



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

Meeting held on Friday 11th March
Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Present:

Les Haines (Chair)	Voluntary & Community Sector Forum	David Hagg	CE, Stroud District Council
David Nairn	Fluid Transfer	Cllr Geoff Wheeler	Leader, Stroud District Council
Russell Warner	FSB	Geoffrey Head	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District
David Miller	Stroud Hospital League of Friends	Acting Chief Inspector Andy Poole	Gloucestershire Constabulary
Dr Claire Mould	OPENhouse	Geoffrey Beckerleg	Chamber of Commerce, Stroud
Neil Carmichael	MP for Stroud Constituency	Pamela Tawse	Gloucestershire Older Persons Association
Claire Nelmes	Mayor of Dursley	Barbara Pond	GRCC
Margaret Willcox	Gloucestershire County Council	George Gooch	Stroud District Youth Council
Tamara Kwan	Stroud Businesswomen's Network	Charlotte Bignall	Stroud District Youth Council

Apologies and absent:

Alison Robinson	GAPTC	Kevin Hamblin (Vice Chair)	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (SGS)
Catherine Green	Stroud Businesswomen's Network	Beth Whittaker	Stroud Businesswomen's Network
Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Dr Hein Le Roux	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Elin Tattersall	GRCC	Martin Wright	National Farmers Union
Dr Claire Feehily	Healthwatch Gloucestershire	Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
David Tate	Silverwood UK Ltd	Brian Oosthuysen	Gloucestershire County Council
Sir David McMurtry	Renishaw Plc	Dr Stuart Wilson	Stroud District School Partnership
Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	MP for Cotswolds Constituency	Julie Pegler	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District
Max Comfort	Social Enterprise & WCCG	Rob Fountain	Age UK Gloucestershire
Andrew Fletcher	Longfield (Hospice Care for the Cotswolds)		

Guests & Support Officers:

Steve Roberts, Stroud Nature 2016	Anna Bonallack, Stroud Nature 2016	Steve Miles, Stroud District Council
Jackie Godwin, Stroud District Council	Sharon Sugars, PA to Neil Carmichael	

1. Welcome, introductions & apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. A number of apologies had been received.

2. Notes of the previous meeting, 4th December 2015

The accuracy of the notes previously circulated was agreed.

3. Local Democracy Report

Charlotte Bignall and George Gooch presented the findings of a consultation carried out by Stroud District Youth Council which focussed on local democracy issues for young people. This had been a long project and the group was delighted with the number of responses received from school and college students.

Subsequent comments and discussion points included:

- Disappointment that the House of Lords rejected the attempt to lower the EU referendum age to 16 (December 2015)
- The LSP will support the campaign to lower the voting age to 16 for all UK elections
- SDYC will continue to develop its links with partners, including Town and Parish Councils, regarding local democracy for young people. LSP Members are welcome to meet with the Democracy Group
- SDYC is working closely with schools to campaign for personal, social and health education to be made compulsory. A focus on political education is also needed

LSP members were extremely impressed with the delivery and content of the report, which is available on PowerPoint via the LSP website: <http://community.stroud.gov.uk/lsp/new/meetings.html#meeting>

4. Festomane update

In the absence of colleagues from Gloucestershire County Council to provide the planned update on the Total Transport Pilot Project, Neil Carmichael, MP, informed us of the success of recently-held Festomane 2016. Now in its 4th year, the week-long festival of engineering and manufacturing provides opportunities for students and the public to meet with businesses around the Stroud district to learn about this key local employment sector.

Points discussed included:

- 25% of jobs in the Stroud district are in engineering & manufacturing and Festomane helps to inform of the skills needed and jobs available
- The shortage of teachers in STEM subjects is a serious issue but it is vital to keep working to address skills shortages. Support for STEMworks in primary schools is extremely beneficial and should be carried through to secondary education
- Promotion of apprenticeships is key
- Events such as Stroud Ambitions help to inform local people (particularly parents) of the career opportunities available and change the perception they have that engineering and manufacturing are predominantly dirty, physical occupations
- 82,000 more engineers are needed each year for the next 10 years to keep up with demand
- Sartorius Stedim has recently invested in a new purpose-built factory at Stonehouse and plans to double it's workforce in the next few years

5. Stroud Nature Festival

Steve Roberts and Anna Bonallack, 2 of the Directors of Stroud Nature CIC, provided a very interesting and comprehensive outline of the festival's history, its current aims and objectives and the events planned for this year.

