



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

Meeting held on Friday 6 March 2020
Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Theme for this meeting: Community-Led Projects

Present:

Janice Banks (Vice Chair)	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council	Emily Gravestock	UK Space Agency
Geoff Beckerleg	Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud	Will Mansell	The Grace Network
Max Comfort	Social Enterprise & WCCG	Alison Robinson	Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils
Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Sarah Telford	Chief Executive, Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswolds
Ben Falconer	Corporate Communications Manager, SDC	Russell Warner	Federation of Small Businesses
Keith Gerrard	Strategic Director of Communities - SDC	Beth Whittaker (Chair)	Stroud Businesswomen's Network

Apologies and absent:

Sue Bailey	Sue Bailey Consulting	Anna Hurbert	CEO OPENHouse
Siobhan Baillie	MP for Stroud	Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Simon Bernstein	Chief Executive, Longfield	Richard Kerry	Station Manager, Stroud District Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service
Inspector Sarah Blake	Gloucestershire Constabulary	Helen March	Stroud District Youth Council Chair
Rachel Brain	CN2030, Stroud District Council	David Nairn	Fluid Transfer
John Colquhoun	Chairman Uplands Care Service	Chris Pockett	Renishaw PLC
Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	MP for The Cotswolds	Barbara Pond	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
Eilis Cope	Cope Sales & Marketing	Kathy O'Leary	Chief Executive, Stroud District Council
Cllr Doina Cornell	Leader, Stroud District Council	David Owen	Chief Executive, GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership
Cllr Stephen Davies	County Councillor and District Councillor	Carole Stubbs	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District
Rob Fountain	Age UK Gloucestershire	Alison Truphet	Executive Director, New Ventures Trust

William Frazer	National Farmers Union	Dr Roma Walker	Chair, Stroud Hospital League of Friends
Neil Grecian	Mayor of Dursley	Margaret Wilcox OBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Kevin Hamblin	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (SGS)		

Guests & Support Officers:

Jules Ellison, Make It Studios	Anna Bonallack, Make it Studios
Helen Bonjaniwska, Stroud Town Council	Cllr Catherine Braun, representing the Greenway Group
Emily Olser, Stroud Town Council	
Tony Bates, Greenway Group	Mike Roberts, Chalford Parish Council
Hannah Emery, Stroud District Council	Steve Miles, Senior Youth Officer

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies and Terms of Reference

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

The Chair reminded members that LSP members are requested to share meeting notes with their organisation.

2. Carbon Neutral 2030 Update

The Chair read out a briefing note that had been provided by Rachel Brain the Council's Carbon Neutral Officer who was unable to attend the meeting.

- The Carbon Neutral 2030 Steering Group has been set up to ensure that elected representatives and Senior Leaders from across the council are working together to ensure that Carbon Neutral thinking, action and support is embedded through the council and the services it delivers. The recruitment of a project officer to support the Carbon Neutral Officer has been completed and Roubie will be starting next week. As well as working to deliver on current commitments Roubie will be working to support the development of wider reaching communications about the Carbon Neutral ambition.
- Updates to the LSP are a good way to provide information about activities and progress but there is a need to find ways of having two way conversations that help to understand what sort of needs and support must be addressed through activities to help move the district towards its CN2030 target. A range of communication, engagement and discussion opportunities around the CN2030 agenda is being planned over the coming months and it is a good time for us all as professionals in the community to reflect on what part we/our organisations want to play in CN2030 progress.
- There is an idea to pose an informal mini-questionnaire to some of our more established networks such as the LSP to provide some insight into those sorts of reflections and identify any commonly occurring themes that we could address in our plans to explore context in our action planning. It was proposed that CN2030 Updates slots to LSP could be used to provide 'bite sized' information for the partnership.

LSP Members agreed that they would be happy to receive a CN2030 questionnaire to capture any commonly recurring themes that could be explored in the CN2030 Strategy. Members also confirmed that they would be happy to be more involved in the CN2030 Steering Group.

