HSBC Bank*



- Funding secured pre-COVID however the reimagining of the High Street is even more vital in order to support businesses in post virus recovery and give shoppers/visitors more reasons to spend time in the town
- A Public Consultation required to inform the Final Business Case - where Cinderford businesses, shoppers and town visitors commented on the FHSF proposals, has completed and the Business Case modified accordingly
- The Business Case for the bid is to be presented to Cinderford Town Council on 14th July for submission to Government by 17th July

Recovery and Regeneration Investment Strategy

- Currently in draft and has yet to be adopted
- Funding gap of £3.4M up to 2024. A strategy to invest in housing, jobs and green infrastructure as part of the Council's vision in its Corporate Plan - to make the FOD a great place to live, learn, do business and enjoy
- Currently looking at regeneration opportunities on key sites, such as Cinderford Northern Quarter and Five Acres

Covid Business Grants & Discretionary Grants

- Grants of between £10,000 and £25,000 paid to 1916 businesses totalling £20,675,000
- Of the 1916 businesses, 458 have also been awarded the ‘expanded business rate relief’ or ‘Nursery Relief’ totalling £4,147,275. These 458 businesses no longer have a liability to pay business rates for the full financial year 2020/21.
- From the discretionary fund we have supported an additional 160 small and micro businesses and awarded a further £1,114,838 grant support



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Forest Economic Partnership

What is FEP's Role Going Forward

June 2020

Forest Economic Partnership so far

- Brought together over 200 organisations and individuals who live, work, study and play in the Forest of Dean
- Identified the SWOT of the district upon which to base activities.
- Created opportunities for all to discuss in sub-groups and implement in action groups
- Promoted the district to decision-makers in Councils, Enterprise Partnerships, Transport Organisations through to House of Lords and HMG
- Moving from phase of discussion into specific projects and action based on a data and evidence driven approach

The World has changed.....

- FEP's role was to create an agreed vision of where we wanted to be by 2050 and to fight for the resources to get us there.
- Part of that vision was:
 - Championing the rural nature of the district in the economic opportunities of Industry 4.0
 - Not losing the balances within and attractiveness of the area
 - Seizing opportunities by speaking with one voice not separate settlements
- The world's long term trend was urbanisation and globalisation enabled by and enabling technology and digital solutions
- The response by others to covid-19 is to:
 - Analyse the economic shock
 - Create an economic recovery plan
 - Build economic resilience

Forest Economic Partnership's New Balance?

1. Talking; delay or action?
2. Digital v real world?
3. Available time/appetite of individuals and organisations?
4. Focus only existing or new projects?
5. Volunteers only or paid individuals?
6. Revenue v capital projects?
7. Sourcing funding approach?



MAKING AN ECONOMIC CASE FOR
CULTURE

Carolyn Black
2020

WHY THE CULTURAL ECONOMY MATTERS

- Visitor experience is everything – the Moon has been shown all over the world
- High visitor numbers: Natural History Museum – over 6 months - 2 million visitors – voted as the best temporary exhibit ever held there. Rochester Cathedral – 3 weeks – 100,000 visitors. Gloucester Cathedral- 3 weeks 70,000 visitors
- What makes it successful for venues? A simple idea that is iconic, cross-cultural, ticketed entry creates income for charities that host it
- What makes it successful for audiences? It's spectacular, is responsive to each site with different soundtracks, has universal appeal to all ages, make you wonder, and most of all, makes for great selfies and photos.

Luke Jerram, Moon, Tintern Abbey





A BIT OF BACKGROUND ABOUT CANOPY

- 2016 Creative Canopy was formed in response to ACE invitation to conduct action research with a view to future investment
- 2017 We hosted a Showcase event at West Dean Parish Council, funded by ACE & WDPC
- 2018 admin and fundraising
- 2018 funding secured from ACE for post to move forward with action research to identify what is needed and how to deliver it
- 2019-2020 Renamed canopy creative network – ran networking events, developed phone box project and conducting research towards our future



VISION

The Canopy Creative Network actively forges pathways for social change through the arts, by supporting a thriving calendar of cultural activities across The Forest of Dean

WE AIM to:

- celebrate the unique qualities of Forest people and places through the creative practices
- be economically and environmentally sustainable in all we do
- develop a strong, accessible cultural community in the Forest of Dean
- support and profile contemporary arts in the area

Tina Hitchens, Phone Box Sound Artist, researching with Gloucester Speleological Society

STATISTICS FOR STARTERS 2016

- The culture sector has outstripped agriculture and some areas of UK manufacturing as a contributor to the UK economy.
- The value of arts and culture as an industry rose by £390 million from 2015 to 2016
- The culture sector now supports 360,000 jobs and brings the government £2.8 billion in tax.
- Since 2009 arts and culture has grown faster than the economy as a whole and labour productivity here is higher than the UK's as a whole.



