

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 AT BISLEY VILLAGE HALL**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	Mike Eccott	ME
	<b>Bisley Ward</b>	Lesley Greene	LG
		Martin Brown	MB
		Hazel Saunders	HS
	<b>Eastcombe Ward</b>	Jenny Exley	JE
		Louie Wilkes	LW
	<b>Oakridge Ward</b>	Roger Budgeon	RB
		Dennis Robbins	DR
		Helen Jones	HJ
		Tony Martin	TM
	<b>Clerk</b>	Ms A Deane	

1. **Apologies for absence.** DP and County Councillor Sue Williams
2. **Declarations of interest.** DR
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at Bisley Village Hall.** Carried.
4. **Matters and actions arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered in this agenda.**
  - Footpath obstruction to the side of Moorlands Cottage.  
ME commented that it is very difficult for the PC to get involved as it is not council land. LG confirmed that the PC will pursue the route becoming a public right of way. There is historical use of the path. MB commented that Stroud District Council (SDC) have confirmed enforcement will look at the front fence of Moorland Cottage to decide if it contravenes planning and/conservation regulations. There followed a discussion regarding SDC enforcement and retrospective planning.  
JE commented on the need for the tree policy to be posted on the website.  
LG commented that she had updated and sent. Action: Clerk to investigate.
5. **Public Participation - Members of the public are invited to address the Council.** No members of the public were present.
6. **County Council Matters – a report from County Councillor Sue Williams was distributed – Annex A to these minutes.**  
ME asked if Cllrs had any comments relating to the report.
  - HS commented that she was surprised that the new school, at the top of Stroud, was being made into a special school, which seems to be a change in policy. Also commented that the newly installed kissing gates still need to be stock proofed.
  - RB commented on the issue of resurfacing steep roads. MB confirmed this would be a question raised at the Highways meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>. RB also commented that Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways road signs and ballast still need to be collect from various locations in Oakridge and

Bisley. He asked if this could also be discussed at the next Highways meeting.

- LG commented about the closing of social care homes.

7. **District Council Matters –two reports from District Councillor Martin Brown were distributed**

MB read out detail from his short report. Annex B in these minutes. Annex C contains a more detailed report from the deputy leader.

LG commented about the Tourism strategy, in particular the impacts on sustainability and wild life, which need to be addressed very carefully.

8. **Agree the Parish Council Response to the following Planning Applications**

- a) S20/0056/STMAJW – Limekiln Farm pet cemetery – Letter issued as response by today 13<sup>th</sup> - **Objected**
- b) S.22/0422/FUL - The Paddocks, Nashend, Bisley - Change of Use from agriculture to agriculture and dog exercise. **Comments only. This application has been refused by SDC.**
- c) S.22/0342/TCA - Rectory Barn, Holloway Road, Bisley -1. Large Silver Birch - lower crown taken back to the trunk, sides brought in accordingly, reduce from 24m to 20m. 2. Sycamore - lower crown taken back, reduce from 24m to 20m. 3. Large beech - lower crown taken back to trunk, top reduced from 21m to 17m and sides reduced accordingly. 4. Two smaller Beech adjacent either side taken to ground level. **Approved at the March meeting.**
- d) S.22/0467/HHOLD - 3 Broadway , The Broadway, Oakridge Lynch - Removal of detached garage and construction of new artists studio building. **Support with conditions**
- e) S.22/0481/HHOLD - Sequel House , Middle Hill, Eastcombe - Demolition of existing garage & construction of replacement garage with studio over. **Object**
- f) S.22/0580/FUL - Land And Building At, Bisley Road - Proposed extension to existing agricultural workshop / store. **Support**
- g) S.22/0562/HHOLD - 1 Model Cottages, Eastcombe - To build a garden room at the top of the garden. **Object due to insufficient information**
- h) S.22/0701/TCA - Fieldholme Eastcombe - T1 - Blue Atlas Cedar: Perform end weight reduction of 1.5m to prevent further break outs in extreme weather conditions. Thin smaller epicormic growth to allow the wind to pass through the crown. T2 - Acacia: Re-Pollard to previous pollard points. **Support**
- i) S.22/0688/HHOLD - The Breezes, Stroud Road, Bisley - Erection of annexe. **Support**
- j) S.22/0700/TCA - Rose Cottage, Eastcombe -T1 - Conifer: Complete removal. **Support**
- k) S.22/0641/HHOLD - Claerwen, Cheltenham Road, Bisley - Erection of extension & the alteration of the existing flat top roof to a pitched roof including installing a roof light. **Support**
- l) S.22/0753/TPO - TPO 235, Redwood, Dr Crouch's Road, Eastcombe. - T1 - Redwood tree - dismantled to ground level. **Comments only**
- m) S.22/0741/HHOLD - Far Oakridge House, Far Oakridge - Construction of garden pergola. **Comments only**

