

26th September 2024



To Members of the Regeneration Working Group

You are invited to a virtual meeting of the Working Group to be held on **Thursday, 3rd October 2024** at **10am** to conduct the following business and make recommendations to the CEO (Town Clerk).

Helen Bojaniwska
CEO (Town Clerk)

The meeting will be held via the [Zoom meeting platform](#).

Meeting ID: **814 1586 9407**
Passcode: **035242**

For more information about attending Council meeting via Zoom please refer to the [guidance on our website](#).

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive declarations of interest
3. To consider requests for dispensations
4. To receive questions from the public
5. To note the minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration Working Group on 18th July 2024, previously circulated
6. To receive an update on actions from previous meetings
7. To receive progress reports from Gloucestershire County Council on:
 - a. Merrywalks Transport Hub
 - b. Bus shelter installation on King Street
8. To receive progress reports from Stroud District Council on:
 - a. town centre cleanliness
 - b. town centre toilets
 - c. car park improvements
 - d. installation of bike lockers at Brunel Mall car park
 - e. Wallbridge improvements
 - f. Tourism
9. To receive a report on bus shelters
10. To receive a budget report to end August 2024
11. To receive the CEO's verbal report
12. To receive a verbal report from the Stroud District Chamber of Trade
13. To review progress on Stroud District Council's Vitality Fund

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (age, race, gender, sexual orientation, faith, marital status and disability); Crime and Disorder (Section 17); Health and Safety; and Human Rights.

Merrywalks – resident representation

A Stroud resident rang to make a representation as she does not have online access.

Replacing the old bus station was a bad idea. The current arrangements are unsafe, particularly for children crossing the road. She witnessed a young Marling student crossing while using his mobile very nearly get run over. It's a crazy dangerous site and she was surprised there had been no fatalities.

Stroud needs a proper bus station like the one in Gloucester.

People do not respect the 20mph speed limit.

The hub project is a white elephant. It's an accident waiting to happen.

Item 6: To receive an update on actions from previous meetings

DATE OF MEETING	ACTION	OFFICER	STATUS	Priority	NOTES
20/07/2023	Inform group when Market Tavern planning application has been submitted	CEO	In progress		Updated designs were discussed at a C&H meeting in July.
12/10/2023	Deputy Clerk to discuss setting up SLA with SDTF with the Town Clerk	Deputy Clerk	On hold		
15/2/2024	Delivering the Windows of Opportunity pilot - to get the future high street champions a presence on in the town	Chamber of Trade	In progress		
15/2/2024	Bike lockers in Brunel Mall Car Park	SDC	In progress		See item 8
15/2/2024	New information boards for car parks (with "spaces remaining info)	SDC	In progress		See item 8
15/2/2024	Fire Door Holders in Brunel Mall Car Park, many still out of action	SDC	In progress		See item 8
25/4/2024	SDC to organise an action day to search black bags and fly-tipped waste. Cllr Drew to enquire about the request for support with back-edging. SDC to confirm whether litter and recycling bins, and street furniture can be washed. SDC officers to investigate enforcement of fly-posting. CEO to share previous emails about fly-posting.	SDC/Cllr Drew	Complete		
20/6/2024	Invite Gloucestershire County Council to report on the Merrywalks project at the next meeting.	CEO	In progress		See item 7
20/6/2024	Research replacement of missing History Board and seek funding from Five Valleys Shopping Centre – location to be decided	CEO	Not started		
20/6/2024	Investigate potential to extend History trail to include the St Laurence Church grounds.	CEO	In progress		In discussion with Church
20/6/2024	Transfer ownership of notice boards opposite Sims Clock and at the top of the High Street to Stroud Town Council.	Stroud District Council	In progress		
20/6/2024	Refurbish and repurpose notice boards	CEO	In progress		Vitality Fund application submitted for replacement with larger boards
20/6/2024	investigate with Community Safety and Environmental Health and report back on SDC's timetable for progressing enforcement work on environmental crimes and have they written to the worst fly-posting offenders?	Brendan Cleere	In progress		