Shebang Phone Box Project

THE FOREST IS (OBVIOUSLY) A RURAL PLACE

- ACE stats relating to the 'poor cousin' status of rural locations
- G4A awards made between 2015-2018:
 - Only 12 per cent of all G4A awards were made to applicants residing in rural areas
 - 30 (4.6 per cent) NPOs funded to deliver work in that period reside in rural areas
 - 116 NPOs (18 per cent) based in a rural local authority setting

Phone Box Artists in Christchurch



CULTURAL TOURISM

Our cultural heritage is not the only draw for visitors.

VisitBritain conducted research about perceptions of the UK from respondents in 20 countries around the world.

They found that UK was ranked 3rd for contemporary culture; 5th for historic buildings and 7th for cultural heritage (out of 50 nations)

Table 1: GfK Anholt Nations Brand Index UK rank out of 50 nations 2008-2014

UK rank out of 50 nations	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
TOURISM	4	5	5	4	4	4	3
Historic Buildings	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
Vibrant City	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
CULTURE	3	4	6	4	4	4	5
Contemporary	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
Sport	7	8	8	5	6	5	4
Cultural Heritage	6	7	7	7	7	7	7

Table 3: Inbound UK holiday visits which involved activity, 2011

	France	Germany	USA	All UK Holiday
Went shopping	70%	73%	67%	71%
Visited parks or gardens	49%	60%	60%	54%
Visited castles or historic houses	42%	62%	60%	48%
Went to the pub	39%	54%	60%	50%
Visited museums or art galleries	43%	44%	53%	43%
Visited religious buildings	31%	42%	49%	35%
Went to countryside or villages	18%	29%	28%	22%
Went to the coast or beaches	13%	27%	15%	15%
Went to bars or nightclubs	11%	11%	18%	14%
Went to theatre / musical / opera / ballet	6%	10%	22%	14%
Attended a festival (e.g. music, food, arts, film)	3%	4%	7%	4%
Went to a live sport event (e.g. at a stadium)	2%	2%	3%	4%

ECONOMIC CONTEXT

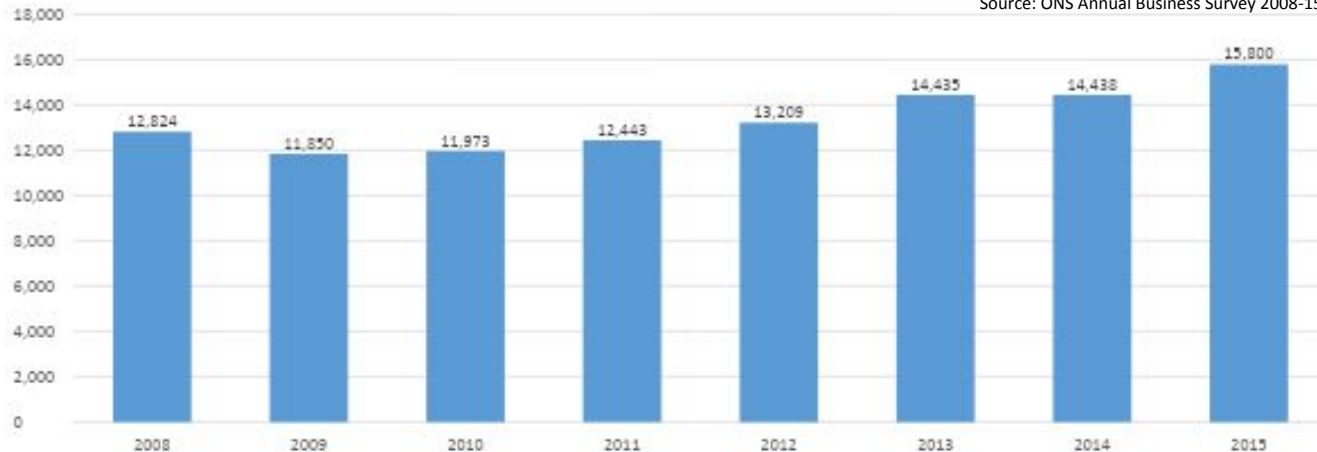
Contribution of the arts and culture industry to the UK economy

An updated assessment of the macroeconomic contributions of the arts and culture industry to the national and regional economies of the UK

Report for Arts Council England

Figure 1: Turnover generated by the arts and culture industry in the UK, 2008-15, £m current prices

Figure 1: Turnover generated by the arts and culture industry in the UK, 2008-15, £m current prices



Canopy Q & A Multiplier Impacts

Q: How can a seed investment grow, using grants?

A: By using small grants to lever larger ones

EQUATION: ACE + WDPC + more ACE + Heritage Lottery = growing the cultural economy.

