



STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
<http://lsp.stroud.gov.uk>

Meeting held on Friday 12 September 2025

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill

Theme: Climate and Nature

Present:

Alan Inman-Ward	CEO, Age UK Gloucestershire
Alyssa Pearce	Youth Council Chair, Stroud District Council
Barbara Piranty	Chief Executive Officer, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
Beth Whittaker	Third sector / community involvement
Cllr Chloe Turner	Leader of the Council
Cllr Katy Hofmann	Leader of the Labour Group
Cllr Lindsey Green	Leader of Conservative Group
David Withey (Vice Chair)	Chief Executive & Principal, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS)
Ian Hunter	Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Stroud
Lee Taylor	Stroud & Nailsworth Station Manager, Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue
Margaret Greaves	Stroud League of Friends
Max Comfort	Director, Stroud Commonwealth
Megan Land	Principle Member of Environment, Youth Council, Stroud District Council
Russell Warner	Russell Warner
Steve Olczak	Partnership Manager, Department of Work and Pensions
Sue Eskins	Chair, Stroud Businesswomen's Network
Thomas Haines	Representing Dr Simon Opher, Member of Parliament
Will Mansell (Chair)	Founder, The Grace Network

Apologies received:

Adrian Oldman	Director, Transition Stroud
Alison Truphet	Amberley Shop & Cafe
Anna Herbert	Chief Executive Officer, OPENhouse
Chloe Warden	Senior Economic Officer, Gloucestershire County Council
Chris Pockett	Head of Communications, Renishaw Plc
Clare Davis	CEO, Longfield Hospice
Dai Briley	NFU Mutual Agent at Gloucester
Dan Morris	Deputy Chairman, Howard Tenens
Dr Simon Opher	Member of Parliament - Stroud
Elizabeth Hall	Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice Stroud
Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP	Member of Parliament - North Cotswolds
Hattie Severinsen	Gloucestershire County Advisor, NFU
Helen Edwards	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group

Kathy O'Leary	Chief Executive, Stroud District Council
Keith Gerrard	Strategic Director of Communities, SDC
Lisa Wilson	Chief Executive, GL11 Community Hub
Mark McShane	Stroud High Head Teacher
Roz Savage	Roz Savage
Suzanne Booker	Lilian Faithfull Care

Guests and Support Officers

Annie Gould	Trusts Relationship Manager, Longfield Hospice
Ben Falconer	Corporate Communications Manager
Chris Uttley	Climate Change and Sustainability Manager, Stroud District Council
Emma Smith	LSP Coordinator
Georgia Spooner	Climate Engagement and Advocacy Officer, Stroud District Council
James Brain	Strategic Director of Place, Stroud District Council
Kerri Tyler	Communications, Events and Fundraising Coordinator, Stroud Valleys Project
LaToya Howe	Youth Participation Officer, Stroud District Council
Lucy Eccles	Community Resilience Officer, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
Megan Adamou	Community Action Coordinator, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Steve Miles	Youth Strategy and Safeguarding Officer
Tabitha George	Waterscapes Project Coordinator, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies.

The Chair welcomed everyone and noted the apologies.

2. Nominations for Vice Chair

The chair outlined the position of Vice Chair to the LSP and identified David Withey as the nominated candidate. The chair explained various reasons for nominating David and then opened nominations up to members. The chair conducted a vote by show of hands, it was unanimous in favour of David as the new Vice Chair.

3. Climate and Nature Strategy Consultation

James Brain introduced the refreshed Climate and Nature strategy and provided a breakdown of what the strategy is looking to achieve, and the nine specific outcomes. The previous strategy provided a great foundation, but targets needed to be aligned to reflect the latest legislation.

James explained how the strategy is taking account for all our emissions, including council projects, house building, pensions, and other elements outside of Ebley Mill. James highlighted the peak in emissions for scope three due to the change of methodology. The team have access to more data than the previous strategy, so the peak isn't due to any more emissions, but because of richer data. James defined scope one, two and three.

James guided members through the key changes in the new strategy; there is a renewed focus on net zero instead of carbon neutrality, there are additional themes throughout the strategy, including new ambitions for emissions reduction, nature recovery, and adaption.

The strategy itself is being refreshed, including the overarching visions, themes, strategic objectives, and actions, all of which have been co-produced with officers and elected members.

James outlined the four new ambitions for the strategy and highlighted the eleven revised themes. James then outlined the principles for the strategy, and how fairness and a just transition will overarch how the strategy is implemented.

James described the next steps for the strategy, they will be publishing a summary of comments received from the consultation on the council website, and they are hoping to go to full council in December 2025 for approval. The consultation closes on 30th September.

The chair asked the group to note the one thing from the presentation that stuck out to them, and to discuss that with the person next to them.

Russell Warner asked how the team plan to implement the policy. James outlined that they will be updating their design guide and ensuring that officers are constantly trained up on how to implement the strategy. When the local plan has been updated, they can then take action to protect the districts buildings. There are also legal requirements to balance throughout this.

There was a discussion about how the Climate and Nature team engage with local community organisations and businesses. Alyssa Pearce asked if there would be an action plan for the strategy, Georgia Spooner explained that as they have worked with various services within the council, so actions will be built into the council plan.