DATE OF MEETING	ACTION	OFFICER	STATUS	Priority	NOTES
20/6/2024	Collate a list of poster locations for sharing.	STC Comms and Engagement Officer	In progress		
20/6/2024	Share final report on public toilets with the CEO and Chamber Chair to review and agree priorities.	Mike Towson	In progress		See item 8
20/6/2024	Include the reasons for toilet closures in posters.	Mike Towson	Complete		
20/6/2024	Discuss potential collaboration with other towns on the procurement of bike storage lockers to potentially secure bulk discounts.	Mike Towson and Cllr Davey	Not known		
20/6/2024	Send report on tourism activity.	Brendan Cleere	Incomplete		See item 8
20/6/2024	Find out what colour paints will be used on the station bridge refurbishment	Leonie Lockwood	In progress		
20/6/2024	Liaise with CEO on Wallbridge improvements	Leonie Lockwood	In progress		See item 8
20/6/2024	Submit Vitality Fund applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town maps and noticeboards • Support for the tourism leaflets proposal submitted by the Chamber • A Shopfront improvements scheme (to be operated by Stroud District Council) • Stroud Goodwill evening 	CEO Chamber	Submitted		Also added application for projector
20/6/2024	Creating a safe link between the schools on Cainscross Road and Stroud station.	All partners	Future work plan		
20/6/2024	Transfer responsibility for town centre benches and street furniture to Stroud Town Council	SDC	Future work plan		
18/7/2024	Confirm whether RTPI could be installed at the railway station and inside the shopping centre ahead of the Merrywalks works.	GCC	Not known		See item 7
18/7/2024	Circulate map of the land ownership in Merrywalks.	CEO	Complete		
18/7/2024	Bus shelter installation on King Street: approach Lloyds Bank	CEO	In progress		Letter sent 23/8/2024 – no reply
18/7/2024	Bus shelter installation on King Street: consider relocation of bus stop	GCC	Not known		
18/7/2024	Investigate responsibility for roundabout weeding	SDC - MT	Not known		

Bus shelters

AUTHORS

CEO (Town Clerk)

CONSULTEES

GCC Highways and Integrated transport

FOR MEETING

Regeneration 3rd October 2024

RECOMMENDATION

Request the CEO to discuss a potential asset transfer of bus shelters currently in District and County Council ownership.

Work with bus operators and Gloucestershire County Council to identify which bus stops attract the most passengers and where there is scope for new shelters, then run a public consultation to prioritise sites, with a view to developing a 3-year installation plan.

REPORT

In order to achieve the Council's strategic objective to be: "An attractive, viable, safe and well-connected community", through improvements to public transport services and infrastructure, a budget has been set for bus shelters in the town. This budget could potentially be used for maintaining or improving existing shelters or installing new ones. Bus infrastructure is also included in the Town Council's priorities for CIL expenditure.

Existing shelters

A map has been created showing the location of all of the bus stops and identifying which ones already have shelters.

Stroud is home to multiple bus stops, not including the Merrywalks site¹. Many of these already have bus shelters. Only one shelter, on Cornill, is owned and maintained by the Town Council.

Eight are known to be owned by Stroud District Council – see **Appendix A** – NB photos are out of date.

Responsibility for the remaining shelters is thought to default to Gloucestershire County Council. That leaves many stops with no shelters.

Given the pressure on District Council budgets there is potential to negotiate a transfer of the ownership of their existing shelters, ideally with a small dowry to reduce the initial budget impact.

¹ The shelters at Merrywalks are part of a separate project so are not included in this report.

Gloucestershire County Council have arrangements with a contractor for maintaining the remaining shelters, but should also be included in negotiations.

New shelters

It should be possible to identify through data from the bus operators, and potentially through public consultation, where there is greatest demand for new shelters.

