



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

Meeting held on Friday 4th December 2015
Board Room SGS College

Present:

Les Haines (Chair)	Voluntary & Community Sector Forum	David Hagg	CE, Stroud District Council
Kevin Hamblin (Vice Chair)	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (SGS)	Cllr Geoff Wheeler	Leader, Stroud District Council
Russell Warner	FSB	Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
David Miller	Stroud Hospital League of Friends	Andrew Fletcher	Longfield (Hospice Care for the Cotswolds)
Dr Claire Mould	OPENhouse	Acting Chief Inspector Andy Poole	Gloucestershire Constabulary
Alison Robinson	GAPTC	Geoffrey Beckerleg	Chamber of Commerce, Stroud
Beth Whittaker	Stroud Businesswomen's Network	Pamela Tawse	Gloucestershire Older Persons Association
Margaret Willcox	Gloucestershire County Council		

Apologies and absent:

David Nairn	Fluid Transfer	Charlotte Bignall	Stroud District Youth Council
Catherine Green	Stroud Businesswomen's Network	Libby Powell	Stroud District Youth Council
Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Dr Hein Le Roux	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Elin Tattersall	GRCC	Martin Wright	National Farmers Union
Dr Claire Feehily	Healthwatch Gloucestershire	Geoffrey Head,	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District
David Tate	Silverwood UK Ltd	Brian Oosthuysen	Gloucestershire County Council
Sir David McMurtry	Renishaw Plc	Neil Carmichael	MP for Stroud Constituency
Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	MP for Cotswolds Constituency	Claire Nelmes	Mayor of Dursley
Max Comfort	Social Enterprise & WCCG	Rob Fountain	Age UK Gloucestershire
Jackie Godwin	Stroud District Council	Barbara Pond	GRCC
Dr Stuart Wilson	Stroud District School Partnership	Martin James	Job Centre Plus, Gloucestershire & West of England District

Guests & Support Officers:

Dave Marshall Stroud District Council		
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1. Welcome, introductions & apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. A number of apologies had been received.

2. Notes of the previous meeting 11th September 2015

The accuracy of the notes previously circulated was agreed.

3. Canal Project & Brimscombe Port Update

Dave Marshall, SDC's Canal Project Manager, gave members a comprehensive update with a PowerPoint presentation, the highlights of which included:-

- 'before' and 'after' photographs of bridges and locks where work has been completed
- towpath improvements leading to greater public access
- a new canalised community close to Ebley Mill
- Wallbridge road bridge, improved infrastructure and adjacent development
- Capels Mill – Stroud's new Waterside Park
- places to wander, ponder and watch - with resultant health benefits
- the value of volunteering in general and particularly in quickening-up lock restoration
- education and interpretation, signage and murals and involvement of young people
- environment protection – flood resilience, fish/eel passes, bird boxes, bat holes, reed fringe, new wetland, open water, tackling invasive species
- Stroud on Water event and Cotswold Boatmobility
- economic targets – leverage of private investment, creation of new workspace, new jobs, additional visitor numbers and spend
- many national awards
- plans for Brimscombe Port have recently been made public – 150 homes, 2,000m² employment floor space, water basin as canal destination, space for a community centre
- engineering challenges – either already overcome or anticipated as the project progresses

Dave concluded by saying that a further major funding bid for £15m has recently been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the project team expects to be informed by April / May 2106 whether it has been successful or not. After a short Q & A session, Chair thanked Dave for his informative presentation and suggested a further update later in the year.

The PowerPoint is available on the LSP website:

<http://community.stroud.gov.uk/lsp/new/meetings.html#meeting>

4. Cotswolds LEADER LAG Update

In the absence of the Chair of the LEADER LAG, Carole Garfield, Russell Warner gave an update on her behalf.

LEADER is a method of delivering rural development through a local community-led approach. It is a European Union initiative and forms part of the Rural Development Programme for England.

