



## STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

Meeting held on Friday 8 September 2023

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Theme: Community Hubs and Warm Spaces

### Present:

Russell Warner (Chair)	Gloucestershire Area Lead, Federation of Small Businesses	Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP	MP for The Cotswolds
Will Mansell (Vice Chair)	The Grace Network	Cllr Lindsey Green	Conservative Group Leader, Stroud District Council
Adrian Oldman	Director, Transition Stroud	Kathy O'Leary	Chief Executive, Stroud District Council
Alison Truphet	Amberley Shop and Cafe	Mark McShane	Head, Stroud High School
Barbara Piranty	Chief Executive, GRCC	Matt Amey	Stroud and Nailsworth Station Manager, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service
Beth Whittaker	Stroud Businesswomen's Network	Matt Fellows	CEO, Age UK Gloucestershire
Cate James- Hodges	SDYC Leader	Max Comfort	Director, Stroud Commonwealth
Cllr Catherine Braun	Leader of Council	Cllr Natalie Bennett	Deputy Leader of Council
Chris Pockett	Head of Communications, Renishaw	Dr Roma Walker	Stroud League of Friends
Geoffrey Beckerleg	Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud	Steve Elliott- Mead	Trustee, OPENhouse

### Apologies received:

Adele Kendall	Head of HR, Ecotricity	Helen Edwards	Deputy Director of Primary Care and Place, NHS Gloucestershire
Anna Bonallack	Chief Executive Officer, Creative Sustainability	Kevin Hamblin	Group Chief Executive Principal, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College
Anna Herbert	Chief Executive Officer, OPENhouse	Lisa Ferneyhough- Moss	Deputy Director Care Operations, Lilian Faithfull Care

Carole Stubbs	Job Centre Plus, Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire District	Louise Wilson	Community Engagement Officer, Longfield
David Owen	CE, Gfirst Local Enterprise partnership	Steve Olczak	Partnership Manager, Department of Work and Pensions
Elizabeth Hall	CE, Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswolds	Sarah Scott	Executive Director Adult Social Care, Gloucestershire County Council

**Absent and apologies not received:**

Brandon Watkins	SDYC Chair	Siobhan Baillie MP	MP for Stroud
Paul Cruise	Stroud and Dursley Inspector, Gloucestershire Police		

**Guests and Support Officers**

Nick Turner	Community Hubs Team, Creative Sustainability	Emma Keating-Clark	Community Health & Wellbeing Manager
Hannah Barton	LSP Co-ordinator, Stroud District Council		

**1. Welcome, introductions, apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone and noted the apologies.

**2. Updated LSP Terms of Reference (circulated in advance of the meeting)**

The updated LSP Terms of Reference were presented at the last LSP meeting in June 2023 and members in attendance unanimously voted to approve them. However, due to low attendance at that meeting it was agreed that LSP members not in attendance would be given an opportunity to provide comments and amendments out-of-session. Feedback was received from one LSP member and these comments were responded to and clarified. As such, these Terms of Reference are now approved and will remain in place until June 2025.

**3. Gloucestershire Economic Strategy engagement opportunities (information attached)**

A new Economic Strategy is being developed for Gloucestershire by the County Council and GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The strategy will support the county's short-term economic priorities for the next five years and provide a long-term view to 2050.

As part of their development of the strategy, an engagement document has been produced which sets out the broad priorities, ambitions and actions that will underpin

the future strategy. All LSP members are invited to provide their views on the strategic themes identified so far by responding to this survey by **5pm, Friday 15 September**: <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/economic-strategy-engagement>

The County Council have also invited **one** LSP member from each sector to attend the following workshops:

- Public sector workshop – Thursday 28 September, 9.30am-12.30pm (in person in Gloucester)
- VCSE workshop – Thursday 28 September, 2-4.30pm (in person in Gloucester)
- Business workshops:
  - Wednesday 27 September, 2-4.30pm (in person in Gloucester)
  - Monday 2 October, 10-11.30am (online)

The opportunity to join these workshops was presented to the LSP and the following LSP members were put forward to attend:

- Public sector workshop – Cate James-Hodges, Leader, Stroud District Youth Council
- VCSE workshop – Adrian Oldman, Director, Transition Stroud
- Business workshop – Geoffrey Beckerleg, Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud

#### **4. Warm Spaces initiatives and Community Hubs Strategy** (presentation attached)

Nick Turner from Creative Sustainability presented information on supporting Community Hubs across Stroud district, including developing them as a system, and the plans for Warm Spaces in 2023/24.