The design of any new shelters will depend on the space available. Some sites may be able to accommodate living roofs which would help boost biodiversity.

One stop where there is known demand is the very busy stop outside Lloyds Bank on King Street. At the last meeting it was reported that it would not be feasible to instal a new bus shelter in the pavement at the stop, but it was agreed to write to the bank to see if they would consider giving permission to install one on their side of the boundary fence. I have written to the bank as requested and await their response.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Parish and Town Councils are permitted to provide and maintain in any highway within their district which is comprised in the route of public service vehicles, or on any land abutting on such a highway, shelters or other accommodation at stopping places on the route for the use of persons intending to travel on such vehicles under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1953, s. 4.

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

The budget for 2024-25 for bus shelters is £15,000. A further £24,685 could be committed from the CIL Earmarked Reserve, subject to Council approval.

The Council's Biodiversity Ranger has trained in maintaining living roofs, so can help maintain it.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The Council is legally bound by the public sector equality duty to prevent and eliminate discrimination, establish and promote equality and equal opportunities, and foster good relations between people with different protected characteristics.

A bus shelters might make bus travel more accessible for some people who might not otherwise be prepared to travel into the town centre because of the lack of shelter or seating.

CO2 IMPLICATIONS

Small potential to encourage people to travel by bus instead of car, reducing their carbon emissions.

Living roof bus shelters are said to “not only absorb carbon but help to capture contaminant particles. In return they give back clean air. As well as air filtration they also help to attenuate water, slowing down and taking up some of the storm water before it disappears down our sewer systems”. [More information](#).

Stratford Road (north side adj Church of Holy Spirit)



London Road, (south side adj. British Ok PH)



Bisley Old Road (south side adj. No.s 180 and 182)



Beeches Green (south side adj entrance to Health Centre)



Farmhill Lane (east side opp. Junction with Paganhill Estate)



Farmhill Lane, (east side adj junction Byron Road)



Folly Lane, (Opposite junction with Springfield)



Stratford Road, opposite no. 61



Annual Budget - By Committee (Actual YTD Month 5)

Note: Regeneration Budget Report 31/8/2024

		<u>2023/24</u>		<u>2024/25</u>						<u>2025/26</u>		
		Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
Regeneration												
108	REGENERATION											
4028	MILLON HOURS PROJECT	0	188	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4042	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	700	0	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	0
4115	CHRISTMAS LIGHTS	6,000	5,611	0	0	6,000	0	6,000	200	0	0	0
4128	TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS/CLEANL	3,000	282	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	1,545	0	0	0
4216	NDP Working group projects	5,000	215	0	0	30,000	0	30,000	0	0	0	0
4217	NDP Review	0	512	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4223	GOLDEN VALLEY PROJECT	20	17	0	0	18	0	18	13,844	0	0	0
4225	Pollution Monitoring	750	898	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	160	0	0	0
4228	BUS SHELTERS	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	0	15,000	0	0	0	0
4231	Real time passenger informatio	10,000	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	0	0
4232	Walking and Cycling projects	0	4,000	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	0	0
4998	TF FROM OTHER FUNDS	0	-726	0	0	-64,000	0	-64,000	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	40,470	10,998	0	0	14,018	0	14,018	15,749	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(40,470)	(10,998)			(14,018)		(14,018)	(15,749)	0		
	Regeneration - Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Expenditure	40,470	10,998	0	0	14,018	0	14,018	15,749	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(40,470)	(10,998)			(14,018)		(14,018)	(15,749)	0		

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	<u>2023/24</u>		<u>2024/25</u>						<u>2025/26</u>		
	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
Total Budget Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditure	40,470	10,998	0	0	14,018	0	14,018	15,749	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(40,470)</u>	<u>(10,998)</u>			<u>(14,018)</u>		<u>(14,018)</u>	<u>(15,749)</u>	<u>0</u>		