Any views or ideas can be sent to Rachel.brain@stroud.gov.uk

3. Make It Studios

Jules Ellison and Anna Bonallack

Community enterprise companies (CIC) were introduced in 2005 to provide opportunities and a range of options to allow flexibility for groups to work together to share investment. They are established when there is a need to find solutions to things that are inadequately fulfilled by private and public systems.

Community enterprises have explicit social aims such as job creation or the provision of local services. They have ethical values and are accountable to their members and the wider community. The CIC legal structure supports a wide range of activities from very small local projects to multi-million-pound health services. Governance and ownership structures are based on participation by stakeholder groups and profits are used for the benefit of the community.

Jules Ellison provided examples of community enterprise companies established in the Stroud district such as:

- The Grace Network which has facilitated the Stroud Furniture Bank, The Long Table, Stroud District Kids Stuff and Kick Off Stroud. The Grace Network has now moved on to be a community benefit society.
- Into Nature CIC: Forest School, Training and Wellbeing
- Rainbow Harp, Harp makers in Woodchester
- Shops in Stroud Town such as The Beacon and Made in Stroud
- Make It Thrive studios

Community benefit societies are tools for enabling options to raise money from the local community. Stakeholders can invest and buy a share; the value of shares is fixed and stakeholders have only one vote regardless of the size of their shareholding. They are subject to an asset lock which prevents the society being sold and the proceeds being distributed amongst shareholders.

An example of a Community Benefit Society is Oakbrook Community Farm which aims to be a family of land-based enterprises producing good food, education and community services.

Creative Sustainability

Anna Bonallack described the kind of community engagement work she does through creative sustainability. The core values of creative sustainability are inclusion, sustainability and empowerment. These values are not outcomes but the how and what they do to achieve their aims. The current projects are:

- Access Bike - a youth-led enterprise, run by young people for young people.
- Creative camping – the aim is social inclusion by involving people to not just join in but to participate fully and meaningfully.
- ReConnect – empowering people with long-term health conditions
- Cotswold Canals Connected – this project is for community benefit, tourism and sustainable development.
- GEM project – supporting individuals with barriers to work or education
- Community Rail Project – community-led rail activities that connect, inspire and engage

4. Wotton, Charfield & Kingswood Greenway Group

Tony Bates and Cllr Catherine Braun

The Greenway group brought together representatives from Wotton, Charfield and Kingswood Parish Councils, Stroud District Council, South Gloucestershire Council and Gloucestershire County Council to create a safe, shared use path to link all the communities. The path will reduce car dependency, inclusive for those with limited mobility and can be used by young people without a risk to their safety.

The benefits to the project are:

- Reduction in congestion and pollution in general
- Reduce traffic in Wotton-under-Edge; the town was not designed for motor cars
- Health & Wellbeing benefits, commuting and family activity
- Promotes opportunities for people to be active
- Reduce environmental impact of travel
- Supports sustainable tourism
- Mitigate impact of future developments
- Reinforces economic and cultural connections

The Greenway group was established in 2017 to not only connect communities but also to provide a route to get to work; Renishaw has ambition to expand its site but will have limited car park spaces and will find it difficult to recruit if the site it is not easily accessible. There is also an aspiration to open Charfield station in 2024 and if the station is not accessible the village will be overwhelmed by parking.

To initiate the project, the group took part in community liaison meetings, sent a community survey asking residents about their methods of commuting. 600 responses were received, and results showed that most people drive because there is no safe path but would use one if there was. The group also approached parish councils for support, Katharine Lady Berkeley School, Renishaw and Wotton Sports Foundation and fundraised for a feasibility study and a full redesign survey.

Once sufficient funding has been raised, a preliminary route design will be conducted and discussions will be had with landowners. Whilst this is a community-driven project it is hoped that after a certain point it will become authority driven so representatives from Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire County Council are being sought to help move the project forward. The aim is to have the project complete by the time Charfield station is reopened.