Creative Sustainability are aware of 40 Warm Spaces that were available during Winter 2022/23, and these have been plotted onto a map of the district where it is clear there are still some big gaps geographically. Creative Sustainability can provide a package of support for anyone hoping to set up a Warm Space including things like links to information about public liability insurance, DBS checks, food hygiene, and safeguarding. It is anticipated the need for Warm Spaces will continue in Winter 2023/24 therefore there are plans to expand the network of Warm Spaces.

LSP members were asked to inform Creative Sustainability if they are aware of any other Warm Spaces not included on the map, and to share the map with any individuals or organisations that may need it or find it useful.

Creative Sustainability have been supporting Warm Spaces through fiscal hosting, where a legally registered organisation holds money on behalf of a community group or project that doesn't have the capacity or desire to register as a formal legal entity. Any group that sets up a Warm Space receives £200 from Stroud District Council initially; however, the fiscal hosting platform allows them to crowdfund additional funds. The website is linked here: <https://opencollective.com/stroud-district-community-hubs>

LSP members were asked whether they could help raise funds through the fiscal hosting platform, and whether they could share the platform amongst their networks.

Creative Sustainability have developed a Theory of Change over the last four years that describes what resilience looks like for communities in the Stroud district, and what needs to be done to get there. Creative Sustainability did not want to tell people how to run Community Hubs, so this Theory of Change uses a strength-based approach.

The Theory of Change can be used by funders, community leaders, public and community sector organisations to enable discussions and develop new approaches that support Stroud district communities.

Creative Sustainability have eight key areas of expertise and Nick shared a map for how this expertise can be shared with as many Community Hubs as possible with four main roles.

LSP members were asked where their organisation might fit into the Theory of Change and where they might add value to the system.

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP thanked Nick for his presentation and noted that Creative Sustainability's work looks excellent. There are a huge number of government funding schemes available, therefore Sir Clifton-Brown asked Nick to contact him directly so he could make enquiries regarding potential suitable funding opportunities.

Cllr Braun noted that in Winter 2022/23 there were some small Warm Spaces with very few attendees, and asked whether Creative Sustainability thought there would be a different pattern this winter. Nick confirmed Creative Sustainability would be conducting a survey with groups that ran Warm Spaces last year and ahead of Winter 2023/24 to assess local needs and plan resources accordingly.

Beth Whittaker asked what the best way is to reach those people who might need support but are difficult to reach. Nick stated that local knowledge is needed to help identify these people, but this is harder in regional and rural areas.

Alison Truphet has been working with Creative Sustainability on the Community Hub plans for Amberley Shop and Café and noted that it can be hard to encourage people to attend Warm Spaces because of the stigma attached. In Amberley they are trialling a buddy system and activities to try and encourage people to attend.

Barbara Piranty noted that GRCC are anticipating this year to be worse in terms of need for Warm Spaces and they have also identified shame as a barrier for people attending such spaces. Barbara and Max Comfort both noted that community spaces with other activities or purposes for attending help to overcome this barrier. Nick noted that libraries are a good example of this.

Emma Keating-Clark from SDC noted that it's been brilliant to work with community groups on Hubs and Warm Spaces to provide background support and share their work. SDC are part of a local network that includes health and social care so they can feed as much information into this as possible. The LSP were encouraged to share information with their networks.

Will Mansell highlighted a 2018 report written by Dan Gregory for Local Trust and Locality on the collapse and revival of England's social infrastructure (report attached). This report noted that places in communities that could foster togetherness such as youth centres, post offices and libraries have closed, leading to centres of communities collapsing. Community Hubs plug the gap left by this.

