



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Stroud Regeneration Committee
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	11 th February 2021

BRIEF REPORT:

There were four main items on the agenda

1) Agenda item 8: **Temporary closure of London Road on Saturday mornings to allow social spacing in farmer market**

The current temporary road closure order expired on 3rd April 2021. Kardien Gerbands, operator of Stroud Farmers' Market explained to the committee that the additional space provided by the current, temporary closure of London Road on Saturdays was successful and had been welcomed by traders and shoppers. Given the popularity of the market, he was seeking a commitment to permanently closing London Road on Saturdays to facilitate the market.

Members discussed the current closure, including the costs of traffic management. It was agreed to extend the temporary closure until September. It was also agreed to investigate a longer term closure which would involve a TRO which is a much more in-depth and lengthy process. Clerk and Project Officer to progress temporary road closure order and investigate permanent long-term closure and report to next committee.

2) Agenda item 9: **Stroud District One Public Estate Bid and land release bid .**

Brendan Cleere gave details of the bid, which consisted of two elements:

- £200,000 for masterplanning and what is possible regarding housing and retrofitting of historic properties
- £1million for Brimscombe Port development

Both funding sources have been oversubscribed, but it was hoped that the uniqueness of the retrofitting element would prove beneficial. The Council were likely to hear the result of their bid during the week commencing 22nd February 2021. Brendan Cleere also noted the bid process had resulted in close working with partners, including STC and GCC, and had strengthened relations with these bid partners.

3) Agenda item 10: **Stroud District Council Covid-19 Recovery Strategy**

Brendan Cleere reported that this consisted of multiple elements, including the Regeneration and Canal Strategy and the One Public Estate bid. In addition, an Economic Development Strategy for the district had been commissioned to investigate how to secure a strong future

of the towns within the District. Stroud District Council had applied to government to be a gateway for the Kickstart Scheme, aimed at 16–25 year-olds. Developing this bid had strengthened the Council's relationships with businesses, especially smaller ones. Elsewhere, the Council had concentrated its Covid-19 recovery work around the themes of: environment and climate, community, and housing. The Council will be recruiting officer on a temporary basis to help deliver this work.

4) Agenda item 11: **Update report from Stroud Tourism Forum by Hannah McDonnell.**

Hannah McDonnell gave an update on the work of the Stroud Tourism Forum.

To make businesses more visible forum members have discussed the use of brown tourism signage. But this requires a cumbersome and costly application process to Glos CC. The Clerk agreed to work with Brendan Cleere to see if this process could be streamlined

Other work highlighted included a series of trails e.g. agri-tourism, funded by GWR, to be launched on 1st March 2021. Town Council had signed up to the Cotswold AONB Kingfisher Trail taking place over the summer.

The current pandemic continued to impact on destination marketing which was causing further anxiety for businesses. **(NB. This was before the Times voted Stroud the best town In England to live)**

The Visit Stroud website was proving successful. **Councillors were urged to promote the site:** <https://www.visitstroud.uk/>

Action: The Clerk to investigate potential for gateway signs and consult with Brendan Cleere

DATE	07 April 2021
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Councillor Pickering