

Stroud District Councillors' Report – July 2021

Report of meetings during June

All Stroud District Council and Committee papers can be found here:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings>

Community Services & Licencing Committee – 24 June (Cllr Tucker)

The topics covered were:

- To consider the Council's Youth Work Strategy.
- To approve participation in the 'Hear by Right' Youth Award Programme on behalf of SDC and agree an officer/member Working Group to support the development of an application.
- The appointment of members as Performance Monitoring Representatives.
- The appointment of members to 'outside bodies'. Cllr Tucker is the representative of the Stroud Road Safety Liaison Group.
- A brief review of the proposed Committee Work Programme for 2021-22. (Additional considerations were made at a further meeting on 1st July).

Meeting papers can be found [here](#).

On 22nd June, all Committee members attended a compulsory virtual training session to update on all the legal aspects regarding Licencing and Licencing Appeals. This covered Licenced Premises, Premises Licence Holders, Taxies, Strip Clubs/Tattoo Parlours etc, Member's Clubs and Temporary Event Notices. On average, there are about 10 Appeals/year and each of the 12 members are expected to take it in turn to sit on the 3-member Appeal Panel.

Environment Committee – 17 June (Cllr James)

The main business of this meeting was the emerging Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the Stroud Area, as presented to the meeting by Dr Dave Land and Sarah Williams of GCC. The plan is based on their consultation and desk based research and focuses on what they see as the main cycling desire lines from Stonehouse through Stroud and out to Chalford, and from Stroud to Nailsworth. The draft LCWIP is not being published yet, as it has not been internally approved, but the presentation can be viewed [here](#) (about two minutes in). Further LCWIPs will follow for other areas of the district, with Cam & Dursley next, and Wotton-Kingswood to follow.

The LCWIP is intended to support future funding applications for these major schemes – but there was no guidance on how the smaller routes to connect to these major routes might progress and be funded. Nor were the officers able to say what would be the expected percentage uptake in cycling as a result of the LCWIP being implemented, nor the carbon reductions it is expected to deliver. The officers' consultation remains open, so community groups can send their views and visions to David.land@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

The committee resolved to support the emerging LCWIP, work with GCC on the other LCWIPs for the district, continue to support local cycle and walking projects as identified in the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan, and delegate authority to Simon Maher (Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer) and others to allocate funding to projects consistent with the above plans.

Appointments of SDC members to outside bodies were also agreed, including to the Cotswold AONB, Berkeley Nuclear Stakeholders and the Lower Severn Drainage Board. Meeting documents can be found [here](#).

Development Control Committee – 15 June

There was only one planning application on the agenda, which was refused:

S.20/2148/OUT | Redevelopment of the site for an industrial use (Use Class B2/B8) and retail use (Use Class A1) including the change of use of an existing dwelling house to office use (B1) with associated works, infrastructure and the creation of a new highway access onto the A38 with all matters relating to appearance and landscaping reserved | Sunnyside Nurseries Cam Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5JA

Refusal was in line with the officer recommendation and the recommendation of county highways due to highway safety concerns in relation to the proposed new access onto the A38 in a 60mph zone, on the casting vote of the chair after a 5-5 tie.

SDC issues

- **Local Plan consultation – extended to 21 July**

Following approval by Council on 29 April, the SDC Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (covering planning changes up to 2040) is out for consultation and the deadline has now been extended to midnight on 21 July. The documentation is published online – at www.stroud.gov.uk/localplanreview

No further changes will be made to the plan as a result of the consultation but all comments, along with the plan will be submitted for examination by an independent Planning Inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State. Cllr Tucker has delivered hard copies of this Pre Submission Draft Local Plan to WTC, NNPC and SPC representatives, along with a copy the current 2016 Local Plan for comparison.

- **Council meeting cancelled**

The full Council meeting scheduled for 15 July has been cancelled because of the ongoing Covid restrictions and to avoid unnecessary cost of holding a meeting at Stratford Park Leisure Centre. Since the council is no longer legally allowed to hold remote meetings a meeting of all 51 councillors would need to take place in a bigger venue at the Leisure Centre which would cost more than £3,000 (mostly for the additional microphone hire). All business items have been deferred to the next meeting as there was nothing requiring urgent discussion.

- **Proposed boundary changes could change who represents you in Parliament**

As you will be aware, the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has published its initial proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries. The proposals and maps for the nine English regions have been published on the Boundary Commission's website and the eight-week public consultation period will close on August 2, 2021. It is proposed that Wotton-under-Edge and North Nibley parishes move back into Stroud Constituency. Stroud District Council's views will be discussed at the Strategy & Resources Committee meeting on 22 July. Reference: www.bcereviews.org.uk.