2017 ACE Seed funded 10k – which paid for fundraiser

2018 Levered £40k – which paid for current work

2019 Levered £4520 from WDPC – which supported research for phone box project

2020 Levering 15k from ACE + (possibly) £8k from Heritage Lottery – to deliver & document phone box project

PLUS partnership bids, currently likely to be around £20k over coming months, with another ACE bid for around £50k

OUTCOMES: community development, organisational development, networks, partnerships, cross-sector working, cultural tourism

5.1 Direct contributions to the national and regional economies of the UK

Table 3 illustrates the importance of the arts and culture industry in terms of GVA contributions to regional GDP. Of the estimated £10.6 billion of direct GVA generated in 2015 by the arts and culture industry in the UK, almost £9.5 billion was generated in England, with £3.4 billion generated in London alone, where arts and culture's share of the region's economy is the highest at 0.89%. The industry's share of the Wales economy is lowest at 0.43%, which compares with a 0.64% share across the UK as a whole and a 0.66% across England. In absolute terms, the contribution of the industry to Northern Ireland is lowest at £151 million in 2015.

Table 3: Direct GVA contributions of the arts and culture industry to UK nations and English regions, 2015

UK nation/English region	Direct GVA 2015 £m	Percentage of area's GVA
UK	10,617	0.64%
Total England	9,437	0.66%
London	3,355	0.89%
South East	1,962	0.79%
North West	928	0.59%
East of England	834	0.57%
Scotland	790	0.62%
West Midlands	611	0.51%
South West	564	0.45%
Yorkshire & The Humber	484	0.44%
East Midlands	440	0.45%
North East	259	0.52%
Wales	238	0.43%
Northern Ireland	151	0.44%

Source: [Cebr analysis](#)

Hannah Aebi dancer, workshop Walmore School, how many kids fit in a phone box



Cultural Tourism Q & A

Q: how do we increase audience numbers and gain income from ticket sales?

A: by creating an infrastructure that makes things happen and importantly TELLS PEOPLE ABOUT IT! Work with Wye Dean Tourism to amplify the What's On side – for both residents and tourists alike - see VisitBristol for good model. Look at the success of 'Leaf Peeping!'

EQUATION: what's on for tourists + what's on for residents = efficient use of a website

OUTCOMES: better marketing for both – more audiences, more events

Photo by Jane Spray, artist, during Walking the Woods networking day



Canopy Arts & Health Q & A

Q: How can canopy support the elderly and artists to access new technologies?

A: By paying facilitators to help artists and the elderly to find out more online about their passions or hobbies

EQUATION: canopy + seniors+ Innovation Lab = learning

OUTCOMES: co-learning, social, education by stealth – take a topic that people love and show them how to use technology to help them do more, in a different way

Sharon Foley, glass artist, working with Ellwood Primary School



WHAT CREATES A RICH CULTURAL ECONOMY?



Forest of Dean culture is comprised of this place and the people that live here



Art and nature are natural companions



Art and technology have the potential to change our lives



Without culture life would be very dull

NEWSFLASH!

The day I completed this presentation I heard a programme on Radio 4 about economics. It made me stall while typing up statistics.

- Start the Week - Morality, money and power
- Mervyn King has a new book out called: Radical Uncertainty: Decision-making for an unknowable future
- The way we model economy is now defunct – the traditional models cannot respond to uncertainty e.g. corona virus
- We were drugged by the illusion that numbers can save us & tame uncertainty – a false turning
- The solution lies in narrative and story-telling – we need creatives to do that! Narratives challenge conversations. Changes happen.

Sharon Foley, glass artist, working with Ellwood Primary School



WE NEED A CULTURAL STRATEGY TO INFORM & SUPPORT THE CUTURAL ECONOMY

- Canopy can help to feed the economy in the Forest of Dean by actively connecting people, places, charities and businesses
- One way we can do that is for us to deliver a cultural strategy as a model of good practice, to ensure there is a coherence to what is on offer, and that coherence is created by quality, relevance to place and informed by those that live here
- Narrative is the new economic model for resilience

While we wait for the corona virus to leave us, we are making plans how we can celebrate its departure with a big bang.

Do you remember Lightshift, 2001 ?

It lifted the spirits after foot & mouth – please help us to do the same post-corona.

Get in touch if you would like to be part of this planning

The logo for Canopy Creative Network is centered in a light teal rectangular box. The word "canopy" is written in a bold, lowercase, orange sans-serif font. Below it, the words "creative network" are written in a smaller, lowercase, white sans-serif font.

canopy
creative network



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Follow us on Facebook – CANOPY Group

E: fodcreativecanopy@gmail.com



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Forest Economic Partnership Inspiring Forest (IF) Project Update June 2020

What is the IF Project as Agreed?



Inspiring Forest Project

IF is a project being delivered by the Forest Economic Partnership. It addresses key issues to:

1. Raise aspirations amongst the young and all ages across the Forest.
2. Raise awareness of the businesses in the District and of the types of jobs available.
3. Increase awareness of the skills required for jobs locally at all levels.
4. Create closer links between schools/colleges/universities and business.
5. Reduce youth disaffection by applying the 4 business touch principles in mainstream education.
6. Reduce difficulties around arranging work experience and other business-school engagements.
7. Raise awareness of sector potential and assist businesses to manage their talent pipeline.

