

18<sup>th</sup> May 2023



## To Members of the Regeneration Working Group

You are invited to a virtual meeting of the Working Group to be held on **Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023** at **10am** to conduct the following business and make recommendations to the Town Clerk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen", is positioned above the name of the Town Clerk.

Helen Bojaniwska  
Town Clerk

The meeting will be held via the Zoom meeting platform.

To attend the meeting please follow this [meeting link](#) or use meeting ID **850 2147 6656**, password **renewal**

For more information about attending Council meeting via Zoom please refer to the [guidance on our website](#).

## AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive declarations of interest
3. To consider requests for dispensations
4. To receive questions from the public
5. To note the minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration Working Group on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023, previously circulated (minutes will be formally approved by the Committee when meetings resume)
6. To receive the Clerk's report
7. To receive a budget report for April 2023
8. To receive an update on tourism work
9. To consider a report on the potential to resume weekly road closures on London Road
10. To discuss planned resurfacing works in the town centre

*Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (age, race, gender, sexual orientation, faith, marital status and disability); Crime and Disorder (Section 17); Health and Safety; and Human Rights.*

# Clerk's report

## **AUTHOR**

Town Clerk

## **CONSULTEES**

None

## **FOR MEETING**

Regeneration Working Group, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## **RECOMMENDATION**

For information only.

## **REPORT**

### **Graffiti**

We are working closely with the Neighbourhood Policing Team, Special Constabulary and Stroud Safe to identify offenders. In view of this positive response I have held off on asking for the Community Trigger to be reopened as requested at the last meeting. I have however written to the Police and Crime Commissioner raising concerns about the lack of PCSOs on duty in the town centre and difficulties with requesting support from the CCTV monitoring team.

Graffiti removal contractors are due to return to revisit some of the work they did a few weeks ago, following complaints from property owners.

A DIY kit for local property owners is being developed, including masonry paint, brushes etc, to enable shop owners or tenants to paint over graffiti themselves, without the expense of purchasing expensive paint and tools.

### **Flyposting and other town centre concerns**

The requests approved at the last meeting were submitted to Stroud District Council and Highways on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

### **Use of SDC signs in car parks to promote links to tourism sites**

This is being progress by the Chamber. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

### **Levelling Up Fund**

The third round has still not been announced.

18/05/2023

## Regeneration Committee Budget Report April 2023

Nominal code	Description	Agreed budget	Actual expenditure
4042	Equipment maint'ce	700	0
4115	Christmas lights	6,000	0
4128	Town centre projects/cleanline	3,000	0
4216	NDP Working group projects	5,000	0
4217	NDP review	0	512
4219	Sub Rooms forecourt project	0	0
4223	Golden valley project	20	0
4225	Pollution monitoring	750	0
4226	Tourism - market towns	0	0
4228	Bus shelters	15,000	0
	Overhead expenditure	30,470	512
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	-30,470	-512
	Regeneration - Income	0	0
	Expenditure	30,470	512
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	-30,470	-512

# Tourism update

## **AUTHOR**

Project Officer

## **CONSULTEES**

Town Clerk

## **FOR MEETING**

Regeneration Working Group, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## **RECOMMENDATION**

For information only.

## **REPORT**

Tourism Angles, the consultants appointed to work with the five market towns (Dursley, Nailsworth, Stroud, Stonehouse and Wotton-under-Edge), have now completed all outputs. Outputs specific to Stroud include the Town Profile which highlights elements about the town of interest to visitors, two Insiders' Guides which provide a local person's perspective on the town.

Themed pieces which include all the towns include wildflower spotting through the seasons, child friendly (age 4 – 10) activities, vegan and vegetarian based cuisine, people power (celebrates the independent spirit), major events and festivals, and a 'did you know....'. top 10 interesting facts relating to the area have also been written. Each themed piece can be used in its entirety, or town specific information can be lifted out depending on need.

A final meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> May with the consultant to complete the contract. Following this copy will be made available to Stroud District Council, the Visit Stroud website and other interested groups. Tourism Angles have also produced a pitching document to be sent to journalists outlining reasons why they may want to write about the towns.

The need for appropriate photography to accompany the copy has been highlighted. A local photographer was approached to explore the use of existing and new suitable photographs and discussions are ongoing.

