

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the REGENERATION WORKING GROUP

Thursday, 7th October 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 Rotary Club: Martyn Harwood; Stroud District Council: Cllr Robin Layfield Leonie Lockwood (Regeneration Delivery Lead); Farmers Market: Kardien Gerbrands

1. Apologies

Cllr Geoffrey Andrews; Brendan Cleere (Strategic Director of Place), Stroud District Council; Hannah McDonnell, Stroud Tourism Forum; Yakub Mulla, Gloucestershire County Council Highways

2. Declarations of interest

None declared.

3. To consider requests for dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

4. Questions from members of the public

There were no questions

5. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 22nd July 2021 were noted by the members present and will be approved by the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

6. Budget report to end August 2021

The budget report was **noted**.

7. Project Officer's report (for information only)

The report was **noted**. Use of the kitchen at the Cornhill Seaterly was queried.

Action: Cllr Hale agreed to follow up with organisers.

8. Stroud Rotary Club "Spruce Up Stroud"

Stroud Rotary Club updated on 'sprucing up' areas of the town centre. Martyn Harwood (President) showed photos from a recent survey of the town which highlighted areas for improvement. Members acknowledged the comprehensive work that had been undertaken by the Rotary Club.

The Clerk noted that many of the issues illustrated in the photos were not within the remit of the Town Council, however the council would be willing to act as an intermediary with those organisations who did have responsibility.

Action: Clerk to redirect photos to relevant organisations for their attention.

A wider point was made on the lack of regular street cleaning and an increase in litter. Martyn Harwood said Rotary members would be willing to organise litter picks but may need assistance with removal of rubbish.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Martyn regarding litter picking

Tony Davey reported on the Chamber's A-board and pavement obstruction consultation (see Item 9).

9. Chamber of Trade report on A-boards and pavement obstruction

Tony Davey reported businesses displaying A-boards and/or items on the pavement had been approached by the Chamber and advised of potential obstruction. Most businesses had been co-operative which resulted in an improved situation. The Chamber will continue to engage with businesses and review the situation again in five months.

10. Update on the Street Spaces report

The Project Officer detailed a meeting held with Gloucestershire County Highways officers from Transport Planning, the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure (LCWIP) team, the Parking Review team and the Local Highways Manger to discuss progressing schemes highlighted in the Street Spaces report. The report was welcomed with the LCWIP team keen to incorporate elements where possible. However, no funding was agreed. Another meeting had been arranged.

Members discussed the possibility of a contribution to some of the schemes e.g. Wallbridge to kickstart the process. It was **agreed** to present the report at the forthcoming Levelling Up Fund Taskforce to assist in prioritisation of schemes and funding. It was noted that the final report would be issued in the next few days.

Action: Project Office to finalise report with consultant to enable wider circulation.

11. Update on One Public Estate project

Leonie Lockwood Regeneration Delivery Lead at Stroud District Council provided a brief update. She highlighted how the District Council was working closely with partners to progress both the Cheapside and Beeches Green area improvements, as well as retrofitting buildings in the town centre.

Members **agreed** to reorder the agenda as follows.

13. Potential for permanent Traffic Regulation Order for closure of London Road for Farmers Market

The Clerk explained since writing the report advice received from Gloucestershire County Council Highways indicated a full Traffic Regulation Order may not be necessary for permanent Saturday closure and that a District Council application

would suffice. Members raised the potential negative impacts on businesses in the town should the Saturday road closure become permanent. The market operator, was due to meet with the District Council and would raise the matter with them.

12. Report on discussions for tourism funding

The Clerk explained that Stroud District Council’s recruitment of a tourism officer would likely take until March 2022. It was agreed to authorise the Clerk to utilise the £5k set aside for the tourism officer post (to now be paid for by the District Council) to employ freelance tourism expertise from November 2021-March 2022.

Action: recruit tourism consultant (Clerk).

14. Stroud District Council Economic Development Strategy consultation

Members agreed it was important to respond to the Strategy. However, it was felt that there had not been enough time to fully digest it prior to the meeting and more time was required.

Actions: i) provide hard copies of document to those who requested one, ii) arrange another meeting in three weeks to discuss document further and iii) provide shared electronic document for members to add comments to. (Clerk)

15. Exclusion of press and public

It was **agreed** to exclude the press and public in view of the confidential nature of the discussion.

16. Progress report from Stroud District Council on the Levelling Up Fund

Leonie Lockwood gave a brief overview of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) which could provide funding of up to £20 million. A Task Force had been set up to review projects for inclusion in the bid. Key factors were support of the local MP and projects needed to be ‘shovel ready’. Consultation was on-going with further Task Force meetings planned to develop a consensus on suitable projects. Decisions would also be informed by existing reports e.g. Street Spaces, Station Masterplan. Lessons learnt from Forest of Dean and Gloucester bids would be useful, especially in relation to job creation.

The meeting closed at 11.51am

Chair

Date