The IF Project

IF aims to hold a 3-year rotating programme of inspirational events to:

- celebrate the strength and diversity of District business
- showcase the skills & opportunities available for young people here
- enable individuals to consider a full range of employment opportunities

Target Sectors:

- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing;
- Professional, Scientific & Technical;
- Construction;
- Business Admin & Support;
- Manufacturing;
- Retail; Arts & Entertainment;
- Recreation, Accommodation & Food Services;
- Information & Communication;
- Transport, Storage & Logistics

The IF Approach

- Experience-based activities that reflect the core skills needed in the sector regardless of size of company.
- Inspirational information about opportunities and pathways in sector.
- Information on the size and nature of the sector in the District and where in the world it serves.
- Recognition that the event is the start of conversations.

The Intended IF Events

District Inspiring Forest Festival (DIFF)

District-wide Festival of businesses and skills in a suitably large space. Day-long event targeting any student and adult. Space organised into 10 business sectors. First DIFF proposed in autumn 2021.

Local Inspiring Forest Events (LIFE).

Hosted by secondary schools, focusing on students and parents. We're looking for c4/5 sectors at each LIFE as space is smaller in each school hall, The project starts with 2 LIFEs; Dene Magna 30th March 2020 and another Summer Term in the South of the District.

What Inspiring Forest (What IF).

This is a branded single company visit to a primary school.

Dene Magna 30th March.....

The volunteers of the IF Action Group worked with Dene Magna to organise the first LIFE for 30th March for the over 800 students.

Preparations were at an advanced stage:

- 26 organisations in 4 sectors worked together to create a range of activities for the main sports hall to engage & showcase their sector
- prototyped the safeguarding, health & safety and other necessary systems to create stands, show guide and spaces to inspire.
- resolved many of the practical issues around holding the event and communicating to the whole school community

Dene Magna 30th March

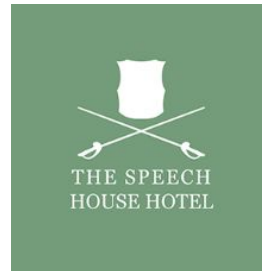
And we all know what
happened in the middle of
March !

So LIFE abandoned with all the hassle that involved. So some thanks and drafts follow.

Thanks to Sector Co-ordinators



Each sector had a lead organiser to pull together the activities and liaise with businesses in the sector to take part and supply copy. As the potential for pandemic became clear this was not an easy task!



Sponsors of IF and LIFE@DM



Funding is needed by IF to convert school halls into inspiring spaces. Capital funding was provided by Gfirst and FoDDC. Funding for this LIFE was provided by other sponsors



Thanks to 26 Participating Businesses

Make UK
Kohler Mira
Mabey Bridge
CITB
Gloucestershire Construction
Training
National Composites Centre
KW Bell Group
MF Freeman
Speech House Hotel
Pedalabikeaway
Harts Barn Cookery School
Hillside Brewery

Forest Wellbeing
Body Awareness Therapies
Cosmic Teapot
Deborah Iles Therapies
Elly Adams Bowen Therapy
Forest Bathe
Forest of Dean Hypnotherapy
Forest Retreats
Greenhill Therapies
Helena Arguelles
Magic Hands: Calm Minds
Rachelle Strauss – Allergy Therapist
Holistic Upholdings
TLS Sports Massage and Remedial Therapy

Draft Stands at Abandonment



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Forest Economic Partnership

Inspiring Forest

Transport & Storage

- c300 businesses employing 4% of population
- Logistics is a key Forest sector with major distribution hubs.
- Companies range from family businesses to national's eg The Range

ICT

- Cyber and ICT is a growth sector for individuals and businesses
- 3% of population identified specifically in this sector in over 200 organisations.
- Major server farms to individual start-ups

Health & Wellbeing

Key sectors by number of employees:
 Education, Health & Wellbeing, Retail & Wholesale, Professional, Scientific & Technical, Manufacturing, Agriculture & Forestry, Food & Hospitality, Construction.

Key: Staff Sector by number of employees
 Staff Sector by number of companies

Manufacturing

- 16% of the Forest employed population is in manufacturing, twice the UK urban average of 8%.
- Parts of Forest were once most heavily industrialised in UK and the source of world-leading manufacturing businesses.
- Still continues with EMs exported every year through bulk and niche products.

Workforce

Of the 86,500 people who live in the District, 44,700 are economically active. This is 86.4% of 16-64 year olds above the national average of 78.9%.

A third of those who are employees don't work in the District.

Both weekly and hourly paid workers earn close to the national average pay.

Business Admin & Support

- 6% employed in 320 businesses.
- From individual virtual assistants through to major financial services call centres.

Construction

- Over 500 construction companies.
- From owner operator trades to national players.
- From house builders and renovators to specialists in every aspect of construction.

