



Minutes of the meeting of the REGENERATION WORKING GROUP
Thursday, 6th October 2022, at 10.00am
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Present

Town Cllrs Kevin Cranston (Chair), Geoffrey Andrews, Camilla Hale (until Item10), Adrian Oldman, Stella Parkes (Deputy Chair), Cllr David Drew (Gloucestershire County Council), Leonie Lockwood (Stroud District Council), Tim Mars (Stroud Civic Society), Andrew Watton (Stroud Chamber)

In attendance

Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Alison Rood (Project Officer)

1. Apologies

Cllr Tony Davey; Cllr Mick Fealty; Cllr Robin Layfield (Stroud District Council)

2. Co-opt Stroud Civic Society representative

The Clerk had spoken to Tim Mars from the Civic Society to explain the role. Members voted and **agreed** to co-opt Tim Mars to the group.

3. Declarations of interest

None declared.

4. To consider requests for dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

5. Questions from members of the public

A question had been received by email. The question related to the condition of shop frontages in the town centre. It noted that Cheltenham BID had taken a proactive approach to encourage landlords/traders to maintain or improve shop frontages and asked if anything similar could be done in Stroud. Members discussed issues such as absentee landlords, tenant or landlord responsibility and lack of interest by some traders. Cllr Hale described a project set up during the 1990s to display art in shops which included cleaning their windows. The project ran for about 20 years and had cost approximately £6k.

Action: The Clerk to contact Stroud District Council Enforcement Officers to see what action could be taken.

6. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the council meeting on 21st July 2022 were approved by the members present and will be signed as a correct record by the Chair at the next opportunity.

7. Stroud train station survey presentation

Jon Harris of Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership (GCRP) presented the results of the Stroud Station Travel Survey which was undertaken during June-August 2022. The presentation provided results on how the station is used and car parking and pedestrian flows. Members commended the survey, and it was noted that the results would be useful information for a forthcoming visit to the station by the Department for Transport.

Action: Project Officer to circulate the presentation to members.

8. Budget Report to end of August 2022

The Clerk highlighted some spend on the Sub Rooms forecourt project had been misallocated to the wrong year and the correction would appear in the next report. The report was noted.

Action: Clerk to correct report.

9. Project Officer report

The report was noted.

10. Communications Strategy for the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Review

At the previous meeting Members had requested additional details on the communications strategy for the NDP review. The Project Officer explained the ‘light touch’ approach to the review (rather than a rewrite of the NDP) had influenced the strategy development. Members suggested the inclusion of a ‘what the plan has already achieved’ section in the strategy. It was also confirmed that owners of development sites would be included. Leonie Lockwood from the District Council highlighted a colleague working on their Local Plan review had put out a call to developers for development sites. She suggested the Project Officer contact them in relation to potential sites within the NDP boundary.

Action: Project Officer to include achievements section in the strategy and contact Local Plan officer at Stroud District Council

Cllr Hale left during this item.

11. Commercial waste storage at Fawkes Place

Members had previously discussed the issues of commercial waste storage. The Clerk circulated a photograph of a commercial waste storage compound in Cirencester. Stroud District Council were not prepared to maintain it. The Clerk suggested the Town Council may have to maintain and manage the keys to the compound.

Action: Clerk to contact Ubico to quote for regular cleaning of the compound and report back at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.25

Chair

Date