



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

Meeting held on Friday 8 March 2019
Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Present:

Sue Bailey	Sue Bailey Consulting	Will Mansell	The Grace Network
Geoff Beckerleg	Chamber of Commerce, Stroud	Helen March	Stroud District Youth Council Chair
Max Comfort	Social Enterprise & WCCG	David McAuley	Chief Executive, OPENhouse
Eilis Cope	Cope Sales & Marketing	David Nairn	Fluid Transfer
Cllr Stephen Davies	County Councillor and District Councillor	Kathy O'Leary	Chief Executive, Stroud District Council
Ben Falconer	Corporate Communications Manager, SDC	Barbara Pond	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
Rob Fountain	Age UK Gloucestershire	Dr Roma Walker	Stroud Hospital League of Friends
Emily Gravestock	UK Space Agency	Russell Warner	Federation of Small Businesses
Neil Grecian	Mayor of Dursley	Sgt Jackie Weller	Gloucestershire Constabulary
Les Haines MBE	Voluntary & Community Sector Forum	Beth Whittaker (Chair)	Stroud Businesswomen's Network (retired)
Thomas Haynes	Stroud District Youth Council		

Apologies and absent:

Janice Banks (Vice Chair)	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council	David Nairn	Fluid Transfer
Inspector Sarah Blake	Gloucestershire Constabulary	David Owen	Chief Executive, GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership
Cllr Doina Cornell	Leader, Stroud District Council	Chris Pockett	Renishaw PLC
David Drew	MP for Stroud Constituency	Alison Robinson	Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils
Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Ali Russell	Chief Executive, Longfield (Hospice care for the Cotswolds)
William Frazer	National Farmers Union	Carol Stubbs	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District
Kevin Hamblin	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (SGS)	Pamela Tawse	Uplands Care Service
Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Tom Wickham- Bassett	Stroud District Youth Council Vice Chair
David McAuley	Chief Executive, OPENhouse	Margaret Wilcox OBE	Gloucestershire County Council

Guests & Support Officers:

Michelle & Jerry Norman, Rush Skate Park	Jemma Grieve, Youth Participation Officer
Hannah Emery, Stroud District Council	

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill. A number of apologies had been received.

The Chair welcomed a number of new members of the LSP including Ben Falconer SDC Corporate Communications Manager, David Owen, Chief Executive of GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership, Cllr Stephen Davies, County Councillor for Hardwicke and Severn and District Ward Councillor for Severn Sue Bailey, Chief Executive of Sue Bailey Consulting and Will Mansell, Managing Director of The Grace Network. The Chair explained that invitations to new members are sent based on the broader role and interest the individuals or organisations have within the district and the benefits to the district and community that they bring.

The Chair advised that future meetings will now have a theme with guest presenters based on topics that are relevant to that theme. Members of LSP will be asked to relate their updates to the chosen theme at each meeting.

2. Stroud District Youth Council

Jemma Grieve a Youth Worker for Stroud District Council along with members of Stroud District Youth Council (SDYC) Thomas Haynes and Helen March gave a talk on the work of the Youth Council. The purpose of SDYC is to provide an active voice for young people, leading on issues of change and influencing adult decision making on behalf of the 12,500 11-18 year olds in the Stroud District.

The Youth Council has been in place for 19 years this year and has established 9 Local Youth Forum Groups across the District with the aim of bringing young people together to have their say and influence local decision-making, as well as to design and run community projects. Membership of the SDYC is driven by local schools who run their own Youth Council and nominate 2 reps and 2 deputy reps to attend. The meeting has a Chair and Vice Chair as well as focus groups for different projects.

The Youth Forums are structured around a set of outcomes; communication, managing feelings, resilience and determination, creativity, relationships and leaderships, planning and problem solving and confidence and agency. The aim of the structure is to build relationships using different methods to develop young people, provide different experiences and help young people to develop socially and emotionally.

Examples of the work of SDYC over the past year include; campaigning to keep the Jenner Museum open, community safety speed checks in Cam and Dursley, campaigning to lower the voting age to 16 (the District Council consequently passed a Motion in 2018 to lobby for this in Parliament), working with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to develop a more youth-friendly County initiative, working to make GP surgeries more youth-friendly, putting forward a Motion to the British Youth Council to keep the provision for Youth Councils at second tier local government (ie not at County level) and developing a model bullying policy with local schools.

Steve Miles, the Senior Youth Worker at Stroud District Council had recently been awarded South West's Youth Worker of the Year at the British Youth Council's Youth Voice Star Awards and has been nominated for the national award.

