



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

<http://community.stroud.gov.uk/lsp>

Meeting held on Friday 8th September 2017
SGS Berkeley Green UTC, Berkeley

Present:

Kevin Hamblin (Chair)	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (SGS)	David Hagg	CE, Stroud District Council
Les Haines MBE	Voluntary & Community Sector Forum	David Nairn	Fluid Transfer
Chris Pockett	Renishaw Plc	David Drew	MP for Stroud Constituency
David Miller	Stroud Hospital League of Friends	Acting Inspector Sarah Blake	Gloucestershire Constabulary
William Frazer	National Farmers Union	Max Comfort	Social Enterprise & WCCG
Beth Whittaker (Vice Chair)	Stroud Businesswomen's Network	Russell Warner	FSB
David Tate	Silverwood UK Ltd	Janice Banks	GRCC
Carol Stubbs	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District	Ali Russell	Longfield (Hospice Care for the Cotswolds)
Cllr Neil Grecian	Mayor of Dursley	Rebecca Hunt	Stroud District Youth Council
Lauren Davies	Stroud District Youth Council		

Apologies and absent:

Dr Stuart Wilson	Stroud District Schools Partnership	Geoffrey Beckerleg	Chamber of Commerce, Stroud
Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Alison Robinson	GAPTC
Emily Gravestock	UK Space Agency	Barbara Pond	GRCC
Cllr Steve Lydon	Leader, Stroud District Council	Andrew Fletcher	Longfield (Hospice Care for the Cotswolds)
Dr Claire Feehily	Healthwatch Gloucestershire	Margaret Willcox OBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Brian Oosthuysen	Gloucestershire County Council	Geoffrey Clifton- Brown	MP for Cotswolds Constituency
Rob Fountain	Age UK Gloucestershire	Eilis Cope	Cope Sales & Marketing
Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Pamela Tawse	Gloucestershire Older Persons Association

Guests & Support Officers:

Steve Miles, Stroud District Council	Conrad Moore, Stroud District Council	Jackie Godwin, Stroud District Council
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1. Welcome, introductions & apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to Berkeley Green UTC with a reminder that there would be an opportunity for a guided tour of the new college after the meeting. A number of apologies had been received.

2. Notes of the previous meeting, 7th July 2017

The accuracy of the notes previously circulated was agreed.

3. Farming Industry update

Will Frazer, NFU County Advisor for Gloucestershire, delivered an extremely thorough and thought-provoking update. Will covered issues currently on the local agenda, including rural crime, poor broadband connectivity, financial concerns and commodity prices plus the need to attract young people to the sector.

Subsequent discussion points included:

- We need to engage with Gloucestershire County Council re its commitment to its tenanted farms
- The possible loss of European labour following Brexit (the agriculture and horticulture sectors both rely heavily on foreign workers)
- The NFU to have a presence at Stroud Ambitions in order to raise awareness of careers in agriculture and strengthen links with education providers and local businesses
- Although student numbers are rising at FE agricultural colleges and universities, there are enormous financial barriers facing those wanting to raise capital to purchase land
- Escalating and brazen rural crime: the Police are under great staffing pressures in rural areas, crime is organised and farmers are isolated. The community can help by being observant and reporting suspicious behaviour so that the Police can build up intelligence. Preventative measures are needed to safeguard the neighbourhood
- Fly tipping on farmland is a growing problem
- Farming relationships with retailers are key. The Co-op is focussing on sourcing certain products within a 25-mile radius, thereby backing the local economy. Gloucester Services is an excellent example of a supportive business

Will's PowerPoint presentation is available on the LSP website <http://lsp.stroud.gov.uk/meeting-notes/>

4. Partners' updates

- Stroud Hospital League of Friends has donated a digital camera to the Community Dental Service based in Redwood House. A digital reminiscence therapy monitor has also been purchased, greatly aiding hospital dementia patients
- Stroud District Council's annual consultations with businesses and residents are in progress and the annual newsletter is currently being distributed to every household in the district
- Newly-recruited Police officers are coming through and with an expansion in the number of Special Constables, staffing difficulties will be alleviated. Recent incinerator protests at Javelin Park have been challenging on occasions, with 4 arrests made. Following a few key arrests there has been a recent drop in the number of local burglaries
- Longfield saw a 9% rise in referrals for its services in 2016, however the organisation struggles to recruit good staff and needs more volunteers (many of whom help run the 16 shops, with more soon to open). Longfield wants to maximise the use of its premises both in the daytime and evening and also expand its creative arts workshops. As a charity, it is very grateful for the strong local business sector support
- Local crime and anti-social behaviour is a concern in Dursley. Parking in the town is an issue and there is a need for a long-stay car-park. Dursley Walking Festival and Tyndale Arts Week take place early October