AR

16/05/2023

# London Road weekly closures

## **AUTHOR**

Town Clerk

## **CONSULTEES**

None

## **FOR MEETING**

Regeneration Working Group, 25/5/2023

## **RECOMMENDATION**

To request the Clerk to:

- consult on the potential to resume closures of the road on Saturdays on a trial basis with:
  - the businesses on London Road
  - the Farmers' Market.
  - emergency services
- identify a suitable consultant to conduct community engagement and traffic surveys, and analyse and report on the impact of the trial.
- apply for a grant from Stroud District Council to cover the cost of the trial

Assuming there are no significant impediments:

- Make an application for a temporary closure
- Investigate legal procedures and costs required to progress a Traffic Regulation order to make the weekly closure permanent
- apply for a grant from Stroud District Council to cover the cost of a permanent TRO and signage.

## **REPORT**

Starting 2020 and funded by government grants, the Council arrange for London Road to be closed all week between the junctions with John Street and Union Street to facilitate social distancing in the town centre.

Once Covid-19 restrictions eased the closure was changed to just Saturdays to enable the farmers' market stalls to spread out, again to support social distancing. This arrangement continued until March 2022, when the funding concluded.

An opportunity has been identified to apply to Stroud District Council's walking and cycling fund to resume weekly closures and conduct an analysis of the impact on trade.

It is important the businesses in the affected area are consulted about the proposal and any concerns addressed, for example deliveries. There have been changes to the business use of some of the affected shops. Emergency services will also need to be contacted for their views.

It has been previously suggested that if funding were available to weekly closure could become a permanent fixture, with suitable road signage. To

assist decision making on this it is recommended that a suitable consultant is employed to conduct community engagement and traffic surveys, and analyse and report on the impact of the trial, including the carbon reduction impact and benefits or otherwise to local trade.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The previous temporary order was enacted by Stroud District Council using the procedure for special events. The application process normally takes at least 6 weeks.

A permanent TRO would require significant public consultation and could take many months. Gloucestershire County Council would have to run this process. More information can be found at:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/traffic-regulation-orders-tro-and-traffic-schemes/what-is-a-traffic-regulation-order-tro/>

## **FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

### Financial implications

The normal cost of a temporary road closure is £85.00. In 2022 the weekly cost of employing a contract to put out the road signs and a barriers was £335.39, but this price may have increased. Assuming the trial was for 3 months the total cost would be £4,445.07.

Estimated cost for a consultant as described above £15,000 to £20,000 including community engagement, traffic surveys, analysis and reporting.

Assuming a permanent weekly closure is ultimately supported GCC costs for a TRO are likely to be in the region of £10,000 to £15,000, plus the cost of signage and other infrastructure.

There is no provision in the budget for this project, so if the SDC funding does not come forward, it would be dependent on either cancelling other projects or using earmarked reserves. A copy of the SDC Prioritisation Tools is attached for information.

### Staffing implications

This project would impact on communications and engagement and project officers, which would lead to other planned projects being delayed.

## **CRIME AND DISORDER**

There are no crime and disorder issues.

## **EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

The Council is legally bound by the public sector equality duty to prevent and eliminate discrimination, establish and promote equality and equal opportunities, and foster good relations between people with different protected characteristics. Consultations on this proposal and the impact report will need to take into account the potential impact of people with protected characteristics. Spreading out the market stalls will potentially make it easier for people with reduced mobility to access the stalls, particularly those on London Road which is relatively flat.

The Council is legally bound by The Human Rights Act 1998 which sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that everyone in the UK is entitled to. One of the rights covered by the Act imposes a duty on public authorities not to interfere with your property unless it's in accordance with the law and in the public interest. Property includes a business. It is important therefore to involve affected businesses in discussions about this proposal

## **CO2 AND BIODIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

In 2018 the Council declared a climate emergency and committed to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030 and to seeking ways to facilitate and encourage the community in reducing direct and indirect CO2 emissions and to become resilient to changes caused by the changing climate. Consideration of how temporarily closing the road impacts on people's travel to Stroud should be included in the

There are no biodiversity issues.

