



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Stroud Regeneration Committee
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	17/2/2022

BRIEF REPORT

Progress Report from Gloucestershire County Council on parking review

Alexis Newport reported on GCCs review around parking in the town centre. There are a lot of other projects taking place at the same time: Street scapes, Levelling up, STC parking review. Call for more partnership working. Proposing to set up a working group with key stakeholders.

Tony Davey (representing businesses) mentioned concerns around monetising streets and asked for a date for the report from the consultation.

There were 4589 letters dropped with a 28% response rate to the informal consultation. One street in the middle of the consulted area categorically didn't want to be included in any new parking zone.

David Drew mentioned EV parking and the need to get ahead of this in terms of support for EVs and on-street parking. Alexis Newport is working with the same Atkins project officer on both parking and EV charging to make sure that it's joined up.

Budget to end January 2021 received and noted

Project Officers' Report

This covered the London Road Temporary Closure Order, Stroud Town Council Parking survey, Real Time Passenger information boards at the station & bus station and Welcome Back Funding

Street closure on London Road due to end in March. Need for public awareness raising. Local businesses to respond to impact on trade of street closures.

Although not a formal discussion point of the meeting, concerns were raised about the proposed increase in parking charges in the District Council budget. Cllr Robin Layfield responded with a breakdown of the revenue implications, the 3% being less than the current rate of inflation and an outline of the partnership work that SDC is doing towards redeveloping the back of Brunel mall to permit access to the station car park and the Goods shed.

Clerk reminded group that only the Officer's report was subject to discussion in the group and that no actions could be agreed outside of noting the report.

Report on design work for the Subscription Rooms forecourt

Chris Woolner spoke about the Subscription Rooms forecourt development. He presented a design vision for the forecourt incorporating trees, benches, graduated steps and a rill to draw water away from the forecourt.

Leonie Lockwood suggested liaising between the subs forecourt design team and the Wallbridge team to establish a common design language for key sites in Stroud.

Chris Woolner discussed the communications plan. They are using an online consultation platform called *Commonplace* for public consultation and will be promoting the consultation online, through the press and tv as well as informal anecdotal conversations on the street.

Progress report from SDC on Levelling Up Fund application

Leonie Lockwood (SDC) presented an update on Stroud's Levelling up bid. SDC are still awaiting for an announcement on Round 2. There has been a pre-announcement on the "Shared Prosperity Fund" which provides an opportunity for Capital and Revenue funding.

The Wallbridge Masterplan is in progress and there was a Stakeholder meeting on 16/2/2022. Gloucestershire County Council is working with Atkins on cycle routes at Wallbridge and on Brunel Mall development. Lansdown Hall work is progressing and SDC is looking at the Goods Shed.

SDC met with the Department of Transport, to explore submitting an Access for All bid to develop lifts at the station.

Consider a request from Stroud District Council for support for a waste storage area at Fawkes Place

There are real issues with fly tipping, waste and rats in Fawkes place which is immediately behind the Subscription Rooms.

SDC has put forward a proposal around building a lockable bin storage area with ongoing maintenance funded by neighbouring business users. STC does not feel that it has the capacity to manage a secure bin storage area but can hold keys if required.

The problems may be wider than commercial waste, with many neighbouring properties having nowhere to store refuse and persistent fly tipping on the site.

We were anecdotally informed that businesses may be open to contributing towards this. Commercial fly tipping is a big issue.

Helen Bojaniwska (Clerk) is going to reach out to other councils for advice. Robin Layfield suggested bringing in specific expertise to help to work up a solution to turn this space into an opportunity. It may be possible to bring this into the Levelling Up bid and Helen Bojaniwska will consult with Leonie Lockwood to see if there is anything that can be done.

Report on tourism support

Ally Rood presented a report on the Market Towns' Tourism Officer. £5k has been allocated towards a Tourism officer but the decision has been made to use this fund directly to promote tourism. Not all market towns in the district have committed to this fund.

Suggestions have revolved around articles promoting the market towns as well as a "place and experience" app to guide visitors around the district. The cost of developing an app across the district could be covered by the Welcome Back fund (£20k for the app).

There would be an ongoing annual hosting fee for the council of around £3k.

A decision was made around copywriting and spend of the initially allocated £5k with the Regeneration Committee voting unanimously to recommend that the money be allocated towards to copywriting.

In addition to the app, Tony Davey referred members to wonderful resources right under our noses in **VisitStroud.uk** and the **VisitStroud.uk/Discover** campaign.

The meeting concluded with a further discussion around parking issues, with a suggestion that GCC, SDC, STC and other stakeholders should work more closely together on exploring the options.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Cllr Robin Layfield
DATE	17/2/2022