Forest Economic Partnership

Forest Economic Partnership

Inspiring Forest

Health & Wellbeing

- 300+ individual wellbeing practitioners have chosen the district for their base.
- 10 GP surgeries employ 35 GPs & 240 clinical and nonclinical staff. 2 hospitals with 2000 staff
- Over 80 pharmacies, 45 dental practices, more than 20 care homes.

Our 10 Key Business Sectors are essential in creating the uniqueness and vibrance of the Forest.

Our people, young and old bring their skills and talents to exploit the many opportunities on offer.

The Forest has an inspiring past and present. Its future starts with conversations today.

Agriculture and Forestry

- 7% of working population in 650 businesses.
- Essential core of the District maintaining the landscape and sourcing distinctive sectors.
- Rapidly emerging Agritech sector based at Horbury

Retail

- 12% of the working population
- Over 300 businesses
- Traditional core of high street combined with online.

Professional, Scientific & Technical

- 600+ individual businesses operate in district
- Employs 9% of population.
- Higher level skills delivered nationally and internationally.

Enterprises

Of the 4,500 business units in the District of the Forest of Dean:

- 68% employ less than 10 staff
- 10% 10-49 staff
- 2% 50-249 staff
- And there are officially 5 businesses with more than 250 staff.

Food & Hospitality

- 7% of the working population is employed in tourism.
- Brings £85 M to the area and 7.1M visitors.
- Over 350 individual hospitality businesses.

Forest of Dean Open for Business

203 SQUARE MILES OF OPPORTUNITY

Forest Economic Partnership

NB These drafts are works in progress subject to approval of the Sectors and Action Group. They are not the finished article

Draft Stands at Abandonment



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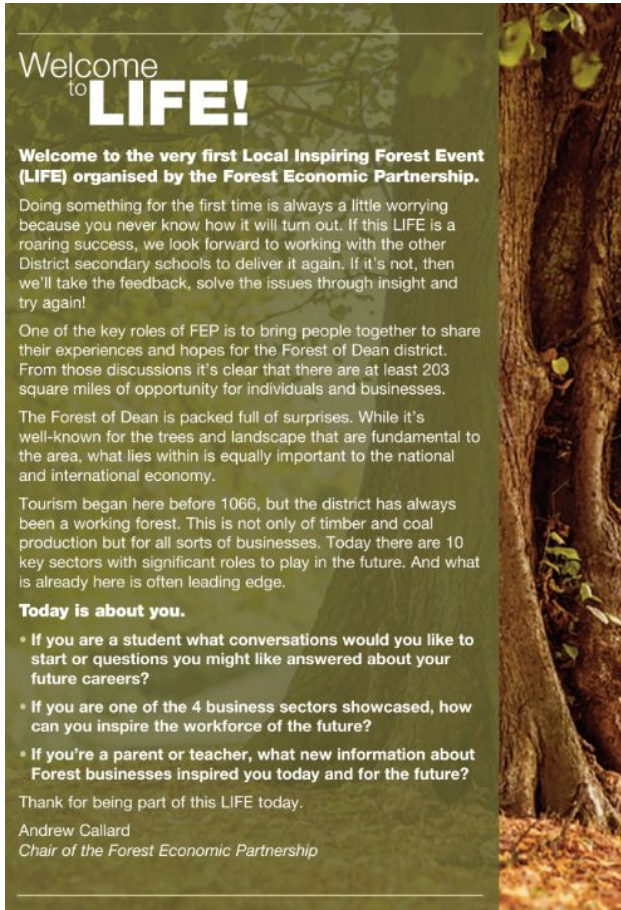
Hospitality & Tourism	Tourism	Forest Facts	Career Paths	Opportunities	Hospitality & Tourism
	<p>FOREST OF DEAN & WYE VALLEY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7% of the working population is employed in tourism. Brings £385 Million to the area and 7,117,800 visitors. Over 350 individual Hospitality and Tourism businesses. Hotels, guest houses, B&Bs. Camping, glamping, caravans, lodges and retreats. Outdoor activity centres for hiking, canoeing, riding, biking. Restaurants, cafes, pubs and food & drink production. Attractions, historic buildings, natural landscape, daffodils, birds and bluebells. Travel to, from and within Forest by all means. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest has been a site for tourism since the Anglo-Saxon hunting lodge before 1066. Ross is the birthplace of mass tourism as Georgians and Victorians tripped down the Wye. The Severn here is the world's second biggest tidal surge. While the district has recently been declared a National Landscape. Severn and Wye Smockery turns over £55M and employs over 200 staff across its restaurant and food production businesses. A former Hotel Receptionist is now MD of a £0.5M turnover company sending high end commercial ovens across the sector. 		