HB

15/05/2023

# Prioritisation Tool Criteria

## 1/ Alignment with Policies / Plans

- Is the scheme in a policy or plan (NDP, LCWIP, Local Plan)
- Links to strategic network
- Propensity to cycle tool analysis <https://www.pct.bike/>

## 2/ Wider Benefits

- Potential for modal shift (access to wider travel choices)
- Levelling up (i.e. does it support a disadvantaged area)
- Environmental sensitivities (is it in an AONB, Conservation Area etc)



# Prioritisation Tool Criteria

## **3/ Deliverability**

- Complexity of solution
- Need for third party land
- Match funding available

## **4/ Fundamentals**

- Stage of development (concept/plan/feasibility/shovel ready)
- Ability to improve safety
- Ability to improve accessibility and inclusivity
- Segregation of route from traffic
- Enable economic development (e.g links to businesses)

# Prioritisation Tool Criteria

Alignment with Policies / Plans			Wider Benefits			Deliverability (high score = easier delivery)			Fundamentals (score multiplied by 2)					Score (out of 42)	Percentage score
Alignment with Policies and Plans <i>(e.g. Is the scheme in a policy or plan such as LCWIP, LTP, NDP etc)</i>	Links to Strategic Network <i>(e.g. links to the wider strategic cycling and walking network)</i>	Opportunities identified through Propensity to Cycle Tool Analysis?	Does it improve access to wider travel choices? <i>(i.e. Potential for modal shift e.g. rural areas)</i>	Levelling Up i.e does it support disadvantaged area	Is the area environmentally sensitive, is it in an AONB, CA, SAC, SPA ?	What is the complexity of the solution? <i>(i.e. Undefined route, known stats, new signals required etc)</i>	Is third party land required? <i>(i.e. Land outside of highway boundary etc.)</i>	Is match funding available?	Stage of Development <i>(i.e. concept, plan, feasibility study, shovel ready)</i>	Ability to address Safety Issues? <i>(i.e. does the scheme improve safety)</i>	Ability to improve accessibility and inclusivity	Will the scheme segregate walking or cycling from traffic? <i>(i.e. offroad segregated cycle paths)</i>	Will the scheme enable economic development? <i>(i.e. Links to businesses, new housing estates etc)</i>		
3	3	N/A	2	2	1	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	34	80.95%
2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	33	78.57%
2	3	N/A	3	1	1	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	32	76.19%
2	3	N/A	2	2	3	2	3	2	1	3	3	2	3	31	73.81%
2	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	3	2	3	31	73.81%
2	3	N/A	2	2	1	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	31	73.81%
2	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	31	73.81%
3	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	3	3	1	3	31	73.81%
2	3	3	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	3	2	1	29	69.05%

# Resurfacing works

## **AUTHOR**

Town Clerk

## **CONSULTEES**

None

## **FOR MEETING**

Regeneration Working Group, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Request a discussion with Highways on the best timing for resurfacing works in the town centre and offer help with communications and coordination with local businesses.

## **REPORT**

The Highways team have advised that the resurfacing of Stroud Town Centre has been provisionally delayed until Jan '24 – April '24 and these dates are subject to change. It is concerning that the Town Council were not advised about the latest postponement, which only came to light when enquiries were made.

This project work was originally started in 2021, but has been repeatedly postponed, most recently to avoid overlap with the Highways proposals included in the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid. The proposal in the bid only included Rowcroft, part of King Street, George Street and Russell Street.

In the meantime, the condition of all of the roads in the town centre has significantly deteriorated, with significant potholes appearing, which present a danger, particularly to cyclists and pedestrians.

In the timetable for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round LUF bid the highways work was at the end of the schedule, so if a new bid did succeed this year and the schedule was the same, it might not get built until 2025-26. By which time the surface will certainly no longer be fit for purpose.

There really ought to be an announcement about Levelling Up Fund soon, but the potential bid is no longer a realistic reason to continue to delay. There is also a concern that delays may mean that the work has to be completed at a time which could have a significant impact on business and the local economy. Having already had the local economy hit hard by multiple uncoordinated works encircling the town in the last Christmas run-up (and, for others, what will soon amount to years), this work could inflict some serious harm if Christmas trade is impacted again this year. Ideally it should be completed by October to minimise the impact on Christmas trade.

It would help if Highways could provide a project plan that indicates what will be happening when, in what order, and with what level of closures/restrictions. That information would at least help us plan and potentially enable us to add local knowledge to help tune the process for the benefit of all.

18/05/2023