Discussion points included

600 responses to the survey is very impressive, achieved by: Simple questions on survey to gain snapshot, launched in local papers, provided paper copies and online form, letters were sent to parents, community contacts were used to encourage responses.

5. Stroud Town Council's Community Development Project 'Top of Town'

Helen Bojaniwska and Emily Olser

The 'Top of Town' project is a three-year project that has just completed its first year. The project has been supported by the County Councillor for Stroud Central.

Stroud Town serves a very wide community and a common perception is that it is all about the farmers' market - but beyond the town centre there are significant areas of deprivation. The aim of the project is to support and empower the people that live within the town council boundary but do not necessarily benefit from the town centre. The focus is on building resilience and

relationships to drive change in order to create a wide community which can support itself and where everyone feels welcome.

Stroud Town Council has adopted the following principles but have a flexible approach, it is about trying new things and using skills and resources available within the council.

1. Asset based - about strengths and not deficits, not about ignoring problems but finding solutions
2. Location based – hyper local, resident-led
3. Relationship focused and
4. Inclusive - everyone has a skill or passion to share.

Slade ward at the top of town is the most deprived of the parish wards, with a poor reputation locally and within. The focus of the project is on challenging this perception and enabling people who live there to value their community.

The Town Council conducted various exercises such as asset mapping the neighbourhood, door knocking, making sure there was presence in central areas in an aim to get to know people and families. They found that people naturally wanted to talk about what was wrong and found the following issues:

- visible neglect of streets and properties,
- drop in school numbers,
- drug issues,
- children centre closed which was vital support for families,
- housing was demolished and rebuilt but little was done to support the integration and make people feel welcomed.

Ultimately they found that over time the community has not been supported, there was no indoor space for the community to meet, there was visible neglect of streets and properties, drug issues and little integration or effort to make new residents to feel welcome. As well as this, the children's centre closed which was vital support for families.

The Town Council then focussed on finding an adequate space for the community to meet and after some discussions arranged for a weekly booking in the Cadet Hut which enabled people to make relations and good connections are now being formed. Gloucestershire County Council also offered one of its buildings for free as a children's centre community space and 30 families are now attending.

The project is supported by Barnwood Trust and annual reports are being provided to councillors, in terms of evaluation and monitoring project, ongoing project focussing on stories of change, residents to tell story. Goal was to do something that could be replicated and communicated.

6. Chalford Community Village Shop

Mike Roberts

Mike Roberts spoke about the history of the community shop after the village shop closed in 2004. Since 2014, it has been a community benefit society located in the high street in a property that was bought by the village.

The shop is overseen by a Committee and a buyers' group which orders the various products. It is mostly voluntary with a rota of 1 to 1.5 hour shifts, currently 35 volunteers. The shop also has a paid employee to ensure uniformity and this partnership provides stability to ensure the shop continues to develop and stay relevant.

The shop is hugely well supported and is successful in how it is developed and maintained.

However, there have been issues and every time a significant change is made there is controversy and lost friendships. It can be challenging and sometimes difficult to find the right balance as the community has a wide range of views as a whole and different views of how things should be managed and run.

For example, some have worked in large organisations and regard management as a prerequisite, positive contribution but others see management as an authoritarian style.

Overall, a commercial shop couldn't run effectively in Chalford and the community village shop meets residents' needs.

<https://chalfordshop.wordpress.com/>

7. Partners' updates

The partner updates were focused on Community-led projects.

Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils

- Currently undertaking some key work with Stroud District Council to organise an event with the parish and town sector to devise a protocol to look at how they interact with each other and to discuss wider national issues such as health and wellbeing and the commitment to be carbon neutral.
- Planning working relations training sessions and exploring the concept of community shops.

Federation of Small Businesses

- Looking forward to supporting the Growth Hub,
- Lots of members from third sector are experiencing common problems which the Federation of Small Businesses can help them with.

