



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

Meeting held on Friday 5th March 2021

Online meeting

Theme for this meeting: Space for Business

Present:

Janice Banks (Chair)	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council	Brendan Cleere	Strategy Director of Place, Stroud District Council
Cllr Doina Cornell	Leader, Stroud District Council	Cllr Stephen Davies	County Councillor and District Councillor
Dr Roma Walker	Chair, Stroud Hospital League of Friends	Tom Wickham- Bassett	Stroud District Youth Council Chair
Beth Whittaker	Stroud Businesswomen's Network	Carole Stubbs (Vice Chair)	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District
Tom Wickham- Bassett	SDYC – Chairperson	Cate James- Hodges	SDYC Principal Member for Environment
Max Comfort	Social Enterprise & WCCG	Anna Herbert	CEO OPENHouse
Kevin Hamblin	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (SGS)	Russell Warner	Chair, Federation of Small Businesses Stroud and Cotswold Branch
Steve Miles	Senior Youth Officer, SDC		

Apologies and absent:

Emily Gravestock	UK Space Agency	Kathy O'Leary	CE, Stroud District Council
		Tim Clapp	Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue
Lisa	CEO Lilian Faithfull Care		
Neil Grecian	Mayor of Dursley	Paul Cruise	Gloucestershire Constabulary
		Sam Holliday	Federation of Small Businesses
Will Mansell	The Grace Network	Alison Truphet	Executive Director, New Ventures Trust
Alison Robinson	Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils	David Owen	CE, GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership
Eilis Cope	Cope Sales & Marketing	David Nairn	Fluid Transfer
Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Geoff Beckerleg	Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud

Fred Barker	Director of Transition Stroud	Sarah Scott	Gloucestershire County Council
Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Richard Kerry	Station Manager, Stroud District Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service
Sarah Telford	CE, Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswolds	Simon Bernstein	Chief Executive, Longfield
Siobhan Baillie	MP for Stroud	Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	MP for The Cotswolds
Sue Bailey	Sue Bailey Consulting	Tom Woods	MD Greiner Bio
William Frazer	National Farmers Union	Rob Fountain	Age UK Gloucestershire
Ben Falconer	Corporate Communications Manager, SDC	Chris Pockett	Renishaw PLC

Guests and Support Officers

Richard Peers	Stroud Growth Hub	Amy Beckett	Senior Economic Development Specialist
Susan Deacon	Senior Planning Officer	Sarah Turner	LSP Co-Ordinator, SDC

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone, a number apologies had been received and noted.

2. The Challenges for Small Businesses (& other organisations) – Russell Warner – (presentation circulated)

Russell gave the presentation on the challenges for small businesses in finding accommodation, and their typical requirements.

Comments made:

‘A very thorough, logical and well done presentation’.

3. Stroud Growth Hub – Richard Peers – (presentation circulated)

Richard informed the partners of the Growth Hub’s services across Gloucestershire and what Stroud’s Growth Hub provides in terms of accommodation and help for businesses.

Comments made:

‘Thanks for the information.’

4. Space for Business in Stroud District – Amy Beckett and Susan Deacon – Stroud District Council (presentation circulated)

Amy and Susan gave an in depth presentation of the work the Council is doing to improve commercial space availability in Stroud district.

Comments made:

‘Thank you for an interesting presentation’. Good to hear about work with GCC to improve internet connectivity.

5. LSP succession of Chair

Janice stated that she is retiring from GRCC in April and will therefore be standing down as the LSP chair. She explained that under the agreed LSP terms of reference Carole Stubbs will become the chair and as she represents the public sector the Vice Chair should be chosen from someone in the private sector. Please let Janice and Carole know if you are interested in being the Vice Chair, to be agreed at the meeting in June.

6. Partners Updates

Stroud Commonwealth: Thanks to Russell for the advert for the Exchange. Doing really well. Clients are keen to come and considering expanding. Confirmed the aim is to be affordable and flexible.

Stroud District Council: £8.9million funding awarded from Heritage Lottery Fund for the canal from Saul to Stonehouse. Canal corridor strategy being produced that covers economic, environment and regeneration. Brimscombe Port development partner is being procured for 150 zero carbon homes. 2030 Strategy to be adopted on 18 March.

OPENhouse: Identified a major challenge is move-on accommodation that is affordable, available and suitable. Issues to Covid in terms of people being on site.

Stroud Businesswomen's Network: Still continuing to meet on a monthly basis on Zoom, good attendance 30+ people. Change in the business model for working some on line some traditional.

Stroud District Youth Council: Consultation with Community Rail Partnership relating to Stroudwater train station outside Stonehouse – easy link from Stroud to Bristol. Also involved with Health and Wellbeing consultation carried out by SDC. Input sought from SDYC into the 2030 strategy.

Stroud Chamber of Trade: Members of the Stroud chamber of trade have had a tough time, providing support by encouraging online engagement of sales, delivery and click and collect. Linking to Stroud District tourism.

Stroud and South Gloucestershire College: All college sites will be open from Monday (8th March), good to have some activity on campus. Provision of 1400 lateral flow tests that students must use before returning to the college for 2 days per week. Not possible to carry out vocational courses on Zoom, unable to get practical experience completed in the time available. GCSE and A level recognise that full syllabuses cannot be taught, recognise in the grading.

Stroud Hospital League of Friends: 2020 an odd year with many planned projects suspended. Last ward refurbishment was 2 years ago. Planning projects to go ahead this year, very positive looking forward.

JobCentre Plus: Working across Stroud and Cirencester; the Kick start opportunities are going well working with students at SGS college. Training and employability

courses are online not face-to-face. 6 people are working at ecotricity with support from SGS, Kickstart opportunity of 25 hours per week paid by Government.

GRCC: New chief executive to start in April. Village halls and community buildings are still closed; exemption provided to allow opening for voting at Elections, GRCC supporting and provided advice.

Next Meeting

Date: **Friday 4th June 2021**

Venue: Online Meeting

2021 Meeting dates

10th September, 3rd December