

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the REGENERATION WORKING GROUP**

**Thursday, 27th May 2021, at 10.00am**

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

**Present**

Cllrs Geoffrey Andrew (from item 8), Liz Child (from item 10), Kevin Cranston (Deputy Chair), Mick Fealty, Camilla Hale, Stella Parkes (Chair)

**In attendance**

Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk), Alison Rood (Project Officer); Gloucestershire County Council: Cllr David Drew; Stroud District Council: Brendan Cleere (Strategic Director of Place) (from 10.09); Stroud Chamber: Tony Davey; Stroud Tourism Forum: Hannah McDonnell

**1. Apologies**

Andrew Watton, Stroud Chamber

**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 explained the Council had agreed that all Committees would temporarily operate as Working Groups to enable meetings to be held on Zoom. Decision making was delegated to the Clerk with working groups operating as advisory bodies.

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

There were no questions.

**6. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April 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**.

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

The report was **noted**.

Cllr Andrews joined the meeting.

**9. Update on the Bee Stroud initiative**

Tony Davey from Stroud Chamber explained the Bee Stroud initiative, which had been created to support local businesses and increase footfall in the town centre. It

included shop window displays and colouring competitions, which will be followed by a Bee Trail involving other towns in Stroud district.

The Working Group discussed how the pandemic had affected the retail sector in Stroud town centre. It was felt that footfall and shopping levels had been erratic, impacting businesses across the board. Many shoppers in Stroud were keen to shop local, so the impact in Stroud, although still severe, is possibly not as bad as elsewhere in the country.

### **10. Discussion of ideas for “Welcome Back” funding**

The Clerk reported on a meeting with Stroud District Council who will distribute the £106k fund available. Funding for a Market Towns Tourism Officer (see item 11) and continued traffic management for the London Road closure had been discussed, but other ideas for funding were under consideration.

Other suggestions made by the working group included: public covered outdoor seating areas and a youth shelter designed with input from young people.

Brendan Cleere from Stroud District Council explained the prescriptions on the funding criteria and procedures for the District Council to access the funding.

Camilla Hale reported on plans from the ADHD Foundation to install an ‘umbrella ceiling’ in Stroud to raise awareness of neurodiversity. Although being independently funded this installation could complement Welcome Back funding initiatives.

Cllr Child joined the meeting during this item.

**Action:** Clerk to present ideas at the next meeting with Stroud District Council

### **11. Update on tourism officer post**

Hannah McDonnell from Stroud Tourism Forum reported that this strategic, co-ordination role would develop a greater presence for Stroud district as a tourism destination and help boost the tourism economy. The role would cover other market towns in the district. Hannah continued to discuss with other market towns not yet on board to see if they would be prepared to commit funding.

The meeting closed at 12.55pm

Chair .....

Date .....