- The FSB is co-hosting a business event with local farmers at the Rural Innovation Centre, Cirencester
- Stonehouse High St is to be dug up again in order for an electrical cable to be laid to connect the incinerator at Javelin Park to the national grid, causing great concern on the impact this will have on local businesses
- Renishaw plc published record turnover for the year ending 30th June 2017: growth of 26% on the previous year with revenue of £536.8m. Employment numbers are strong, with a staff of over 2,300 in Gloucestershire. 45 graduates were recruited this year and the application process opens again in late November
- Stroud Businesswomen's Network has a strong autumn meeting programme, with a good community focus. The group offers very good support to those wanting to set up in business
- Housing and homelessness is an underlying local problem: Jackie to arrange for this to be on a forthcoming agenda
- Fluid Transfer International has a strong order book: 30 refuellers for the aviation division of the national oil company Pertamina are under construction, with a contract for a further 60 pending. 90% of production is exported to the middle and far east
- Universal Credit for all new claims will be rolled out in October. This is a huge welfare transformation
- The DWP is encouraging businesses to support the Disability Confident Scheme, designed to help employers make the most of the opportunities provided by employing people with disabilities
- SDC is now starting the process of reviewing the current Stroud District Local Plan – full details are available via <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/planning-strategy/stroud-district-local-plan-review>. The purpose of the consultation is to understand whether there are any issues or needs that have arisen since the plan was first adopted, November 2015. People are strongly encouraged to get involved in the review process in order to help shape the future Plan strategy and the policies that meet future needs
- Preparations for Stroud Ambitions 2017 (Wednesday November 8th) <http://www.stroudambitions.co.uk/> are progressing very well. The model created for this careers event is a direct result of LSP influence
- 2 members of SDYC travelled to the United Nations HQ in New York to attend the session of the Commission on the Status of Women. SDYC members are currently involved in a young researchers project on rural and urban differences
- A new post funded from the Government's Community Housing Fund has been awarded to SDC for the provision of a Community-led Housing Enabler
- A new GRCC webpage is being created which will provide information and signposting to community groups and parish councils interested in community-led development
- The Village and Community Agents Scheme will be combining with Social Prescribing to form a new service called Community Connectors. The new contracts commence 1st October 2017, with 5 new providers appointed. The Independence Trust has been awarded the contract for Stroud
- Gloucestershire Funding Advisers Network is running a County Funding Event on commissioning and sponsorship, October 30th 1pm onwards. Of interest to VCS groups, commissioners and funders (including statutory authorities), further details are available via <http://www.grcc.org.uk/news-events/events/profile/commissioning-and-sponsorship-event-for-the-vcse>

5. The Changing Landscape of Education

The Chair welcomed Johnny Walker, Head of Careers and Schools Services, SGS College, to the meeting, who provided a timely and very interesting update on recent changes in education. Subsequent comments included:

- Findings following engagement with 450 micro and SMES across Gloucestershire as part of the EDGE Project are due to be published shortly. An outline of this innovative scheme is available via <http://www.sgscol.ac.uk/news-article.aspx?article=ProjecttosafeguardfutureworkforceofGloucestershire>

Johnny's PowerPoint presentation is available on the LSP website.

The Chair thanked the presenters and all attendees for their excellent contributions to a vibrant, very informative meeting.

And a very big thank you must go to Kevin for then providing an extremely interesting tour of the new College. It was a great opportunity for LSP members to see the fantastic facilities available to students enrolled on the high quality vocational and academic advanced manufacturing and digital technology courses being delivered.

Please send any requests for future agenda items to Jackie.

Future meeting dates

2017

Friday 1st December Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

2018

Friday 2nd March Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Friday 8th June Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Friday 7th September Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Friday 7th December Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

All meetings are 9am for a 9.15am start, with due finish 11.30am