Barbara noted the importance of sustainable communities. Currently Gloucestershire has an aging population and a lack of affordable housing, which leads to an imbalance.

## **5. Future LSP meeting themes**

The LSP Chair informed the LSP that a questionnaire will be circulated to LSP members in the coming weeks. This will include questions on suggestions for future meeting themes and how the 'Partners' Updates' item on the agenda can be as effective as possible. This is an opportunity for LSP members to help shape the future LSP meetings.

It was noted that if any LSP members would like to share any information outside of their update they can send this to Hannah Barton to be circulated with the meeting notes.

## **6. Partners' Updates**

### **Adrian Oldman, Director, Transition Stroud**

- Transition Stroud is part of a wider transition network that looks at the big and small picture regarding decarbonisation.
- Last winter Transition Stroud crowdfunded just over £2,500 for 93 slow cooker packages which included a slow cooker, a simple recipe book and a few basic seasoning ingredients. Slow cookers are very cost efficient to run. They worked with Community Hubs to disseminate these packages as they know where the need is greatest.
- Stroud Town Council also funded them to run Chop and Chat sessions for residents to learn and prepare nutritious meals together.
- Transition Malvern Hills have submitted a funding bid for an E-Bike hire scheme to be delivered in locations across the district. This would be an opportunity for people who do not have access to decent public transport and/or who do not have the funds for their own E-Bike to try one at a very low cost.

### **Cllr Catherine Braun, Leader, Stroud District Council:**

- SDC are undertaking a light-touch refresh of their Council Plan 2021-26 to reflect the activities that have been completed to date and new initiatives.
- The Council are retrofitting residents' homes to reduce energy emissions.
- In Autumn 2023 they are starting to look at a programme of electric vehicle charging points in SDC car parks. The County Council are responsible for on-street charging points however unfortunately they have not identified any potential sites for on-street charging points in the Stroud district.
- Stratford Park Leisure Centre is being brought back in house when the current contract ends in Autumn 2024. A new Leisure Services Manager is being

recruited and part of their role will be to work with the NHS and link leisure provision with wellbeing services and communities.

- Air source heat pumps are being installed at both Stratford Park Leisure Centre and The Pulse in Dursley.
- The Natural Place Prospectus has been developed which helps celebrate the district as a place to do business. The Prospectus is available on the website: <https://strouddistrict.co.uk/>. The Ambassador Programme, involving how businesses can support the prosperity of the district, promote businesses, and drive good practice, is being developed and they would be pleased to have LSP members involved in this programme.
- The Local Plan has been going through an Examination in Public since March 2023 and over summer SDC received notification from the Planning Inspectors that they have concerns over transport infrastructure, in particular motorway capacity at junctions 12 and 14 of the M5. This is an issue that SDC need to work with Gloucestershire County Council, South Gloucestershire Council and National Highways on, as these organisations hold responsibility for roads and highways.

**Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP for The Cotswolds:**

- Sir Clifton-Brown noted that he has been really interested by the issues presented at the LSP meeting and he encouraged LSP members to contact him with any issues as he is happy to try and help.
- Approval has been granted for a new route between the M4 and M5 which will provide better transport links to Cirencester.
- Sir Clifton-Brown is conscious that the Stroud district has lots of small rural communities and some residents might be stuck in their homes without any help regarding the cost-of-living and warm spaces. He noted how important it is that these people do not get left behind, so it is important to establish how to find these people and how we can help them.

**Chris Pockett, Head of Communications, Renishaw:**

- Renishaw have been celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Part of this has included donating additional sums to charity above and beyond what they give through their local Charity Committee, to make their celebrations meaningful at a local level.
- Renishaw's local Charity Committee give modest sums of about £500, and they have also made £1,000 donations to each Trussell Trust where Renishaw have sites. There is a very straightforward application process to request financial support: <https://www.renishaw.com/en/renishaw-charities-committee--18003>
- They are working hard on their net zero commitments which have changed slightly. These are now to achieve their target Scope 2 emission reductions by 2028 and to reduce Scope 3 emissions by 50% by 2030. This includes investing heavily in their buildings to lower their emissions. They have also introduced an electric vehicle salary sacrifice scheme for their employees with charging points available at their sites. 150 electric vehicles have been taken up so far.
- A STEM centre has opened at Renishaw's site in Wotton to strengthen their education outreach efforts and give practical support to schools on STEM subjects.