Subsequent discussion included:

- The value of festivals such as this to the local economy
- Support to help make contact with hard-to-reach groups would be very welcome
- More secondary school involvement is being encouraged
- Partners hosting events could support young unemployed adults by offering work experience opportunities
- Events are planned throughout the District but are dependent on partners. Dursley Walking Festival, 6th – 9th October, to link up with Stroud Nature 2016

The presentation is available on the LSP website.

6. OPENhouse update

Claire Mould, CE OPENhouse Stroud, gave a very informative overview of the support the organisation provides to young and vulnerable people, full details of which can be found via <http://www.openhouse.me.uk/>. Examples of recent case studies were both inspiring and moving. Key points covered included:

- The recent Rough Traders Challenge raised over £5,000 to help homeless individuals
- OPENhouse focuses on input and impact to improve lives, with 3 areas of focus: education, housing and complex mental health support
- Coherent and collaborative working with partners is vital: an example of this is the link with SDC regarding not just housing provision but the support needed to help young people become a functional part of the community
- The preventative measures provided by organisations such as OPENhouse result in financial savings to the local economy

7. Partners' updates

- Stroud Hospital's new digital x-ray machine, funded by the League of Friends, is working well
- Glos. Older Persons' Assembly is working with the PCC re. risks in the home
- At a recent Stroud District Older Persons' Forum held in Dursley, attendees reflected on local transport issues
- Dursley's Youth Centre, Vibe, has recently celebrated its first birthday. It is going very well and operates 6 days a week
- Dursley and Cam are currently developing their Neighbourhood Plans
- Traders in Dursley have formed a new association, Dursley Business Inclusive
- The We Are Gloucestershire devolution bid has been thrown into turmoil by the recent Oxfordshire Districts bid, of which Cotswold District is a part
- 2 SDC apprentices, Lauren Holbrow and Oliver Thomson won the Gloucestershire Apprenticeship Business Challenge on 8th March and go through to the SW Regional final in Bristol on 21st March
- Stroud Magistrates Court will be closed as part of cost-cutting measures. All hearings will be moved to Cheltenham Magistrates Court, despite objections and travel and accessibility concerns. The closure is expected to take effect between July and September 2016
- Membership of Stroud Businesswomen's Network continues to grow and the organisation now has a mailing list of nearly 500
- The DWP is using a Work Coach Development Model to enable staff to provide a 100% focus on getting people back to work
- Geoffrey Head, area DWP Partnership Manager announced his imminent retirement. He thanked members for their support and input to the LSP and emphasised the forum's importance
- The Cotswold FSB holds regular events and will be meeting with SDYC members in June
- Stroud Chamber of Commerce has circulated the invitation to the Business West Breakfast event being held on 23rd March at Ebley Mill to its members

- The Care Quality Commission recently rated the services provided by 2gether NHS Foundation Trust as good, following its first comprehensive inspection
- The Government released the Care Act 2014 final guidance on 10th March. Changes to social care funding remain suspended until 2020
- Stroud PCSOs are working closely with local schools
- Crime remains seasonal: for example with Spring approaching, gardens and sheds are likely targets
- Rodborough PC has purchased an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera - installed on the A46 outside the Stroud Enterprise Centre in the 30mph zone - as part of an initiative by the village's road safety working group. Although not enforceable, the camera allows police to identify speeders and a letter can be sent warning them to slow down. A new speed camera operated by the Police will be used at the site soon, which could lead to prosecutions for offenders
- SDYC has been working with nurses regarding mental health issues in local schools

The Chair personally thanked Council Leader Geoff Wheeler, who had announced he would not be standing at the forthcoming district elections, for his contribution to the LSP and for his work as a district councillor in Dursley. Geoff had been a pleasure to work with and his courtesy and friendliness will be greatly missed.

The Chair thanked all for their excellent contributions to a very informative meeting.

Future meeting dates

2016

Friday 10th June
Friday 9th September
Friday 2nd December

Gallery 2, Museum in the Park, Stroud
Council Chamber, Ebley Mill
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