Max Comfort requested that strategy can be easily understandable and comprehensible. He said the strategy is great and it needs to be translated into an action plan. He is concerned it isn't clear and simple to read.

There was a conversation about retrofit as well as local and government initiatives available for private homeowners. Cllr Chloe Turner provided an overview of the government programmes that the council supports.

4. Working with Communities for Climate and Nature

Kerri Tyler introduced Stroud Valleys Project and how they operate across Gloucestershire. They were founded in 1988 and have achieved many different projects in lots of different places. They work with volunteer groups and connect people to nature in a way that works for them.

They are often the organisation that people contact to ask questions about maintaining habitat in nature. Kerri provided an overview of some specific projects including Wild about Kingswood. Kerri explained how they are very careful and mindful of nature when doing these projects, volunteers that work on these projects are from all different backgrounds,

including refugees, those with learning disabilities or people recovering from illness, and they all have a home with Stroud Valleys Project.

Kerri said they are part of the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy, they map tree locations out and work hard to ensure they are cared for, but it's been a challenge to keep the trees watered over the last few years. They have planted 19,139 trees all over Stroud.

Kerri described the Salmon Springs project that they work on in collaboration with the council. They try to reduce the amount of plastic they use when planting trees so don't use the tree guards, but they do have an issue with deer's and young trees.

Kerri highlighted the work they do with their community, including the work done by Dave the Alpaca, he is a member of Nailsworth Town Council.

They work with Sapperton Wilder and Hammonds Farm on Wick St to support farmers in regenerative farming, circular economy, and sustainable growth.

Kerri described the partnership with Longfield Hospice on the Carers in Nature project, the project is a creative initiative and gives carers the chance to recharge together.

There is a creative shed which is based in Cashes Green, it is an inclusive space for all abilities and genders. They make bird boxes and sell them in the eco shop in Stroud. Attendees learn lots of skills and create these bird boxes with such detail and are incredibly proud of the work they do.

Kerri described the Arundel Mill Pond project which is part of the River Frome in Brimscombe. It was previously in a bad state and toxic, but it has now been cleared with lots of wildflowers planted. Eels natural behaviour is to jump out and wiggle in the foliage, so if there isn't any foliage, then they can struggle. They put in an eel staircase which is a channel so eels can go upriver. They tested the water at the beginning of the project and there was no eel DNA, the year after they tested, they have confirmed eel DNA, which means eels are back in the river, and can improve the quality of the water.

Kerri described the sensory garden at Stratford Park developed in partnership with lots of organisations including the council and Creative Sustainability. Kerri provided some background on the different groups of people that came along to work on the garden and the positive impact it had on them.

5. Sustainable Solutions, Community Organising and Nature's Recovery

Megan Adamou introduced herself to the LSP. Megan began discussing nature recovery zones, there are three zones within Stroud, this is where they focus nature reserves and landscape teams on sites that have a big impact on nature.

Megan introduced Juniper Hill Fields and explained how they took out 80/90 posts that separated the fields. The newest site they are working on is Knapp Lane Meadows, the people of Stroud and Gloucester helped purchase the land through a fundraising initiative. Megan also said they have been doing a lot of flood management work there. Megan provided an overview of Wilder Frome and the restoration projects they have been doing, including Fromebridge Mill Nature reserves,

Tabitha George outlined the Waterscapes project, it showcases how they reduce flooding, provide clean water and increase wildlife. Tabitha discussed areas where flooding has been happening in Gloucestershire and described the Waterscapes initiatives that have been implemented to reduce the chances of flooding, this includes rain gardens, green verges, permeable paving and green infrastructure including green roofs.

Megan described the community action that takes place across the Stroud district, including Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council's 24-hour ecological survey that took place, which meant they could create a biodiversity strategy. She is implementing the same process with Nailsworth and Upton-St-Leonards Parish and Town Councils.

Megan described how she works with community groups to guide them to work independently, including the work that Coaley Rec Action Group have been doing in their area, another group are improving the allotments on Hospital Road in Cashes Green.

Megan then spoke about the People's Nature Reserve, this is an initiative where you go onto a map, submit a pin and address, and input some information about a green space. Megan then gathers the data on the habitat and the space using GIS mapping, this is so they can measure what green spaces are in Gloucestershire and to create mosaic habitats using this evidence which supports with the development county-wide strategies.

6. Future LSP meeting themes

The theme of the next LSP meeting will be town centre regeneration. If anyone has any suggestions for future LSP themes, please let Emma know on emma.smith@stroud.gov.uk.

7. Partners' Updates

Please send any requests for future agenda items or suggestions for future meeting themes to Emma Smith, emma.smith@stroud.gov.uk.

- **Lucy Eccles, Community Resilience Officer, GRCC**

Lucy introduced herself to the LSP. She described what her role entails, including the flood wardens' scheme and the work she does with Parish and Town Councils. She requested that members get in touch with her to discuss the flood warden opportunities.

- **Barbara Piranty, Chief Executive Officer, GRCC**

Painswick won the village of the year competition in the climate and environment category, they had lots of initiatives happening, hedgehog awareness, wildlife corridors, and designated site maintenance.

- **Alyssa Pearce, Chair, Youth Council**

Alyssa highlighted an Intergenerational Climate Event; more details would be circulated.

All other partner updates were emailed Thursday 18th September.

Next meeting
Friday 28 November

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