- a programme to boost jobs and growth for rural businesses and communities in the Cotswolds with nearly £2m is now open for business
- the programme is open for applications and will provide grants to small businesses, farmers, foresters and communities that create jobs and grow the rural economy on a matched funding basis – the ratio depends on the project
- the priorities in the Cotswolds are to:-
 - support micro and small businesses and farm diversification
 - boost rural tourism
 - increase farm productivity
 - provide cultural and heritage activities
 - provide rural services

Further information: <http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/grants-and-projects/cotswolds-leader>

5. Longfield Care Services

The Chair introduced Andrew Fletcher, recently appointed CEO of Longfield, who gave a comprehensive presentation demonstrating the charity's aspirations for the future which included:

- 900 referrals in 2014 for palliative, end-of-life and other care needs
- focus is for people to live better lives from the point of diagnosis
- this a free service
- provide day therapy, carer support, education and training and Hospice at Home
- 'whole' family care and support
- £3m annual turnover; income comes from donations and 15 shops
- need for constant fund-raising
- 100 staff and 500 volunteers across all parts of the service
- future plans for better engagement with the community
- massive challenges with complexity of illnesses and conditions, an ageing population
- cardiac / vascular conditions are bigger causes of death than cancer
- caring for life priorities are end of life, living well, tools for life and sustainability
- a key goal is to reach more people through outreach (2016) and satellite services (2018)
- explanation of the rationale for rebranding of the service to *Longfield Hospice Care for the Cotswolds*
- early success - art for health, drop-in sessions, non-cancer diagnosis, scoping their bereavement service, community engagement and partnerships
- working together was the key to success by spreading the word, further partnership development and innovation

In response to questions, Andrew said that the 900 referrals mentioned had come from nurses and consultants, GPs, families, sometimes neighbours and self-referrals. He added that Longfield's broader offer needs to be more widely known in the NHS.

Thanking him for his contribution, the Chair was pleased to inform members that Andrew had accepted an invitation to become a permanent LSP member.

6. Berkeley GREEN Project Update

Kevin Hamblin then brought members up to date on SGS's exciting Green Skills Project:

- using site of the former Nuclear Laboratories, Berkeley
- £5m project to create a new college campus – a key component of Gloucestershire's Strategic Economic Plan
- specialise in training skills in engineering and construction
- in response to local and national demands for those skills
- heavily supported by employers through provision of equipment, time and money
- relocate some existing provision from Stroud Campus
- create new apprenticeships and employment opportunities
- why? – significant demand for technically skilled and qualified young people
- high levels of employment locally in engineering, construction and associated businesses
- skills essential for economic growth
- higher level skills and progression to vocational degrees and apprenticeships
- successful Open Day event on 14 November – very well attended; further events in New Year
- working with the Cabinet Office to make the site a 'green' one with sustainable features such as PV strips; employing Sustainable Architects of the Year
- bid is in for University Technical College status
- part of the training offer is aimed at 14-19 yr olds for skills development in cyber security, digital design and gaming design
- looking ahead, the Project aims to provide a Specialism in Advanced Engineering & Digital Technologies opening in September 2017; currently running very popular taster sessions
- £ multi-million investment in a Cyber Security Training, Research and Education Centre
- in summary the Project aims to help alleviate a major skills shortage through the development of cutting-edge technology (e.g. battery storage for sustainable power, focus on micro energy) whilst supporting undergraduate study.

In thanking Kevin for providing this insight into the Project, Chair suggested members should look out for the dates of the planned future Open Days at Berkeley. He had visited the November one (as had some other members) and was very impressed at what was being planned.

7. Devolution for Gloucestershire

Cllr. Geoff Wheeler informed members about Devolution developments since the last meeting. Since the bid by the leadership of the main accountable bodies in the County in September there have been two months of negotiation with Ministers culminating with five County leaders presenting their case to Greg Clark, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

This was a largely successful meeting which indicated endorsement for Gloucestershire's offer on growth and skills, community safety and health and social care. The leaders were challenged on two other offers, namely:

- Housing - the amount of land available and the rate of acquisition and how to bring the strategic elements together effectively
- How would the plan make Governance stronger (without a single Mayor)?

Further evidence gathering to address these issues and top level negotiations continue. Russell Warner asked whether Devolution would mean central government cuts being simply transferred for execution by local government.

Cllr. Wheeler responded by saying that if Devolution became a reality, local government would have more powers to make major financial decisions.