- **Improving transport for young people**

Stroud District Council is encouraging young people to participate in a travel needs survey – to help transport providers learn more about what young people need and what infrastructure needs to be put in place, including cycling and use of scooters. Stroud District Youth Council is working in cooperation with Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership (GCRP) to seek the views and opinions of young people (aged between 10-25) on transport and travel within the county.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GlosYouthTravelSurvey/>

- **Deadline for EU Settled Status applications**

Stroud District Council stepped up the information campaign during June about the need for EU citizens to apply to the EU Settled Status Scheme before 30 June in order to keep their rights to live and work in the UK. Cllr Braun wrote to every resident with EU citizenship on the Electoral Roll within the Wotton Ward to inform them of the deadline. Most residents had already completed the EUSS application but one older resident was not aware of the scheme at all and was grateful to receive a letter, which enabled them to submit an application before the deadline. Elderly people are particularly at risk of exclusion due to the way the scheme is administered.

- **Tricorn House**

On 18 June a tragic incident at the disused Tricorn House building in Stroud resulted in the death of a young person. Stroud District Council officers contacted the owners of the building and managed to secure access points to avoid any further access to the site. The council has granted planning permission for several schemes for the site although none have progressed.

- **Animal welfare issues**

Stroud District Council's Animal Welfare Officers have noticed increased sightings of dogs with cropped ears and docked tails. There have been five reported cases within the district in the last two months. Ear cropping and tail docking is illegal in the UK unless performed by a vet for medical reasons, and is referred to as 'mutilation' under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. If residents see a dog with cropped ears and/or a docked tail, they are asked to contact SDC at 01453 766321 or environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk or the RSPCA at 0300 1234 999.

June council meetings from the previous report

Strategy & Resources Committee Meeting – 10 June (Cllr Braun & Cllr Tucker)

Brimscombe Port redevelopment was the main agenda item – and the Committee unanimously supported the proposals to take steps to give notice to the tenants on the former industrial site, to secure vacant possession. Much of the discussion focused on what additional support could be provided to the tenants (Rush Skatepark and Grace Network) to find new homes. Both of these organisations are social enterprises and deliver huge benefits to the community. The Grace Network runs Stroud Furniture Bank, The Long Table, Stroud District Kids' Stuff, Kick Off Stroud, The Bike Drop, Gloucestershire House Clearances and facilitates Stroud Foodbank. So far only Stroud Foodbank has definite plans to relocate. The Committee received a petition with over 3500 signatures in support of Rush Skatepark.

Redevelopment of the port is one of SDC's corporate priorities. It will be the destination at the eastern end of the canal – with the project delivering a reinstated canal and basin, a sustainable, new residential-led mixed use community. The redevelopment will also deliver better cycling and walking links, environmental improvements, a tourist destination, space for community and social enterprise. It will require new housing to be carbon neutral and include a minimum of 30% affordable homes. More information on the project can be found [here](#).

Brimscombe Port is a very complex and challenging site to develop and would be unviable without the significant amounts of public investment that have been secured. The tenants will need to vacate the site so that pre-demolition surveys can begin and the demolition of units can start outside of the main activity season for bats (between October to April). Works in the river required for the redevelopment are only

permitted outside the fish spawning season (i.e. from June to September). Next steps on the [project milestones](#) include marketing of the development opportunity and stating the procurement for a developer.

The Committee also received updates on the following:

- the Property Review ([link](#)), which references the review of Public Conveniences, which has been deferred to autumn 2022 due to Covid.
- Report of the first meeting of the Regeneration and Investment Board, which covered the Levelling Up Fund bid (SDC need to apply – but as the Government have designed this fund for constituencies, funding would only cover Stroud Constituency), Canal Corridor strategy, a pipeline of capital investment and regeneration schemes and a further bid for One Public Estate funding. ([link](#))
- Corporate delivery Plan Progress, Corporate Peer Challenge progress and grant payments to the leisure provider SLM in Stroud. ([link](#)).

Housing Committee meeting – 8 June

Meeting papers can be found [here](#). As a follow up to the previous meeting, the committee considered the Council Housing Income Collection and Recovery Policy, Tenant Services Compensation Policy, Visitor Room Policy for Independent Living (formerly known as sheltered housing), the Cleaner Estates Strategy Action Plan and Service Standards Action Plan.