



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### MEMBER REPORT

|                                      |                               |
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| <b>NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY</b>     | Stroud Regeneration Committee |
| <b>DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED</b> | 21/07/2022                    |

#### BRIEF REPORT

##### Questions from the public

###### BUS TIMES

Question about the availability of a booklet showing times for public transport. Helen BOJANIWSKA proposed to write to county to request more information. The principal issue here is that bus schedules are currently highly disrupted, so it is difficult to keep printed media up to date. Unfortunately, many bus users do not have access to online or smartphone apps, so printed timetables are their only resource.

Kevin CRANSTON suggested working collaboratively with local town and parish councils to produce a joint information leaflet on available local transport provision that can be shared widely.

###### NOISE FROM TOWN CENTRE VENUE

Complaints about noise from a local venue as a result of live music performances.

Suggestion to go back to District Council about enforcing busking rules. There is a wider issue here about use of street space for social / antisocial activities, eg. street stalls, leafletting and busking.

##### **To receive a presentation on community bus services from Thea POWELL, Transport Project Officer, Integrated Transport Unit, Gloucestershire County Council.**

Helen took this item as Thea wasn't able to attend the meeting or give the presentation. There have been numerous issues with poor bus services across not only the town but the entire district. STC is keen to determine which services are publicly subsidised by GCC (these would be within GCC's remit to demand and enforce a better quality of service.)

Question asked: would Stroud Town Council be able to organise, deliver and run a community bus service? Lots of examples of this practice co-ordinated by town councils were supplied to the committee.

Adrian OLDMAN has spoken to Gloucestershire County Council about this and has been informed by the cabinet member that the County Council is prioritising services and has given

them an 8% uplift in the subsidy. Funding commitment of £9million per year, of which £6million is for reimbursing bus passes.

There is a County Council All-Party Task & Finish Group in the process of being set up to look at bus services but this has no budget. Separately, Central Government has made a commitment to radically improve bus services across the district by 2030.

Camilla HALE mentioned a social enterprise called HCT Group that work on community transport provision.

Tony DAVEY talked about the benefits for employment and tourism of having a properly functioning bus service, in particular mentioning the difficulties people can have in getting to work using an unreliable and unpredictable service.

Robin DRURY-LAYFIELD mentioned attending the recent Decarbonising Gloucestershire forum and the overwhelming support for improvements to bus infrastructure from stakeholders present <https://www.mentimeter.com/app/presentation/3d287e7cb72f4ad392cf38c961a334be/4123d697e262>

Suggestion made to write to the MP to follow up previously announced Government commitments to public transport improvements across Stroud District.

#### **To receive the Project Officer's report (for information only)**

Ally ROOD met with representatives from Dursley, Nailsworth, Stonehouse & Wotton-under-Edge to make amendments to the Market Towns Tourism brief. There have been issues with the procurement process as was reported previously and the procurement process is now scheduled to re-commence 25 July 2022, with the actual contract to start from October.

Project Officer & Deputy Clerk met with Amy BECKETT and Amy HELLIWELL (both from SDC) to discuss the place experience platform/app, in particular the need for content creation and delivery.

#### **PARKING SURVEY UPDATE**

SDC have requested a meeting with Great Western and other partners.

Question raised with SDC about bicycle parking at the station and the possible use of Brunel Mall basement. SDC interested in the outcome of the parking survey with regards to revisiting the plan for bike parking.

#### **STATION USER SURVEY UPDATE**

Adrian OLDMAN mentioned that he couldn't find any copies of the survey at the station when he last visited. The survey is available online here and will run until the end of July in printed and online form: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/StroudStationTravelExperiences/>

Ally ROOD has asked Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership (GCRP) about putting up posters to promote the survey. Great Western Rail are not very keen on having posters and other items on the platform.

STC have paid out funds for people to hand out surveys and engage face-to-face with visitors to the station.

Bike parking was discussed. Tony Davey made the point that Visit Stroud have produced maps showing bike parking in Stroud Town and Nailsworth Town and that there is a need for far better

provision for secure bike parking for cargo bikes and bikes capable of carrying pannier bags. Robin DRURY-LAYFIELD mentioned the Walking and Cycling Task & Finish recommendation for producing maps of the district's bike routes showing bike parking locations and also the planned Towns and Parishes active travel summit happening later this year. Toney DAVEY has requested the opportunity for other stakeholder groups, eg. the Chambers of Trade to be invited to participate and potentially to help fund active travel initiatives. RDL to follow up.

**To approve a draft timetable and budget for Neighbourhood Development Plan Review**  
Proposal to revisit and refresh the Neighbourhood Development plan to take into account changes in national and local policy since the original plan "*Shaping the Heart of Stroud*" was introduced in 2016.

Changes to the boundary have been approved by SDC, see here:  
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/StroudStationTravelExperiences/>

There is a minor amend to the timetable to bring forward SEA Screening from its current scheduled date of June 2023.

Much of the work and budget will be given over to Community Engagement exercises in the town.

Further discussion was had around feeding back into Gloucestershire County Council LCWIPs (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans) and potentially doing more work on walking and cycling routes and active travel across Stroud Town in general.

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| <b>REPORT SUBMITTED BY</b> | Cllr Robin Drury-Layfield |
| <b>DATE</b>                | 21/07/2022                |