**Beth Whittaker, Stroud Businesswomen's Network:**

- Stroud Businesswomen's Network receive feedback from their members about how supportive the network is, and they are particularly supportive of women starting up new businesses. The network share their knowledge and skills and run training on how to utilise tools such as LinkedIn.
- Many years ago, Beth ran training for Parish and Town Councils about how to promote village halls, as often people who run them do not have expertise on communications and promotion. Beth would be interested to know if there is still a need for this.
- Beth volunteers with [Read with Me](#), an organisation that arranges volunteers to read with and listen to primary school children reading. Schools find it very helpful, and it shows children reading can be fun and not a chore. Beth encouraged members to become a volunteer and also volunteered to speak to the LSP about this charity.
- Beth also personally thanked SDC as she recently moved house within the district and SDC was the most efficient organisation to deal with and had very streamlined processes.

#### **Alison Truphet, Amberley Shop & Café:**

- Alison has helped set up Amberley Shop which is a community-run shop and café. It has transformed the village and helped to knit the community together. They have young students working there alongside retired volunteers.
- The shop has been open for 10 weeks so far. They have focussed on local produce therefore reducing food miles as residents often shop there instead of driving to Stroud or Nailsworth.
- They have plans for community engagement activities including a digital inclusion programme, and they are also looking to set up a Warm Space for the winter.
- They would like to link up with other Community Hubs in the district.

#### **Matt Amey, Stroud and Nailsworth Station Manager, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service:**

- The Fire and Rescue service do far more than respond to incidents. If they are called out to an incident then something has already gone wrong, therefore they also focus on community engagement, prevention, protection, and education.
- They are supporting people to live independently in their homes.
- They are able to install vibrating smoke detectors in homes for those who are hard of hearing.
- Their fire stations have open doors for anyone who would like to come and visit. Their ultimate goal is to work together to make Gloucestershire safer.

#### **Geoffrey Beckerleg, Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud:**

- The Chamber of Trade are promoting and support local businesses in the district.
- They are looking to increase footfall around Stroud town and they are working with Stroud District Tourism Partnership.
- The <https://www.visitstroud.uk/> website is going well and has approximately 2-500 site visits per day.
- They are looking to produce a tourism map to promote businesses that will be fully funded by advertising.

- September is National Catch the Bus Month which promotes the importance of a robust bus network. They are producing promotional materials for this campaign.

**Mark McShane, Head, Stroud High School:**

- Stroud High School does not have any concrete issues but there is a small amount at Marling School.
- They are 4-5 years into a programme for widening access, and this includes working with local primary schools all the way through to sixth form students. They have amended their entry criteria to support various potential students. Several of their students have received scholarships to study in places such as America, Oxford and Bristol.
- Stroud High School are working with Siobhan Baillie MP on tackling public sexual harassment. They want to give people an insight into what it's like to be a teenage girl within a school and community. The school also undertook a piece of work on online sexual harassment which Siobhan Baillie was able to use for the Online Safety Bill.
- They have been working with the police on an app called Flare where harassment can be reported. There are not necessarily consequences of all the harassment reported through the app, but it creates a heat map of where people are experiencing harassment.

**Matt Fellows, CEO, Age UK Gloucestershire:**

- Age UK's aspiration is to make Gloucestershire the best county in which to grow older. They are thinking more strategically and systemically about how to do this.
- Matt noted that GCC's Economic Strategy consultation does a really good job of setting the demographic scene however it then uses some of this demography as a negative rather than a positive.
- They want to engage younger older people about preparing for later life planning.
- On Monday 25 September they are hosting an event on loneliness: <https://buytickets.at/ageukgloucestershire/987736>
- On Tuesday 3 October they are hosting an event on the Voice of Older People: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire/about-us/news/articles/2023/voiceofolderpeople/> (event flyer also attached).

