

Gloucestershire Gateway Trust – Milestones

Gloucester Services – fully open early Summer 2015 – *‘We are better for being part of our community’*

Activity	Year	What people said
An unsuccessful application to open a Motorway Services is made by Roadchef – There is local opposition to the proposal, but Mark Gale sees this as a potential opportunity	1994	Project still just a ‘twinkle in the eye’ of Mark Gale [Local resident]
Mark Gale inspired by Oxfam facilitated visit by Stan Thekaekara and Stan’s experience in a rural community in India who started a tea project, the learning being that you need to ‘turn your deficits into assets’	2004	‘Tebay too turned their disadvantage into an asset’ when the farm was cut in two by the motorway.’ [Director, GGT]
Local MPs approached		First reactions: ‘this man’s mad’, ‘it’s a nutty idea’ or ‘just a pipe dream.’[Director GGT] [Local MP]
Meeting with Co-Op Futures - exploring the development of social enterprise(s)		‘At this time someone was already talking about a “green MSA”, including talk about opposition to it. So it was well established as a local topic of discussion and debate.’ [Local Vicar]
		‘Not many people thought we stood a chance’ [Carlos Ordonez. Early supporter and Director, GGT]
		‘The next step was to look to business rather than the state as a source of funding.’[Mark Gale]
Gateway project up and running	2005	‘The negativity dropped away as MG, and GGT were transparently working for the poorest in the community.’ [Local Vicar]
Strategic Paper outlining project is prepared for stakeholders		

<p>Carlos Ordonez and Mark Gale working hard to develop backing from strategic bodies, developing narrative for why the MSA worked for them and their aims e.g. Gloucestershire1st.and the Sustainability Roundtable</p>	<p>‘Targeting the outputs to [meet] other people’s strategic goals.’ [Local resident]</p>
<p>Meeting with Transport Minister</p>	
<p>Article appears in Citizen regarding proposed ‘Green’ MSA</p>	<p>For one Brookthorpe resident, who had been part of the campaign against the MSA, the part time nature of the jobs was a negative. His prediction was that: “they would be poorly paid, part time, anti social hours type jobs, which would end up being taken by Eastern European migrants” [Local resident]</p>
<p>Early consultation with local residents by GGT, including public meetings in Matson and Brookthorpe</p>	
<p>2006</p>	
<p>Site visits for local residents & Supporters – The physical reality of seeing the site, standing on the ground is very powerful</p>	<p>‘I went to stand on the site, which was a light bulb moment for me. Seeing it on the ground made it real. The cheery man from Ongers farm made pork sandwiches for everyone... I was impressed by him and his vision, he had gone out of his way to be hospitable, he demonstrated it, it all fitted.’[Local Vicar]</p>
<p>Gloucestershire Neighbourhood Projects Network visit Tebay with Co Operative Futures support – meeting with John Dunning (Westmorland Ltd)</p>	
<p>2007</p>	
<p>June – GGT setup as a community company with charitable objects</p>	
<p>December - Land options secured. Purchased by Summerfield Trust after visiting the site and careful consideration by their trustees. (Options gifted to GGT once partnership with Westmorland was in place)</p>	<p>‘We recognised Mark’s passion for improving the lives of disadvantaged city dwellers.’ [Lavinia Sidgwick, Summerfield Charitable Trust]</p>
<p>Tudor Trust funds GGT running costs, keeping the organisation afloat and enabling the scheme for the MSA to be developed</p>	<p>‘The Tudor Trust were immensely supportive, with innovative ways of funding the work.’ [Director, GGT]</p>
<p>2008</p>	
<p>The 2008 Highways Agency circular changes the distances advised between motorway services, (followed by the Spatial Planning Framework document in 2010)</p>	
<p>Search for operating partner for the MSA. GGT find good ‘fit’ with Westmorland Ltd, who operate the independent Tebay services</p>	<p>‘It fits with what Westmorland are doing, and it has public appeal: the public like charity and social responsibility’. [John Dunning, Westmorland Ltd]</p>

‘One important reason why the idea was attractive was the authenticity of the link between the land, agriculture, economics and the communities.’
[John Dunning, Westmorland Ltd]

‘Westmorland’s values and business approach means it is rooted in the place it does business, and GGT’s community and charity connections gives us this in Gloucestershire, it gives us roots.’ [Sarah Dunning, Westmorland Ltd]

2009

March - September - Preparation of planning proposal

Formal public consultation begins – Consultation with local residents by GGT. 500 residents spoken to during this period, events held like the Eco-fun day, aimed at engaging people. General grassroots support on the grounds of community benefits such as employment opportunities, but with some vocal opposition – the latter largely on the grounds of visual and environmental impact

September - open Matson Gateway shop. GGT strategy was to connect to the local areas in most need of support and invest in community development, i.e. building up Tenants and Residents group, set up shop with information.

Job opportunities are displayed in Gateway shop, with Job Search and weekly Jobs Club.

Residents are drawn into the shop through displays of artwork from local school; 3D model of MSA; activities like the Scarecrow competition, and Open Mike events.