Health and Well-being	Well-being	Forest Facts	Career Paths	Opportunities	Health and Well-being
	<p>Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12% of the working population in the area is employed in the well-being sector. Caregiving is the specialist skill in greatest demand in the Forest. Average annual salary for health and well-being employees in Forest £33K. 45% of health and well-being workers are part-time. 300+ individual well-being practitioners have chosen the district for their base. 10 GP surgeries employ 35 GPs & 240 clinical/non-clinical staff. 2 hospitals with 2000 staff. Over 80 pharmacies. 45 dental practices. More than 20 care homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12% of the working population in the area is employed in the well-being sector. Caregiving is the specialist skill in greatest demand in the Forest. Average annual salary for health and well-being employees in Forest £33K. 45% of health and well-being workers are part-time. 300+ individual well-being practitioners have chosen the district for their base. 10 GP surgeries employ 35 GPs & 240 clinical/non-clinical staff. 2 hospitals with 2000 staff. Over 80 pharmacies. 45 dental practices. More than 20 care homes. 		

Construction	Construction	Forest Facts	Career Paths	Opportunities	Construction
	<p>citb</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.5% of the working population in the area is employed in Construction. Construction activities forecast to grow by 2.2% in next few years. An ageing workforce opens up a range of opportunities. Over 500 construction companies in the Forest. From micro businesses with less than 10 to large organisations employing 500+. From house builders and renovators to specialists in every aspect of construction, from planning to ecology. Working for a Forest construction company may mean rarely working in the Forest itself, but nationally and internationally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former head carrier Keith Bell founded Bell Contracting. Now driven by the next family generation and employs 3500 staff directly and indirectly. Significant apprenticeship programme. Family run business MF Freemans established in 1966 operates divisions across residential and commercial property development, contracting and civils, plant hire, farming, forestry and leisure. Ex-Dean Academy student completed a plumbing apprenticeship and is now balancing a paid job in the trade with building his own private business. 		

Manufacturing	Manufacturing	Forest Facts	Career Paths	Opportunities	Manufacturing
	<p>MAKEuk The Manufacturers' Organisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15.9% of the working population is employed in manufacturing, twice the UK urban average of 8%. Parts of Forest were once most heavily industrialised in UK and the source of world-leading manufacturing businesses. Still continues with EMs exported every year through bulk and niche products such as the wiring for Tesla cars. 280 businesses classified as manufacturing. Range from 5 large employers through well-established medium sized businesses to start-ups/micros. Important sectors include metal engineering, automotive, high and low tech materials, shopping carts, paving slabs, natural food flavourings, kitchens, food and drink... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15.9% of the working population is employed in manufacturing, twice the UK urban average of 8%. Parts of Forest were once most heavily industrialised in UK and the source of world-leading manufacturing businesses. Still continues with EMs exported every year through bulk and niche products such as the wiring for Tesla cars. 280 businesses classified as manufacturing. Range from 5 large employers through well-established medium sized businesses to start-ups/micros. Important sectors include metal engineering, automotive, high and low tech materials, shopping carts, paving slabs, natural food flavourings, kitchens, food and drink... 		

Draft Show Guide at Abandonment



Welcome
to **LIFE!**

Welcome to the very first Local Inspiring Forest Event (LIFE) organised by the Forest Economic Partnership.

Doing something for the first time is always a little worrying because you never know how it will turn out. If this LIFE is a roaring success, we look forward to working with the other District secondary schools to deliver it again. If it's not, then we'll take the feedback, solve the issues through insight and try again!

One of the key roles of FEP is to bring people together to share their experiences and hopes for the Forest of Dean district. From those discussions it's clear that there are at least 203 square miles of opportunity for individuals and businesses.

The Forest of Dean is packed full of surprises. While it's well-known for the trees and landscape that are fundamental to the area, what lies within is equally important to the national and international economy.

Tourism began here before 1066, but the district has always been a working forest. This is not only of timber and coal production but for all sorts of businesses. Today there are 10 key sectors with significant roles to play in the future. And what is already here is often leading edge.

Today is about you.

- If you are a student what conversations would you like to start or questions you might like answered about your future careers?
- If you are one of the 4 business sectors showcased, how can you inspire the workforce of the future?
- If you're a parent or teacher, what new information about Forest businesses inspired you today and for the future?

Thank for being part of this LIFE today.

Andrew Callard
Chair of the Forest Economic Partnership

Part of draft show guide which was due to be provided as a hard copy and in pdf on the school virtual learning environment after the student assembly due on 27th March.

This would have been preceded by a staff briefing session and a student briefing in their tutor groups. A letter would have also been sent to parents about the event the week before.

IF: The Future- 1. Meeting Issue

IF assumed and encouraged **physical meeting** to create productive relationships between:

- Schools and businesses
- Teachers and businesspeople
- Businesses and students/pupils
- Businesses and school communities of parents, siblings and students
- Business and the whole population

Would it work as well in a virtual format?

IF: The Future- 2. Funding Issue

IF requires significant resources to be delivered. While volunteer time can be expended in organising the events; the main driver to deliver the whole project needs to be a paid role to reflect the time consumed to deliver on a set date.

