



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

Meeting held on Friday 1st December 2017
Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Present:

Beth Whittaker (Vice Chair)	Stroud Businesswomen's Network	David Hagg	CE, Stroud District Council
Les Haines MBE	Voluntary & Community Sector Forum	David Nairn	Fluid Transfer
Chris Pockett	Renishaw Plc	David McAuley	OPENhouse
Dr Roma Walker	Stroud Hospital League of Friends	Acting Inspector Sarah Blake	Gloucestershire Constabulary
Emily Gravestock	UK Space Agency	Max Comfort	Social Enterprise & WCCG
Eilis Cope	Cope Sales & Marketing	Russell Warner	FSB
David Tate	Silverwood UK Ltd	Janice Banks	GRCC
Carol Stubbs	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District	Cllr Steve Lydon	Leader, Stroud District Council
Pamela Tawse	Gloucestershire Older Persons Association	Geoffrey Beckerleg	Chamber of Commerce, Stroud
Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group		

Apologies and absent:

Dr Stuart Wilson	Stroud District Schools Partnership	Kevin Hamblin (Chair)	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (SGS)
Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	David Drew	MP for Stroud Constituency
Cllr Neil Grecian	Mayor of Dursley	Alison Robinson	GAPTC
		Andrew Fletcher	Longfield (Hospice Care for the Cotswolds)
Rob Fountain	Age UK Gloucestershire	Margaret Willcox OBE	Gloucestershire County Council
William Frazer	National Farmers Union	Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	MP for Cotswolds Constituency
George Adamson	Stroud District Youth Council	Rebecca Hunt	Stroud District Youth Council
Brian Oosthuysen	Gloucestershire County Council		

Guests & Support Officers:

Phil Bishop, Stroud District Council	Steve Miles, Stroud District Council	Conrad Moore, Stroud District Council
Jackie Godwin, Stroud District Council		

1. Welcome, introductions & apologies

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill. A number of apologies had been received, including from the Chair Kevin Hamblin: grateful thanks to Beth Whittaker for standing in at extremely short notice.

David Miller, ex Chair of Stroud Hospital League of Friends, forwarded his appreciation to partners for all the support given to him during his time on the LSP.

2. Notes of the previous meeting, 8th September 2017

The accuracy of the notes previously circulated was agreed.

3. Homelessness update

Phil Bishop, SDC's Housing Advice Manager, delivered an extremely informative and thought-provoking presentation on the current homelessness and affordable housing situation. Subsequent discussion points included:

- The lack of affordable housing is a huge issue. Housing benefit rates for private renters have been frozen by the Government, while rents are continuing to increase. The Government allocates the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant to local authorities <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flexible-homelessness-support-grant-2017-18-to-2018-19> but the problem is growing, especially for families on low incomes
- Early intervention to prevent homelessness is vital and SDC is developing links with the NHS and other agencies to help mitigate the crisis
- Commercial homeshare schemes exist to match an older person with a spare room to a person in need of low-cost accommodation
- There are no longer night shelters in Stroud or Gloucester but the Assertive Outreach team now has a scheme to assist rough sleepers, helping individuals to make sustainable moves away from the streets
- OPENhouse Stroud provides housing and care to homeless young people aged 16-25 years for up to 2 years. However, due to their needs, many are not ready to live away from such a supportive environment and there is a dire shortage of appropriate next-step affordable accommodation
- Current commissioning processes and general decreases in grant funding availability are causing major issues to organisations like OPENhouse, which urgently needs to find new ways to raise money

Several LSP members expressed a wish to offer support to OPENhouse and new CE David McAuley's contact details have since been circulated.

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

4. Policing update

Acting Inspector Sarah Blake provided a concise update on current local policing news. Issues mentioned and subsequent discussion included:

- Burglary offences in the district are down by 41 from last year
- Anti-social behaviour in Nailsworth has reduced considerably and although in the early stages, the aim is for the Aston Project to be launched in February 2018. Partners are asked to suggest schemes in which offenders can carry out community work and gain rewards. Further info is available via: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/more-on-us/the-aston-project/>
- 2 very successful drugs warrants resulted in 4 arrests as part of investigations into cross-country Dangerous Drugs Networks. Gangs are preying on vulnerable people, using their homes for drug-trafficking, so partners are asked to be aware of persons that could be at risk and update the local policing team
- There has been a rise in reports of shoplifting this year, with 5 criminal behaviour orders gained on prolific shoplifters. The main targets are supermarkets so Officers are working with them on prevention measures

- Sexting and indecent picture sending are increasing amongst youths: PCSOs are delivering talks at local schools
- Neighbourhood policing is the bedrock of ensuring community cohesion. It has been acknowledged that closure of local police stations has made it harder to engage but a driver in the forthcoming constabulary restructure should help resolve this

5. Local Plan review – Issues & Options Consultation update

The first stage of SDC's Local Plan review provided the opportunity to discuss emerging issues and identify ways of distributing and managing future development needs in the District. Conrad Moore, Principal Planning Officer, provided some early feedback from the 8-week Issues & Options Public Consultation which closes 5th December. Comments made and discussion points included:

- The Local Plan will identify housing, employment, retail and community development to meet local needs, setting out the strategy for distributing such development and conserving our sense of place based upon the natural and built environment
- Around 650 people attended exhibitions held at various venues around the District. An overview of some of the issues raised was given
- There remains interest for the possibility of the Cotswolds being given national park status. The area is already an AONB: national park status would mean a single planning body, whereas currently the Cotswolds have several Local Authority areas plus cross-county boundaries involved in decision-making. With one body there could be concerns on local accountability, service delivery and democracy. The current local plan review would not address this potential
- Locations for new train stations under discussion are at Charfield, Hunts Grove and a protected site south of Stonehouse. Early indication is that due to line capacity issues, only 1 site is likely to be supported

