



16th June 2020

## NOTICE OF VIRTUAL MEETING

A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE will be held on Monday, 22nd June 2020 at 7.30pm, to conduct the following business:

Helen Bojaniwska  
Town Clerk

The meeting will be held via the Zoom meeting platform: <https://www.zoom.us/join>

To attend the meeting please use ID 820 0807 7730 – password 133429

For more information about attending meetings via Zoom please refer to the guidance on our website at: <https://www.stroudtown.gov.uk/uploads/taking-part-in-an-stc-zoom-meeting-april-2020.pdf>

### AGENDA

1. To receive apologies
2. To receive declarations of interest or requests for dispensations
3. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 previously circulated
4. To receive questions from members of the public
5. To receive a report from the Community Development Officer regarding the Council's Covid-19 response
6. To consider a proposal from The Door Youth Project
7. To receive reports from Grants awarded; Wild Stroud
8. To note the available funds in the Grants Funds for 2020-2021
9. To receive a verbal report from the Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust

**\*\* Members of the public are welcome to attend \*\***

# **ITEM 5 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (CDO) COVID-19 WORK**

**AUTHOR - EMILY OSLER**

**CONSULTEES - N/A**

**FOR MEETING – COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

**DATE – 22ND JUNE 2020**

**RECOMMENDATION – FOR INFORMATION**

## **REPORT**

### **Overview**

The Covid-19 pandemic brought to a swift halt the majority of STC's work on the ground once the decision had been made to close the office and ask staff to work from home. This included the CDO's direct work out in the communities of Slade/Farmhill & Paganhill. There followed a rapid switching of focus to mapping community support in a wider sense and trying to understand the situation 'on the ground' from a distance, whilst maintaining links/ongoing projects via phone/online.

Of particular concern was the extent to which vulnerable and/or isolated residents were able to access appropriate help and information, so our focus throughout was to get clear and accurate information out to all households at the right time. This was a tricky task both in terms of gathering the right information and getting it to people directly. A lack of early direction from the District presented a barrier in terms of where best staff resource should be directed in relation to community/ volunteer support. The online Stroud Coronavirus Community Support Group, which sprung up very early in lockdown, provided a platform and source of support for new neighbourly groups, so a focus was on advice and resources for existing community groups and voluntary and community sector organisations (VCS) to assist them in providing continuity of support or repurposed support.

Another barrier was the lack of a single, coordinated system of referral for people needing support. District and county eventually established systems but the picture was complicated by the NHS responders project and other helplines established for vulnerable people. In time it became apparent that there was a need to coordinate volunteers to support people in the neighbourhoods which were not covered by a neighbourly group, or those residents which, for a variety of reasons, needed support unable to be delivered by such groups. The CDO and the Deputy Town Clerk worked together to develop a system for recruiting and coordinating such volunteers,

modelled on the work of GL11. Ultimately, we were in the fortunate position of having more volunteers than people needing help, but our volunteers and staff were able to provide essential assistance to some of our more vulnerable residents coming through various channels.

As well as the neighbourly groups, there was a dearth of well-established organisations, from Age UK to Fairshares, Citizen's Advice to Independence Trust, who quickly refashioned existing services to offer various levels of practical, financial and emotional support during lockdown. This added to a fairly comprehensive, if somewhat uncoordinated, picture of support in the parish. The breadth and depth of community support available is testament to Stroud's strong VCS and the community-mindedness, creativity and resilience of its residents. Various pieces of work are now underway to establish what kind of model/structure of support and coordination could or should be available in future periods of lockdown on a district, parish and neighbourhood level. The CDO is actively participating in this work.

### **Specific work/achievements**

During this period the CDO has delivered or worked jointly on the following:

- i. Keeping in regular contact with residents and groups with whom relationships have been built over the past year.
- ii. Initial research utilising contacts at local, district and county level to understand structures and processes around volunteer management, support for vulnerable people, food distribution and funding.
- iii. Initial contact with community groups and organisations in receipt of STC financial support (SLA or other) to gauge likely impact on services and extend STC offer to consider additional financial support.
- iv. Letter to all households re community support contacts.
- v. Setting up the STC volunteer scheme and vetting potential volunteers.
- vi. Ongoing support to community groups delivering neighbourly assistance including sharing volunteer management resources, safeguarding, communications, risk assessments, funding info, a listening ear for volunteers, troubleshooting and other practical support.
- vii. Mental health focussed newsletter.
- viii. Coordinating allocation/distribution of Play Glos Bags of Play to schools.
- ix. Working with SDC/GCC on Volunteer Emotional Support.
- x. Establishing a new group of public and VCS partners working towards a more joined-up approach to community support in Paganhill.
- xi. Supporting Top of Town Tots to maintain their momentum and continue their development as a group, including securing some Covid-19 funding from STC and pending from SDC.

- xii. Participating in CSCIC's community hubs project.
- xiii. Continuing online participation in Compassionate Stroud, the Parliament Steering Group and Know Your Patch Network.