The main funders are currently for capital items necessary for physical events.

Given covid-19 what are the likely funding channels that might be available to deliver a medium-long term solution rather than 'solve' the immediate?

Or is there a necessary focus shift to the shorter term and an older audience?

IF: The Future- 3. Technology Issue

Could the aims of IF be delivered through digital technology?

If it is not possible in the medium term to meet physically and partake in activities due to covid; could there be a virtual solution? This could combine 'videos' with 'games-based activities' and safeguarded discussion rooms.

BUT whether this is a bought in or a developed system it would require significant funding to create a secure and inspiring system.

IF: The Future- 4. Target Issue

From the outset IF was about all ages but had a focus on those in education as a first step

The data suggests that those that will be most affected by covid-19 are the 16-24 year olds and those over 50 in terms of employment prospects.

While the objective was long term change, do we also need to consider short term needs and possibly funding opportunities.

IF: The Future- 5. Data Issue

In times of intense uncertainty and change, is there the appetite/bandwidth from businesses, education providers, individuals and volunteers to drive such a project forward?

Data suggests that the District could be hit particularly hard with its concentration of small companies and separately with its tourism, manufacturing and services focus.



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ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Delivering a thriving economy

Forest Economic Partnership Digital Connectivity Projects Update June 2020

Bridging the Gap – A Case Study (DC)

- Project was setup to assist Hewelsfield and Bigsweir area to improve broadband speeds
- Hewelsfield Broadband Group unhappy with BT and Fastershire over cost / timeframe
- FEP contacted by Hewelsfield BG to see if we could help
- FEP Identified a potential solution provider
- Initiated a feasibility review by the provider



Bridging the Gap – A Case Study (DC)

- A number of challenges were found even before a feasibility study;
 - **Local Geography:** Density of Housing, Distance between Properties
 - **Existing Network Infrastructure:** Existing infrastructure could not support faster broadband
 - **What Network Infrastructure Exists:** Even when newer infrastructure exists, Openreach may not have fully implemented it, or where it has, updated its records
- Failure of the Feasibility Study
 - Lack of available information resulted in no confidence in providing an effective costing
 - Excessive time required to deliver the feasibility study for smaller organisations

Bridging the Gap – Case Study Summary

- Cost of Solutions
 - BT quotes to communities for the provision of services are excessively expensive compared to other providers.
 - All solutions would cost more than available Gigabit Voucher scheme values.
- Network Information
 - Openreach does not have accurate information on rural infrastructure provisioning.
 - Openreach are challenging to work with both to get information and the time it takes.
- Fair and Open Markets
 - Criticism has been levelled at BT Openreach, that following installation quotes can vary substantially between initial quotes and later revisions following 3rd party feasibility planning and costing activity (undermining third party work to support communities).
- Funding Solutions
 - Schemes such as Gigabit Vouchers are not adequate to fund the cost of installation

Bridging the Gap Project Close Out

- This draws to an end of the Bridging the Gap project.
- Our aim for the project was to create a Case Study of delivering broadband in rural communities.
- We have created the Case Study and identified the barriers to communities to deliver their own community broadband solutions.
- This project will allow us to provide feedback on the viability of community broadband projects as a tool for delivering the UK's digital future.

How Fast How Good

Following the groups successful project in the Summer of 2019 to review the perception of broadband speed in the Forest of Dean we will be progressing with further surveys (delayed by COVID-19) in 2020

The findings from that survey were

- Properties who can afford / have access to FTTC or better connections generally satisfied
- Properties on older Fast Broadband (ADSL2+) generally dis-satisfied



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How Fast How Good – Part 2

HFHG 2

- Reviewing the performance of broadband overtime within the district.

Purpose

- Is the perception of slowdown a real issue?
- Does “slowdown” disproportionately effect different user groups?

Methodology

- Sample of 100 local broadband users to review broadband speed over time
- Use of surveymonkey to gather and manage data

Timeframe

- Summer 2020 – Survey
- Summer (Autumn 2020) – Analysis and Reporting

Mobility as a Service (Smart Travel)

- Mobility as a Service or Smart Travel
 - The integration of Data and Travel Planning
 - Solutions are on demand (Uber or Lyft) and cost effective (i.e. full public transport)
- FEP wants to create a local collaboration between key groups to work towards a rural smart travel solution
- We need participation from
 - Stagecoach
 - Gloucestershire County Council
 - Forest of Dean Council
 - Technology Partners
- Stage 1: Agree a collaboration in principle to pursue funding opportunities
- Stage 2: Successfully Access Funding