Gateway also hosts a bike project, aimed at enabling people to cycle to work

GGT used the prospect of the MSA as an engine to give the community building energy

‘It made it more than an idea, seeing the plans.’ [Local curate]

‘The strength of opposition in Brookthorpe took us by surprise.’ [Volunteer]

‘It’s quite a bus ride into the city centre with its job opportunities, a real barrier. Job opportunities are just not there in the community... but jobs in the MSA will be within walking distance.’ [Volunteer]

‘People could feel at home there [at the Gateway shop]’ ... ‘Felt like family.’
[Local Curate]

‘The shop was a ‘physical incarnation’ of a vision which not many people could keep in their heads.’ [Local Vicar]

‘All were welcome [at the Gateway shop], no one would say “we don’t want the likes of you”. It was a big tent.’ [Local Vicar]

‘The library being saved was a spin off from building a sense that the community belongs to the residents, not to others... Having a sense you can have your say!’ [Local Vicar]

‘It’s built community resilience’ [Local Curate]

‘The Tenants and Residents group gives people an opportunity to get involved in something for the benefit of the local community’. [Volunteer]

Matson Tenants and Residents group become involved – Building community confidence and a sense of their own agency. Later a Matson Tenants and Residents group Away day was held at City Works

Planning Permission sought from Stroud District Council

2010

GGT applies for charitable status – Charitable status granted in 2011

August – Stroud District Council planning committee meeting – decision in favour, Planning Permission is granted

A minibus full of local residents attended the meeting, and Matson Vicar spoke in support of the proposal. Matson Vicar also speaks in support of the project at earlier meeting of neighbouring Gloucester City Council

‘It went through because the District finally bought into the MSA as an economic generator and a job provider...’ [Local MP]

2011

February – Open APT (All Pulling Together) Central Stonehouse.

Employment related training and information provided, along with other community development activity

Judicial review initiated by Roadchef and Welcome Break. Delays the project by a year

GGT tries not to raise expectations too quickly – had to be careful of messages given in local communities

Delays due to Judicial review caused frustration for residents who had come to believe in the project and its ability to make change happen: people were asking ‘Where’s my job?’... ‘There is a risk that life moves on for some individuals, they keep looking for a job elsewhere.’ [Vicar]

October – Preferred builder selected, Buckingham Construction, a family run company

Charitable status finally approved for GGT - GGT, through its trading subsidiary, has an investment in GG Ltd, out of which there will be a financial return for community projects in Gloucestershire

‘This is a real achievement of this project, with greater than local significance.’ [Director, GGT]

Making ‘green’ sound less middle class and more relevant to our communities. Through the involvement of Onger’s Farm, and the development of the Growing Communities Project

‘Willingness to welcome the farm shop in too, has made “green” a less middle class, flimsy word, instead made it more ordinary, and familiar’ [Local Vicar]

'By this time the invited speaker at the church harvest supper was the chap from Ongers Farm and green development was something people felt they could be proud of. It's an example of 'greenness' acting as a community-maker in a working class community.' [Local Vicar]

2012

January – Judicial review hearing

February – Judicial review decision

June – Judicial review appeals turned down.

November - Planning amendment

OnToast Training Co-op opens in the Gateway shop

'Blending business into a community activity'. [Mark Gale]

2013

March work begins on northbound side, with charity partners coming to site to cut the first sod

Funding obtained for the Growing Communities project from Summerfield Trust, and for **community orchard**

The growing project will provide work experience for people. Target groups are people with learning disabilities, and people recovering from mental ill health and addiction issues

August – slip roads are completed and the site is connected to the M5

Recruitment of local residents starts to train and setup a community child-minding co-op to support future Gloucester Services staff

'Our new trustees were blown away by the scheme – its greenness and the community involvement.' [Lavinia Sidgwick, Summerfield Charitable Trust]

'A brilliant achievement.' [Local MP]

'The Growing project uses business to connect to the community... it's a demonstration of how business can bring community value.' [Sarah Dunning, Westmorland Ltd]

'Local food, local business, local jobs.' [Local Curate]

'I hope we will see other things happening on a smaller scale in the area using the same values, [for example] a community shop or café, now that people can see what can be done.' [Local councillor]

'A lot to shout about [...] a great model for the future.' [Local councillor]

September – Local stonemasons begin creating 1000m² of Cotswold stonewalling using local stone from Tinkers Barn Quarry near Stow on the Wold. Local stonemasons are joined by work placements from Leyhill Open Prison. During the job one of the work placements leaves prison and secures permanent employment with the stonemasons

October – First Head of Gloucester Services Gavin Bastyan is appointed

November – Series of *Meet the Buyer* meetings launched at Brimscombe Port, Stroud and is rolled out across Gloucestershire and surrounding areas

‘Credit has to go to Mark Gale and colleagues for spotting an opportunity, and creating something out of nothing.’ [Director, GGT]

‘To be able to see how even a MSA can make a difference is inspired. [It] can help us to think again about how we use our cars, and can give back to compensate’ [Lavinia Sidgwick, Summerfield Charitable Trust]

‘Gloucester Services offers opportunities to showcase local facilities. Culture, tourism and an understanding of what Gloucestershire has to offer the rest of the country, and indeed the world.’ [Lavinia Sidgwick, Summerfield Charitable Trust]

2014

January – the first of 253 local and unemployed people start the two week pre-employment training, Gloucester Services Sector Based Work Academy (SUBWA) delivered by Gloucestershire College. Stroud & South Gloucestershire College and Adult Education supported by a wide range of Gloucester Services Training & Employment partners including DWP and community partners

February – 246 complete the Gloucester Services SUBWA securing customer care, food hygiene and health and safety qualifications and a guaranteed interview for Gloucester Services jobs

March – Over 120 new local producers and suppliers signed up to supply Gloucester Services

April – first 150 staff appointed and begin work

May 7th 2014 Northbound Services opens

Southbound Services due to open early Summer 2015

‘Jobs for local people – jobs that are proper, worthwhile, [...] people can be proud of working there. Neighbours and families can work together. Industry and neighbourhood together, whereas zoning nowadays tends to go against this. [Its] not just for individual benefit but the health and wealth of the community will be improved.’ [Local Vicar]

‘In 25 years Matson will look like a different place. The key catalyst is having a source of employment, which brings money to spend, which attracts other businesses and better services – a virtuous circle.’ [GGT Director]