

**Background**

The SGLGBF was set up in 1997 shortly after the creation of South Gloucestershire Council when Avon County Council was broken up. The aim has always been for the Forum to represent the LGB community and question the Council on its policies and procedures as they affect it.

Like many organisations, it has evolved over the years, with highs and lows that reflect the level of commitment its members have. Currently, there has been a decrease in attendance at the bimonthly meetings, and this has been the catalyst for a new examination of what the role of the Forum should be.

On 18 March 2009, a special meeting was held at the Ridgewood offices of South Gloucestershire Council to produce a set of proposals that might redefine the future of the Forum. These proposals were circulated to all people on the Forum's emailing list on 19 March, and posted on its website ([www.sglgbf.org.uk](http://www.sglgbf.org.uk)).

**Attachments**

The following papers are appended to this briefing note to assist Original proposals agreed on 18 March 2009

**Consultation  
Timetable**

The timetable for consultation is as follows

Issue	Date
Meeting to put forward proposals	18 March 2009

Proposals confirmed and circulated for comment	1 April 2009
Closing date for comments	17 April 2009
Collation and circulation of comments	28 April 2009
Closing date for comments	15 May 2009
Meeting to discuss comments and create action plan	9 June 2009 3.30pm Room CR2 Kingswood Civic Centre

#### Aims / Objectives

Four responses were received, and these are summarised below. Your comments to these are requested by the deadline shown above.

A meeting of the Forum had been planned, and then later postponed in June: this will now go ahead with the production of an action plan being the sole agenda item.

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#### RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

Proposal	Response*
1 The SGLGBF should stop trying to engage with resident members of the LGB community in South Gloucestershire.	I don't think we should ever completely stop trying to engage, but just not worry about the fact so much that we are not successful in doing this (AE)  Through regular, formal, daytime meetings, the SGLGBF will continue to struggle to engage gay

	<p>people in South Gloucestershire. Engagement needs to be via a different route but with most gay people in South Gloucestershire being part of the active population they will invariably be at work when meetings are convened. Evening meetings on similar issues (here and elsewhere) have proved unsuccessful. (EACH)</p>
<p>2 The Forum should continue to operate, but primarily or solely as a web-based signposting organisation.</p>	<p>Agree with the proposal (THT)</p> <p>Not solely and especially if proposal 5 is a possibility (AE)</p> <p>Definitely - the way forward unanimously agreed by EACH's staff and volunteers. (EACH)</p>
<p>3 If proposal 2 is accepted, then the current membership should be reviewed in order to identify where there may be skill and experience gaps.</p>	<p>Agree with the proposal (THT)</p> <p>Yes (AE)</p> <p>Yes, with the maintenance/ updating of the website being robust since outdated information is worse than no information at all. Similarly all signposting needs to be checked and relevant. Membership would be redundant. (EACH)</p>
<p>4 Approach the Bristol LGB Forum to examine how they operate, and see what we can learn from them.</p>	<p>Agree with the proposal (THT)</p> <p>Good idea - yes (AE)</p> <p>I support this proposal (CD)</p> <p>As a one-off session (EACH)</p>
<p>5 Examine the possibility of working jointly with Bristol LGB Forum to form a Bristol &amp; South Gloucestershire LGB Forum</p>	<p>Agree with the proposal (THT)</p> <p>As long as the Bristol Forum does not us piggy backing, I think this would be really good, but I can imagine them having reservations about this as there is not a lot in it for them on the surface. If this went</p>

	<p>ahead we would have to be very sure to attend and contribute to their meetings and work. (AE)</p> <p>I support this proposal (CD)</p> <p>Could pose a funding conflict as Councils will be confused as to who's funding what aspects of a jointly run initiative, and why.</p> <p>Bristol and South Gloucestershire's gay population are politically very different - accordingly are their service needs.</p> <p>Unless an LGB Forum covered all the unitary authorities of the West of England, South Gloucestershire aligning itself with Bristol would serve little purpose. (EACH)</p> <p>We would full support a strengthening of both Forums with a form of merger. (THT)</p>
<p>*Abbreviations</p>	<p>AE: Antony Evans, Children &amp; Young People department, South Gloucestershire Council.</p> <p>CD: Craig Denney, original founder of the SGLGB Forum</p> <p>EACH: Educational Action Challenging Homophobia</p> <p>THT: Terrence Higgins Trust Bristol</p>