Mobility as a Service (Smart Travel) Risks

- Who are the Project Sponsors
 - Need to work with public sector transport co-ordinators to define a MaaS Strategy, or as a minimum a memorandum of understanding.
 - Define what do they want to achieve in what timeframe.
- Set up partnership agreement to pursue any funding opportunities
 1. Agree who is in the partnership
 2. Agreement in principle from partners to target funding (project costing etc)
 3. Agreement in what the partnership aims, and goals are?
- Develop a Project Plan
 - Develop a high level project plan, including time, costs, resources etc as would be expected
 - Use data from existing sources, GCC and FEP Transport Survey's to form new ideas and thinking.
- Proactive Application to Funding Sources



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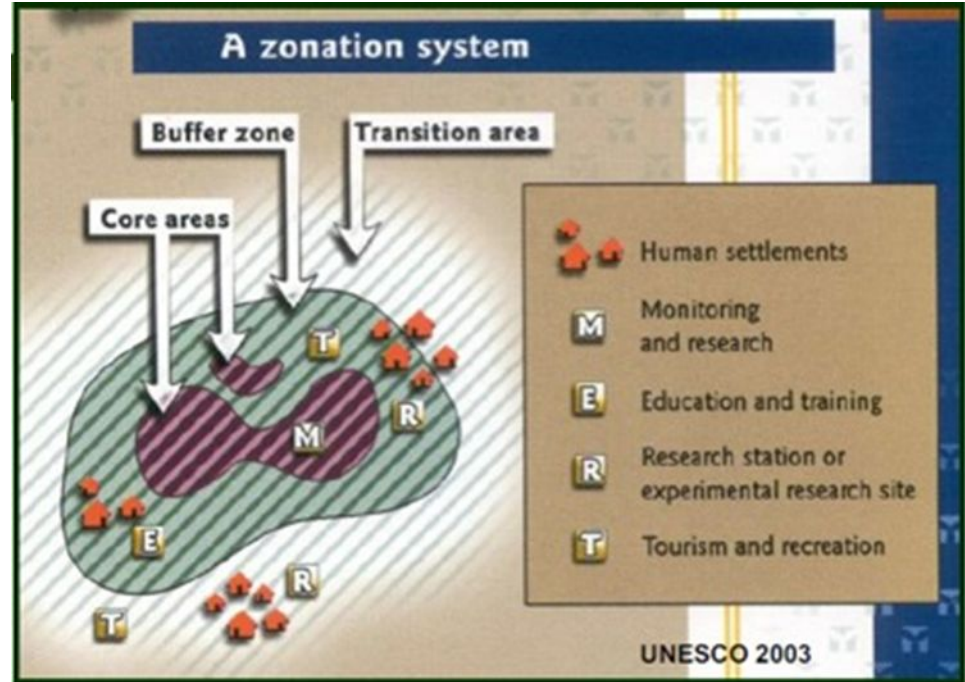
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

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Forest Economic Partnership Biosphere Reserve Project Update June 2020

Forest of Dean Biosphere Reserve (BR)

- Biosphere Reserves are a UNESCO designation
- They take 3 years from nomination to acceptance against international standards
- Decisions typically in September each year
- A means to balance the environmental with economic for benefit of all.



Forest of Dean Biosphere Reserve (BR)

- We have an idea of the economic benefits of a Biosphere Reserve, the question is there wider community backing?
- Stakeholders will be aware of the [Economic Case for BR](#) published by FEP's Biosphere Reserve Action Group (BRAG) last year which showed a range of economic benefits from adoption
- The next steps are to engage with the wider community and key stakeholders to set out:
 - Set out what a Biosphere Reserve is for
 - Identify the potential benefits and risks of a BR here
 - Seek the community and stakeholder views on a potential FoD BR

Community & Stakeholder Engagement

In conjunction with FoDDC, FEP submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery for funding for £10K to support community and stakeholder engagement to assess that wider appetite for a Biosphere Reserve through a range of face to face and on-line activities for potential partners and the wider public.

Both FoDDC & FEP committed staff resources to be used as match, effectively doubling the total value of the project.

The Project would:

- Develop partnerships, use online surveys, short videos and facilitated workshops.
- Raise the shared knowledge on Biosphere Reserves
- Develop a potential business model for a perspective Forest of Dean Biosphere Reserve.

Once we have engaged with the community we will understand whether this is something our local community will support and encourage.

Original Timeline for Heritage Project



April 1st 16.00
Notification that all applications voided as monies diverted to covid-19 response projects.
No new funding rounds till October 2020 earliest

As BR provides a balanced solution, where next?

Heritage Lottery funding bids closed until earliest October 2020. The likely focus then is probably on support and rescue of existing 'heritage'

If the bid had proceeded, it would have formed the basis of a much bigger bid for £200,000 to fund the staff and expenses for 2 year development & engagement programme

Questions:

1. Is there a realistic appetite to undertake the initial work on a voluntary basis?
2. Are there any alternative sources of funding for this work as part of the green underpinning that has been talked about in the covid-19 response work?
3. Could parts of the development programme be funded in other ways?

Please send thoughts to FEP@fdean.gov.uk for discussion on 30th June or to join BRAG.



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Procedural issues



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AOB