

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the REGENERATION WORKING GROUP

Thursday, 9th December 2021, at 10.00am

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Present

Cllrs Geoffrey Andrews (until item 12), 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 District Council: Leonie Lockwood (Regeneration Delivery Lead); Stroud Valley Artspace: Jo Leahy

1. Apologies

Hannah McDonnell, Stroud Tourism Forum; Yakub Mulla, Gloucestershire County Council Highways; Alexis Newport, Gloucestershire County Council; Kevin Mather, Atkins; Andrew Watton, Stroud Chamber

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 7th October 2021 were noted by the members present and will be approved by the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

Members agreed to reorder the agenda as follows.

10. Verbal report on the Goods Shed from Stroud Valley Artspace

Jo Leahy, Co-Director from Stroud Valley Artspace, explained the proposed development at the Goods Shed. This included the installation of nine shipping containers, disabled access, and the creation of public open space. Further work is proposed, subject to further funding. Members welcomed the proposals.

6. Budget report to end October 2021

The budget report was **noted**.

7. Draft budget to 2022-23

The Clerk introduced the report. Members discussed alternative uses for underspend from Neighbourhood Development Plan review. It was **agreed** that underspend could be used for Levelling Up Fund work and taking forward ideas from the Street

Spaces work. As a new Stroud District Council tourism officer is due to start in March 2022, it was **agreed** the £5k previously allocated for a tourism post could be used to promote tourism in Stroud until March 2022.

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

The report was **noted**.

9. Report on Street Spaces report

The Clerk outlined how the Street Spaces report had fed into thinking for the Levelling Up Fund bid through partnership working with Stroud District and Gloucestershire County Councils. The main areas under discussion are Wallbridge, Cainscross and the Rowcroft/Cheapside junction. The cycle lanes proposed in the report were of concern to businesses due to the loss of car parking spaces and potential negative impact on town centre businesses. In response to this cycle lanes will not be included in the bid. There were further concerns over the potential loss of more on-street parking because of Gloucestershire County Council's Parking Review.

11. Update on the Levelling Up Fund bid

Leonie Lockwood, Regeneration Delivery Lead from Stroud District Council updated members on the progress of bid development which concentrated on the 'gateways' of Wallbridge and the train station. Useful meetings had taken place with district council consultants regarding Wallbridge. Another meeting with Network Rail and Great Western Railway had also been promising. Other areas of the bid included cultural elements and co-working/training space. A final decision on which elements would be taken forward had not yet been made, as further guidance on priorities for the next round of applications was still awaited from government.

12. Update on Gloucestershire County Council parking review

Unfortunately, no officer from County was able to attend the meeting. There was general dissatisfaction about the approach and methodology of the review, especially as it was only looking at on-street parking. It was **agreed** the town council should commission its own parking research, taking a more integrated approach which looked at both off and on-street parking, delivery requirements, cyclist parking and taxi ranks. This work to be commenced as soon as possible.

Action: Clerk and Project Officer to devise specification for circulation early in the new year.

13. Report on Market Tavern site

Andrew Watton had circulated a report on the potential demolition of the Market Tavern. The site is identified in the 'Shaping the Heart of Stroud' Neighbourhood Development Plan as a mixed used development site. It was noted that as the property is in a Conservation Area and a public house, planning permission would be required to demolish it. It was agreed to request a pre-application consultation from the site owner via Andrew Watton.

Cllr Cranston reported on engagement event concerning on major sewer improvement works to be undertaken by Severn Trent Water early in 2022. These

were due to be on-going in various locations around the town for over a year. Whilst the works were felt to be necessary and welcomed, it was inevitable that considerable disruption would be experienced whilst they are undertaken. It was **agreed** to ask Severn Trent Water to brief the next Consultations and Highways meeting in January 2022.

The meeting closed at 12.00 (noon)

Chair

Date