

## STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the REGENERATION WORKING GROUP

Thursday, 22nd July 2021, at 10.00am

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

#### **Present**

Cllrs Liz Child, Kevin Cranston (Deputy Chair), Tony Davey, Mick Fealty, Camilla Hale, Stella Parkes (Chair)

#### **In attendance**

Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Alison Rood (Project Officer); Gloucestershire County Council: Cllr David Drew; Stroud Chamber: Andrew Watton; Stroud Tourism Forum: Hannah McDonnell; Stroud Rotary Club: Martyn Harwood; Stroud District Council: Robin Layfield (from item 8).

#### **1. Apologies**

Brendan Cleere (Strategic Director of Place), Stroud District Council

#### **2. Declarations of interest**

None declared.

#### **3. To consider requests for dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

#### **4. To note Delegation of Committee responsibilities to Town Clerk**

The Clerk reminded members of the new arrangements, as detailed at the last committee (27<sup>th</sup> May 2021). Tony Davey was welcomed as the new Councillor for Uplands Ward.

#### **5. Questions from members of the public**

There were no questions.

#### **6. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were noted by the members present and will be approved by the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

#### **7. Budget report to end April 2021**

The budget report was **noted**. The Clerk confirmed that money spent on traffic management for the London Road traffic management would be reclaimed from Stroud District Council.

#### **8. Project Officer's report (for information only)**

The report was **noted**.

#### **9. Stroud Rotary Club "Spruce Up Stroud"**

Stroud Rotary Club proposed 'sprucing up' areas of the town centre following the Covid pandemic. Martyn Harwood (President) said the Rotary Club was keen to work

with the Town Council to undertake improvements e.g., litter picking, painting street furniture. Initially to be done within the town centre and if successful expanded further. Members were supportive of the idea, subject to the necessary agreement/guidance from Gloucestershire County Council Highways, Stroud District Council and the Town Clerk. The Rotary Club was thanked for their proactive work.

**Action:** Suggestions for areas to receive attention should be sent to [council@stroudtown.gov.uk](mailto:council@stroudtown.gov.uk)

**Agreed:** The Clerk to organise a meeting a key stakeholder meeting, including the Rotary Club.

### **10. Update on the Street Spaces work**

Finlay McNab from consultants Streets Reimagined, detailed the work done so far on the Street Spaces project. Based on research and consultation, illustrative drawings of how various junctions could be improved were shown. Until approval and funding for any schemes had been secured, Finlay suggested that smaller scale trials e.g., parklets and temporary crossing points could be conducted.

Members welcomed the findings and highlighted additional areas for potential inclusion e.g., footpath through London Road/Brunel Mall car parks and increased emphasis on linkages to the canal and towpath.

It was noted that the final report to be completed by the end of July. Potential next steps would be to work up proposals further and discuss with Gloucestershire County Council Highways as their input would be crucial in achieving changes.

**Action:** Final report to be circulated upon completion.

### **11. Progress report on application to the “Welcome Back” fund**

The Clerk provided an update. Funding has been secured for the continuation of traffic management for the London Road closure until 25<sup>th</sup> September, with potential for funding up to March 2022, subject to a need identified by the market managers. Funding for the Tourism Officer post was still unclear and was awaiting approval from Stroud District Council (see item 13).

### **12. Progress report on the Levelling Up fund**

The Clerk explained that several potential projects which prioritise active travel, High Street regeneration and cultural aspects had been sent to Brendan Cleere at Stroud District Council for consideration. A working group is to be established by the District Council to narrow down projects which best fit the criteria. Members noted that many projects were not ‘shovel ready’ and require additional funding to make them so. Members also sought clarification on Stroud District Council’s focus for the bid.

**Agreed:** Clerk to contact Stroud District Council to clarify focus and timescale of the bid and clarification of funding towards getting project ‘shovel-ready’.

**13. Update on the tourism officer post**

Hannah McDonnell from Stroud Tourism Forum reported that all market towns in the district, except Berkeley, had agreed to contribute £5k to the role. Hannah was soon to meet Berkeley to discuss their possible involvement.

Members welcomed the co-operative and collaborative approach adopted by the market towns. However, frustration was expressed at the slow response from Stroud District Council regarding Welcome Back funding to support the role. Stroud District Cllr Robin Layfield offered to take these concerns back to the Council.

**Agreed:** The Clerk to write a strongly worded letter to the Chief Executive and Council Leader at Stroud District Council expressing concerns regarding the Welcome Back funding for this role. Robin Layfield to also raise the Regeneration Working Group concerns at Stroud District Council.

The meeting closed at 12.07pm

Chair .....

Date .....