**Barbara Piranty, Chief Executive, GRCC:**

- GRCC are celebrating their centenary.
- Independence Trust are now part of GRCC and they run a range of mental health, autism and general wellbeing support services. This is particularly important post-Covid.
- GRCC have recently recruited an Affordable Housing Manager who is working with communities on their housing needs surveys and the options that communities have around housing.
- They have also recruited a Flood and Resilience Officer and they are running a social media campaign to recruit volunteers who will be the first port of call for flooding in the district.
- Jason Spinney is GRCC's Community Development worker for the Stroud district.



- They are creating a network of community organisations that support individuals with digital inclusion. They have 500,000 free Vodafone SIM cards they can give out.
- GRCC and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group are jointly hosting a Community Climate Action Event on 21 September:  
<https://www.grcc.org.uk/news-events/news-events/post/268-come-to-our-community-climate-action-event-thursday-21st-september>

**Will Mansell, The Grace Network:**

- Five months ago, the County Council announced they were pulling their funding for the Meals on Wheels service. As a result, they are trying to take the service private to be able to continue. This will be a slower process whilst they try to build a network of private clients.
- There are cross-cutting issues of loneliness and community engagement and that have been discussed today and the Meals on Wheels service helps address these issues.

**Steve Elliott-Mead, Trustee, OPENHouse:**

- Before Covid, OPENHouse used to run a Wednesday club for their floating support clients (4-6) with autism and they found it very useful. OPENHouse is starting this up again and if it works well, they may invite external people in.
- In 2020 OPENHouse used became Stroud's SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) provider. OPENHouse is currently using the SWEP area to support SDC, therefore they are looking at using their hall to run the SWEP space, to ensure Stroud is suitably covered.

**Max Comfort, Director, Stroud Commonwealth:**

- Stroud Commonwealth run The Exchange, an affordable workspace in Stroud. They are currently full and have a waiting list, and their meeting rooms are well subscribed by a big variety of local groups.
- The Exchange's lease is running out in four years therefore they are making plans to buy the building. They have applied to Stroud Town Council for a grant to convert from a Company Limited by Guarantee to a Community Benefit Society so they can issue shares.
- The intention is to demolish the current building and replace it with a sustainable building that includes more facilities including a basement for workshops, two floors for The Exchange, and a top floor to include two truly affordable flats that will be available for young people.

**Nick Turner, Creative Sustainability:**

- Creative Sustainability are funded by the County Council to run the Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group and their contract has recently been extended for three years. They want to increase meaningful engagement with local authorities.
- They are also working on digital inclusion with the County Council and digital hubs with GRCC. This is part of a formal partnership with seven organisations across the whole county.

**Dr Roma Walker, Stroud League of Friends:**

- Stroud League of Friends continue their work in enhancing the provision of services at Stroud Hospital over and above statutory provision. They have spent £1.8million over the last five years.
- Over the summer they have been working with a small group of other interested parties on the serious midwife shortages in Gloucestershire which have an impact on Stroud.
- There have been issues with the out-of-hours GP service that is based out of Stroud Hospital but is not commissioned or delivered by them. Despite the service being advertised it was not provided whilst the Minor Injury and Illness Unit was being refurbished. Stroud League of Friends are working to hold them accountable and maintain a level of scrutiny.
- Roma asked any LSP members who have anecdotal evidence of trying to access the out-of-hours GP service to contact her with details.

**Cate James-Hodges, Leader, Stroud District Youth Council:**

- The Stroud District Youth Council Manifesto includes 14 statements and 32 key projects and issues.
- There is going to be a review of the SDC Youth Work Strategy, and the Youth Council are already involved in the Task and Finish Group tasked with looking at this review.
- They recently met with SDC's Strategic Leadership Team and had a very valuable conversation.

Please send any requests for future agenda items or suggestions for future meeting themes to Hannah Barton, [hannah.barton@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.barton@stroud.gov.uk)

**Next meeting**  
Friday 1 December

The meetings are 9:00am for a 9:15am start, with meeting end by 11:30am.