Discussion points included:

- Difficulties in reaching the hard to reach disengaged young people, those excluded from full time education and those in rural areas where transport links are poor and villages are not connected

leading to rural isolation. To attempt to overcome this, SDYC works with different communities and schools to encourage young people to speak to SDYC.

- Feedback provided was that SDYC is seen as a 'shining light' of youth voice in the District and nationally.
- Future avenues to explore could involve linking SDYC to employers to develop awareness of work experience, training and apprenticeships.
- The Youth Council is an excellent example of the work of the District Council to support and develop young people. It is not a statutory service but a service the Council has chosen to fund despite the cuts in funding and the pressure from national Government to only provide statutory services.

To find out more about Stroud Youth Voice, visit their new website and Facebook page:

www.stroudyouthvoice.co.uk

www.facebook.com/stroudyouthvoice

Their presentation can also be found on the Stroud's LSP website:

<https://lsp.stroud.gov.uk/meeting-notes>

3. Rush Skate Park

Michelle and Jerry Norman provided an informative presentation about how Rush Skate Park was set up to where it is now. Due to their son's love of skate parks and the lack of one close by, the idea to build a skate park in Stroud was born. After raising funds for the build, Rush opened on the 7 December 2013.

The 40,000sq ft indoor skate park at Brimscombe Port is rated as one of the best in the UK and Europe, welcoming 300,000 customers since opening and employing 8 full time and 12 part time staff along with 6 coaches and becoming a CIC (Community Interest Company) in 2014. Sessions are available for all ages and abilities and people travel from all over the world to visit the park. The venue has been used to hold events such as World Championships, fashion shows, concerts, networking events, a cross fit final, GFirst LEP's annual event for 350 local business owners and has even featured on DIY SOS. Rush welcomes young people with disabilities to use its facilities through its work with the All Sorts charity.

In 2015 Rush Skate Park won Stroud Life Business Awards' Small Business of the Year and in 2016 the Small Business of the Year in the Gloucestershire Business Awards. Rush is established as a community venue for younger and possibly disengaged people and there has been a direct relationship between the opening of Rush and the reduction of anti-social behaviour by 80% in the local area.

Rush Skate Park is located in a warehouse in Brimscombe Port which is due to be redeveloped. This means that Rush must move from the site within the next two years. Stroud District Council has conditionally offered a piece of land in Stratford Park, behind the Leisure Centre, if Rush successfully receives planning permission and raises the necessary £5-8million for the build. The Normans are actively seeking funding to get their proposals to the planning stage and are hopeful of support from Triodos Bank (which supported the Stroud Brewery development).

Discussion points included:

- The LSP has a role to play in supporting Community Interest Companies and other social business models as a useful forum to promote building local facilities which benefit the community.
- The District Council is supportive of the skatepark and recognises the clear synergies with the proposed venue in Stratford Park. However, the Council cannot assist with any funding as it is the principal planning authority and cannot pre-empt any planning outcome.
- LSP members suggested making contact with Triodos bank, crowd funding and County Councillors 'growing communities fund' as potential methods to raise the money required.
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/business-property-and-economy/finance-funding-and-grants/growing-our-communities-fund/

www.rushskatepark.co.uk

4. Partners' updates

The partner updates were focused on the Youth theme.

Gloucestershire County Councillor

- Cllr Stephen Davies is a member of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee which has been working hard to resolve some of the recent Ofsted issues. As a County Councillor, he has also been working closely with The Door Youth Project.

Dursley Town

- The Door Youth Project has been running out of the Vibe Youth Centre in Dursley after retaining the contract with the town council in 2018. Dursley and Cam Parish Councils took over the funding of youth work in the area from the County Council and have been assisting with counselling and revision sessions at Rednock School. The councils have also been attempting to tackle anti-social behaviour in Dursley by working with the Door Project and are seeing improvements in the Town. Working more closely with SDYC would be beneficial.

Grace Network

- National headlines are focussing on knife crime across the Country, and the biggest factor is poverty and economic disadvantage. In order to tackle it is therefore important to engage with the most marginalised people and communities.

www.thegracenetwork.org.uk

Stroud Hospital League of Friends

- The demographic of the League of Friends is predominately older and working with youth projects is currently non-existent. However, as a result of the youth presentation at the meeting, the League of Friends will now invite a representative from the Youth Council to its quarterly committee meetings to give feedback on youth work, and giving the young people an insight into committee meetings as well as having a voice.