The Stroud District Local Plan and other associated information is available via:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/planning-strategy/stroud-district-local-plan-review>

6. Partners' updates

- Stroud District Older Persons' Forum hosted an information day for older people, their families and carers at Forest Green Rovers. Several partners supported the event and the keynote speaker was Mary Morgan, Lead Commissioner for Older People, NHS Gloucestershire CCG
- Safe affordable transport for vulnerable older people, especially with dementia, remains an issue
- Officers from the UKSA attended Stroud Ambitions for the first time, really enjoyed themselves, and received some excellent feedback
- Following the success of this year's inaugural competition, the UKSA will again be launching Satelife in January 2018. Young people aged 11 – 22 years are encouraged to submit ideas on how to use satellite data to improve everyday life. Further details can be found via <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/competition-to-uncover-space-entrepreneurs-of-tomorrow>
- A complex leg wounds clinic has opened at Stroud Hospital, with specialist equipment provided by the SH League of Friends (SHLF). However, further financial contributions are on hold until decisions have been made on Gloucestershire's Sustainability & Transformation Plan (following engagement) <https://www.gloucestershireccg.nhs.uk/gloucestershire-stp/>
- The work that OPENhouse Stroud delivers is going very well indeed, although the financial position is extremely challenging. So much funding for services is being cut and the contract for providing Children & Young People's Services is up for re-tendering
- Full service Universal Credit went live in Stroud on 4th October. The DWP has engaged more officers to assist claimants as the benefit system is now PC-based with access to the internet necessary. Staff work closely with colleagues at SDC, the Careers Service, P3 and other agencies to help facilitate the transition, especially as there has been an increase in claimants with medical issues

- Businesses are encouraged to sign up to Disability Confident. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disability-confident-guidance-for-levels-1-2-and-3>, a scheme designed to help recruit and retain people with disabilities and health conditions
- A new network for professional people is being set up which aims to build community spirit: it will trial at The Ragged Cot, Minchinhampton, on the first Friday morning of the month
- The application process for the 2018 intake of apprenticeships at Renishaw is now open. There will be 44 opportunities across its engineering schemes, 14 of which will be degree level. The number of attendees registered for an information evening on 13th December has already reached 250
- Renishaw will again be offering work experience opportunities to students in years 10-12 next summer: in 2017, 95 students from over 40 local schools took part in the Engineering Programme and 14 in the Software Programme during a 2-week period
- Renishaw hosted a free girls-only rugby day at KLB School with Gloucester Rugby club in October. The event aimed to challenge stereotypes and change perceptions of both sport & engineering as male-dominated fields and has led to all yr7 SHS students being invited to a session at Renishaw in 2018! Also, staff attending Stroud Ambitions were very pleased to engage with more girls expressing an interest in engineering & manufacturing this year
- Les provided an update on the 5th Stroud Ambitions event. Evaluation and a subsequent report are currently being undertaken, so Les' update will be circulated alongside the LSP notes
- The Cotswold branch of the FSB is involved in a 'one stop shop' for business needs based at the RAU, Cirencester
- Parking in the District remains a problem, particularly in Stroud and Wotton-under-Edge. Stroud Chamber of Commerce will meet in January 2018 to discuss parking issues
- Stroud has operated free-after-3 car parking at the Brunel Mall for many years. A car-parking review is being carried out, which may result in charges being implemented in some SDC car parks around the District where it is currently free to park
- There are now several co-working offices locally, the Exchange being the first social enterprise centre established
- GRCC hosted a visit from staff from DEFRA to look at rural support that GRCC undertakes across the County: one example of this is helping community members in Amberley to potentially establish a new community shop
- GRCC recently facilitated a Stroud VCS Forum, which focused on ways the VCS can engage and work with businesses
- GRCC has been working with SDC's Local Plan Review team to facilitate the 8 evening Parish cluster events
- 7-day NHS Services will commence in Gloucestershire shortly, with some provision coming from Stroud Hospital. 4 pilot schemes are currently running, with Gloucester Health Access Centre already open 365 days a year. GP practices on shift will see residents not in their practice.
- Gloucestershire's Sustainability and Transformation Plan <https://www.gloucestershireccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/STPShortguide-10Nov-FINAL.pdf> is subject to public consultation 2017-18
- The results of SDC's annual business and residents' surveys are available via: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/about-the-council/have-your-say/consultations/budget-consultation-2017> Satisfaction ratings have risen in several areas, including 'Stroud as a good place to live'. The remainder of the results have been sustained (while in many other LAs, satisfaction rates are very much lower and falling)
- The Stroud District has been rated the best area in the S.W. for social mobility and ranked 43rd out of all 324 LAs nationally <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news-archive/lucky-to-live-here-stroud-ranks-as-one-of-the-best-areas-in-the-country-for-social-mobility>
- SDC has awarded £238,470 Discretionary Rate Relief (DDR) so far this financial year supporting 146 businesses
- An event is being held at the Centaur, Cheltenham on 1st February 2018 to launch a public consultation regarding the Gloucestershire 2050 Vision Project. To register attendance please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gloucestershire-2050-the-big-launch-tickets-40935984632>
- Members are encouraged to mentor students via the LEP's Enterprise Advisor Network <https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/partnerships/gloucestershire-local-enterprise-partnership-lep>

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

Please send any requests for future agenda items to Jackie.

Future meeting dates

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