8. Partner Updates

- Alison Robinson: developing new governance and practice standards for GAPTC members and will be promoting Local Council Award scheme in 2016. Newly formed Finance Committee
- Geoff Beckerleg: Stroud's High Street paving will be completed this Spring in a £300k scheme carried out by GCC. Sponsors being sought for Christmas trees at 'gateway' public locations
- Helen Edwards – Choice Plus (GP evening/weekend appointments) now live at Stroud General Hospital for patients with new conditions. Already live in Gloucester and Cheltenham. Similar sessions will be available at the Vale in 2016. Integrated Care Teams operating from Redwood House, Stroud and Old Magistrates' Court, Dursley. Community health workshops being held across the District; looking at health needs and better integration across agencies. 200 'social prescribing' referrals in Stroud District so far (1000 across county). External evaluation by UWE to be completed by August 2016
- Pamela Tawse: Older Peoples Forum very active with 6 sessions per year (quarterly at SDC and others in communities). Berkeley session with luncheon (although poorly supported) identified rural isolation and transport as key issues. Dursley session in March. Day-care at Uplands is showing a change of need with more referrals through social prescribing
- Andy Poole: police funding not being cut as feared and some recruitment is possible. Current crime issues are Cyber crime, deception crime (especially older people at supermarkets) and house burglaries involving young people which are on the increase. Criminals making use of cheap amplifiers to divert messages and thus take over keyless-entry motor vehicles
- Margaret Willcox: Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) detail yet to be published by Government, though public health cuts will be substantial – a third of budget to disappear over 5 years. Building Better Lives Policy is being reviewed and new policy on vulnerable people being considered this month to support those affected by homelessness, domestic violence, drugs or alcohol abuse. Growing Old in Glos policy is seeking to keep older people in their homes. GCC has UK's most successful programme to get disabled people into employment.
- Kevin Hamblin: Further Education is not protected in CSR and awaiting further details of inevitable cuts. Some Colleges will not be able to survive on their own. Area reviews – SGS will be involved in the West of England one in January 2016 and the Glos/Wilts/Swindon one in Sept-Dec 2016. Student numbers up 8%
- David Miller: Digital x-ray machine installed at Stroud General Hospital as a result of £150,000 donation by League of Friends. Mental health 'hub' being created using Weavers Croft and Park House with refurbishment of the latter building. Together Trust is very keen to join them at that facility for staff 'hot-desking'.

- Beth Whittaker: Stroud Businesswomen's Network has 100 members and monthly meetings have 40-60 attending. Recent guest speakers have included SDC's David Hagg. The network's newsletter is circulated to around 500 start up/micro businesses in Stroud District. Volunteers are needed for the Stroud Fringe Festival – 20,000 people attended the 2015 events. The network is pleased that SDC is arranging an event to support businesses start-ups on 26th January
- Geoff Wheeler: the Local Plan had been approved and adopted – the first and only plan to be approved under the National Planning Policy Framework in Gloucestershire. The plan provides for 11,400 homes over the plan period of 2006-2031 and 58 hectares of employment land. The Plan was considered to be both realistic and aspirational
- David Hagg: the Local Government Settlement will be announced shortly but the CSR headline figures are likely to mean deep cuts to district funding. Resident and business satisfaction with the Council are at all time highs (78% and 64%). Stroud Ambitions was very successful with over 1,000 Year 9 students and 600 parents and young people meeting over 60 companies and 14 FE/HE/training organisations. David thanked Les and Russell for taking part
- Les Haines: paid tribute to the organisers of Stroud Ambitions 2015, particularly Jackie Godwin and Petula Davis of SDC and Johnny Walker of SGS; an evaluation of the event was being carried out before deciding whether to hold a similar event in 2016 (although the prospects are encouraging as the feedback was extremely positive)
He also updated about Stroud District Youth Council whose LSP representatives, Charlotte and Libby (apologies received) have been re-elected into their respective roles for an interim period until March 2016. This is following a decision at their recent AGM to change the year end from September to March to allow a better balance between volunteering commitments and formal education. Nominations for Vice Chair and Principal Member roles are underway. A small delegation of visitors from Vietnam, as part of an international study visit, spent 2nd December at Ebley Mill. They were accompanied by representatives from the British Council, British Youth Council and the National Assembly and the party of eleven included four from the emerging Vietnam Youth Parliament.

The Chair thanked all for their contributions in a very informative meeting, wished everyone the compliments of the season and asked that suggestions for future agenda items be forwarded to Jackie in good time.

Future meeting dates

2016

Friday 4th March	Council Chamber, Ebley Mill
Friday 10th June	Council Chamber, Ebley Mill
Friday 9th September	Council Chamber, Ebley Mill
Friday 2nd December	Council Chamber, Ebley Mill