Stroud Chamber of Commerce

- Stroud Chamber website is often updated with monthly updates including free training courses and details about charities. For future updates, Members will be asked to provide details of training aimed at young people including apprenticeships for inclusion on the website.

www.stroudchamber.com

Sue Bailey

- Active Gloucestershire are supporting gloucestershiremoves.org.uk which provides data and insight demonstrating that the more physically active a person is the happier and more productive in their community they are. Data shows that physical activity in the County is dropping and they are trying to encourage people into getting active. An active person is defined as a person that is active for more than 30 minutes a day. Gloucestershire Moves is liaising with Stroud District Council to encourage it to join the initiative.

www.activegloucestershire.org

www.gloucestershiremoves.org

UK Space Agency

- A competition for 11-22 year olds on how best to use satellite data has just closed. The Agency is currently developing free education resources for schools which can be downloaded and used in classrooms. www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-funding-academic-community-and-educational#contents

Cope Sales and Marketing

- The LSP is the ideal forum to get behind such initiatives as lobbying government for youth funding, particularly with the examples shown by Rush Skate Park in reducing anti-social behaviour by 80% and the work undertaken by SDYC.

Les Haines

- Youth service is vital to the community and is a platform to provide social engagement and activities for young people and if it is not supported there will be issues in the future.
- Nailsworth Youth and Community Enterprise has been established for 35 years and arranges a number of activities such as table tennis, badminton, a choir, various workshops, activities for those that are home schooled and tennis. It is difficult to get these good stories across in the media, particularly with the focus on knife crime. It is important that to tackle this issue, communities work from the bottom at street level and do not underestimate the importance of young people in the District and not to cut funding to youth services.

www.nailsworthsubrooms.org.uk/hyce

Max Comfort - Social Enterprise and WCCG

- Currently mentoring Year 10 'challenging children' and has found them to be very clever and courteous.
- Recently took part in Wycliffe entrepreneurial day organised by GFirst LEP where they were challenged to come up with an initiative to help the community. The group came up with an idea to help the homeless and provide them with the training and skills needed to build their own homes/pods whilst also providing skills for getting a job. The idea was going to be put forward for discussion in the Chamber as a potential project.

Federation of Small Businesses

- The Federation of Small Businesses works with young people in Colleges and Universities and provides support for the Ambitions Event which is a career event held for Year 9's ahead of making their GCSE choices.

Gloucestershire Constabulary

- The Aston project is a diversionary scheme for individuals aged 11-17 heading towards a life of crime. The scheme offers time credit to spend on activities and the scheme is due to expand to Stonehouse.
- Looking to hold a knife amnesty in schools so knives can be handed in without any repercussions for the individual. If this does not work then they are considering having checks at Schools and Colleges.
- Anti-social behaviour is likely to increase as the evenings get lighter.
- Looking to find different ways to engage with young people as they are less likely to talk to the Police.
- Having links with the SDYC and the various youth forums will be a useful tool for re-engaging with young people.

Ben Falconer – SDC Corporate Communications Manager

- Currently working with SDYC to make a film about calling on the Government to reduce the voting age to 16, initially at local elections, after the motion passed at full Council in 2018.
- Two of Stroud District Council's apprentices had been nominated for the Apprentice of the Year Awards and the Council recently held an apprentice open evening for potential candidates as the Council is recruiting five new apprentices.

Beth Whittaker

- Regularly takes part in mentoring young people and assisting with mock interviews and often hears young people saying that they're not good at anything. Schools should be able to encourage young people to have confidence in other skills as employers are not only looking for skills but personality.
- Encouraged those who have spare time to get involved with the GFirst LEP mentoring scheme.
www.gfirstlep.com/about-us/education-team/

Kathy O'Leary – SDC Chief Executive

- It being International Women's Day, it was useful to highlight that out of the four Apprentice of the Year Award nominees, three of them were women but the man won the award.
- It is important that seed funding is available for women setting up businesses and encouraging girls to succeed and to find their voice in a male world.

- Kathy is the first female Chief Executive at Stroud District Council and although 60% of the Council's workforce is made up of women pointed out that the most highly paid are men.

Please send any requests for future agenda items to Hannah Emery, hannah.emery@stroud.gov.uk

Future meeting dates

2019

Friday 7th June	Council Chamber, Ebley Mill
Friday 6th September	Council Chamber, Ebley Mill
Friday 6th December	Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

All meetings are 9.00am for a 9.15am start, with due finish 11.30am