Stroud Common Wealth

- Stroud Common Wealth celebrated its 20th anniversary last year and its 10th anniversary of opening of the Exchange.
- The Communiversity is to get people from the South West towns to discuss what projects they are doing and why, and to enable opportunities for learning across the region.
- The [Community Projects Wikki](#) provides these outputs of learning; please take a look at the website and add any of your own ideas to provide inspiration, knowledge and ideas.
- A series of Young Dragons Den events have been set up where entrepreneurs with sustainable projects will pitch to panels of young people who have been coached on what to look out for in business ideas.

Stroud Chamber of Trade

- The Chamber represents independent businesses and is therefore a community in its own right.
- Stroud independent shops took part in the Hold a Fiver Fest in February which is where shops advertise a £5 offer to encourage people to shop locally. Stroud was ranked fourth in the UK for participation and is now working with Stonehouse and Dursley to be involved in the next event.

The Grace Network

- Have approached SDC to discuss the bulky waste collections and how some of the furniture can be given to the Furniture Bank instead of being incinerated.

Stroud District Youth Council

- The Youth Council recently won the South West organisation of the year in the British Youth Council Youth Voice Awards reflecting a huge amount of work undertaken by the Youth Council in the past 12 months.
- The pilot assessment for the Youth-Friendly GP Surgeries is now complete and they are now looking to work with surgeries across the district to make them more youth friendly.
- The Youth Council worked hard to campaign for National Condom Day on the 14 February in a bid to improve sexual health services.
- They have recently conducted an Anti-bullying survey and received 875 responses and analysis is now underway.

GRCC

- GRCC has been successful in its bid to the Community Homes Enabler Hub Grants Programme to launch the Community Homes GlosHub where people can come together to develop their own community-led housing projects. The GlosHub will be a place where people can come together for support and work with a wide range of organisations in the County.
- The Rural Housing summit is taking place in April with SDC and GCC to raise the profile of rural community-led housing.

UK Space Agency

- Currently conducting the annual satellite competition and have received hundreds of applications from young people using technology to come up with ideas. The winner has their idea taken forward and set up into a business.
- Working with Canals and Waterways to look at how satellite data can be used.
- UK Space Agency funds lots of community projects; a current project is transport sharing and are working with a large employer in Northampton using GIS data to enable lift shares so the office commute is conducted in a greener and cost effective way.
- Another project in Manchester is looking at how social services and care providers can gather data in one app to help social care providers to identify people they might not have recognised to be in high need.

Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswolds

- Citizens Advice (CA) has been in existence for 80 years and people have a very different understanding about the service it provides. Stroud CA supports 5,000 clients resolving 13,000 issues per year and the range of issues is increasing.
- The biggest issues include: entitlement to benefits, housing issues and mental health issues.
- They have seen a recent spike in people visiting the CA with mental health issues; the CA has been promoting its services in GP Surgeries to encourage people to visit the CA to discuss the reasons why they might be suffering with anxiety. The number of suicidal clients has also increased and there is a need to find the right support services to refer clients to.
- Domestic abuse issues have also increased and the CA has been funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to support these clients and they also work closely with Stroud's Women's Refuge.
- The CA is very fortunate in that the work is delivered by local residents and volunteers with a small paid team also on site.

Stroud District Council – Communications

- The Council is at the completion of a project to resurface the cycle track between Nailsworth and Dudbridge. The new track is made out of 8275 recycled tyres although it has been a slow process because the track cannot be tarmacked in the rain. The path has widened in some places and although some parts are still closed you can get round them.

Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioner Group

- GPs have been encouraged to come together to form primary care networks to attract more funding. So far, three primary care networks have been formed in Stroud District.
- Priorities are children and young people, in particular those with low level mental health and confidence, obesity and drug abuse.
- Recognising deteriorating patients in Stroud; 13,648 are classified as frail which is nearly 12% of the population.
- There are also 13,000 carers in Stroud.

Stroud Businesswomen's network

- In terms of community projects, the businesswomen's network aims to share information and build links across the district.

Please send any requests for future agenda items to Petula Davis, petula.davis@stroud.gov.uk

Future meeting dates

2020

Friday 11th September

Remote meeting

Friday 4th December

Remote meeting

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