### **Looking ahead**

Lockdown has highlighted some amazing stories in communities, as well as some difficult ones. In Paganhill the community group has grown rapidly, with many people coming on board as volunteers or as people receiving support, some ending up leading their own lockdown projects based on their experience, skills or enthusiasm. PCG remains faithful to their roots in asset-based community development and this is paying dividends now, with the community rallying round in a consistently enabling and positive way to 'change the song of the neighbourhood.' In Top of Town, despite a year of developing relationships, the lack of a community group per se is starkly obvious. It has been difficult not being 'on the ground' and trying to understand what is happening by way of community support. Contact with the school and through the Parliament Steering group has indicated that family support and food has been readily available, with the school doing door-step visits to the most vulnerable families. Play Bags went to just under half of the pupils at the school. Moreover, the ToTTs stay and play is supporting younger families through an online presence and is beginning to think about reopening from September. All committee members have now joined the Parliament Steering Group and some of these will also be joining a new county level project looking at parental support around children's centres. As restrictions begin to be lifted, getting out in the community again with high regard to personal safety and the safety of residents is imperative, as the window for capturing people's stories and experiences, enabling conversation and connection, is here.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

### **FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

### **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (age, race, sexual orientation, faith, marital status and disability).

### **CO2 IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

### **DECISION**

## **ITEM 6 – THE DOOR PROPOSAL**

**AUTHOR – KATE MONTGOMERY**

**CONSULTEES – VICTORIA ROBSON – THE DOOR**

**FOR MEETING – COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

**DATE – 22ND JUNE 2020**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- A) To allocate £3,000 to The Door Youth Project for planned outdoor activities for young people and teenagers living within Stroud parish
- B) To fund another project delivered by The Door (as per outlines)
- C) To decline to fund any projects as outlined

### **REPORT**

After a successful meeting between The Door and STC earlier in the year (prior to Covid-19 lockdown), further exploration has taken place regarding projects the Town Council could fund to be delivered by The Door Youth Project. Since the lockdown, circumstances have changed considerably for young people and the way services are delivered.

The following proposals are being submitted to the Town Council Community Committee for consideration to enable The Door to develop its services to young people in the town.

#### Project Proposals

- 1) Mentoring – The Door are currently mentoring 17 young people and 19 parents who are part of the mentoring scheme in the Town boundary. The cost of delivering each mentoring relationship is £300. This service is only appropriate once lockdown restrictions have been lifted. (Ten mentoring relationships could be supported with a £3000 SLA)
- 2) Outdoor activities – To support the easing of the lockdown, The Door is planning to deliver a series of outdoor sessions to young people once restrictions are lifted. These sessions will be different to those offered by the Play Rangers who target a younger age group. Sessions could be organised in key locations in the parish to support the work of the Community Development Officer. A two-hour session would cost £112. (26 sessions could be supported with a £3000 SLA)
- 3) Research for Post-Lockdown – To research and evaluate what young people require in a post-lockdown world. We already know that young people face an

unprecedented strain on their mental health as a result of the lockdown and the predicted worldwide recession will put further strain on this. The Door's assumption is that the shape and delivery of youthwork is highly likely to be different post lockdown. This would be an extensive piece of research building on the work done in 2017 involving significant input from young people. Its purpose would be to ensure the development of youth activities and that provision is robust and relevant, closely reflecting local needs as expressed by young people in the town.

It was discussed that Project 2 may be the best short-term option to support young people while society adjusts to its new limitations.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

### **FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

£3,000 can be met through the 2020/21 budget for 'Youth Projects' which is £3,500

### **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (age, race, sexual orientation, faith, marital status and disability).

The Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Mayor met with Trustees and staff from the Door Youth Project to discuss access for all faiths to its programme. The Trustees stated that everyone is able to access their service, regardless of faith and that although the charity is built on Christian values it welcomes those from all faiths.

### **CO2 IMPLICATIONS**

None

### **DECISION**

From Wild Stroud  
For information only

We're so grateful for the grant and what this is enabling us to do.

So far we've commission a local artist, Gypsy (Horns Road) who will be running our micro ponds to design us some pictures for our certificates. She's done 10 designs for us and you can see them on this link <https://wildstroud.org/certificates/> Photo quality rubbish and not yet for public consumption.

We will have 4 certificates gold, silver, bronze, blue – each with a different picture.

The competition is now closed. From June 1<sup>st</sup> we will be offering the garden assessment for a donation – minimum of £1. The minimum of a £1 is due to website security but people will be able to email us if they can't even do that and get a discount code. They will get a report and a certificate and then we will follow up with them at the end of the summer to find out what they did.

We've got a call out for a local designer to help us with our plaque.

The search engine on the website is ready to go in the back ground but just waiting for me to create time to do series of tests before we go live – we used a local person in Uplands to do the techie work for us so pleased to keep that work in Stroud.

From June the 1<sup>st</sup> we will be using social media and posters in the 3 parishes who have supported us and asking everyone to repost our messages in all groups and website they can think of.

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

## 8 Funds available 2020 / 2021

<u>FUND</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Spent/ committed</u>	<u>Available</u>
Community Support	£8,000	£0	£8,000
Arts and Culture	£9,000	£0	£9,000
Small Grants	£8,000	£500	£7,500
Climate change	£10,000	£0	£10,000

### Grant Applications

#### Community Support

Amount  
requested

No applications received.

#### Arts and Culture

No applications received.

#### Small Grants

No applications received.

#### Climate change

No applications received.