ME asked if the list could be in ward order next time and all agreed that if possible the projector should be set up to show plans if necessary. Action: Clerk to organise.

9. **Matters for Discussion:**

- a) Adopt **Dark Skies policy** – DM sent the draft to RB who approved it. ME asked for approval to adopt. Approved. Action: Clerk to send to PS to post.

- b) **Tennis court quotations** – Clerk confirmed that two estimates had been received varying significantly in costings. Action: Clerk to organise a site visit with both and seek a third quote
- c) **Information Commissioners Office, membership** – Clerk explained the rationale for needing to register. Cost is £35 per year if paid by Direct Debit. Registration approved. Action: Clerk to initiate
- d) **Oakridge tree planting and costs** – RB had agreed with Spinneywell Nursery that the cost should be £500. Action: RB to ask for refund  
HJ asked about the needed tree maintenance at Cherry Piece. Action: Clerk to remind the contractor and ask for a start date
- e) **S137 grants**
  - (1) **Eastcombe Village Group** – Jubilee celebration June 5<sup>th</sup>  
After discussion a donation of £550 was approved (£300 of which is from the funding left over from the newsletter fund)
  - (2) **Cotswold Volunteer Wardens** – help towards running costs of their district vehicle and additional tools.  
After discussion a donation of £250 was approvedME asked if any of the other wards were applying. HS asked for £250 for Bisley. ME reminded members that application forms should be completed and submitted to the Clerk  
There was further discussion about several of the regular donations. It was agreed all on the agenda list are provisionally approved subject to S137 application forms being submitted. Action: Clerk to contact applicants and ask them to complete the S137 grant form. They can then be discussed and formal approvals can be decided at future meetings

## Approve monthly payments of account (details circulated)

Approved

April Payments 2022

The following payments were approved by the Parish Council

Cost code	Details	Payment	£	VAT	Total	Paid?
4021	Bisley WI Village Hall - Mar 2022	S/O	16.00		16.00	y
4070	Stroud District Council – Garage Rent	D/D	59.97	12.00	71.97	y
4000	D Meredith – Clerk's salary for March including backpay from April 2021 to March 2022 of £287.04 (24p per hour) as agreed by NALC	4420	1141.14			
		4420	195.20			
4002	DM Clerk's mileage/expenses	4420	27.45			
4004	Office rent	4420	26.00		1389.79	n
4000	Juliet Starr spoiled cheque number 004412 plus £5 salary	4421	20.00		20.00	n
4000	A Deane - Clerk salary for March	4422	302.04		302.04	n
4000	HMRC – Tax & NI for March (DM Clerk)	4423	313.76			
4000	HMRC – Tax & NI for March (AD Clerk)	4423	75.40		389.16	n
4001	LGPS - Clerk's Pension for March	D/D	372.13		372.13	y
	R H Attwood – Grass cutting invoice					
4050	Playing Fields		455.00			
4250	Teeds Rise		37.50			
4221	Bisley Allotments		32.50			
4215	George Street Bisley		10.00			
4265	Bisley play areas box mow		73.33			
4400	Oakridge Burial Ground		80.00			
4405	Oakridge Footpaths and greens		105.00			
4421	Oakridge Allotments		32.50			
4406	Oakridge Fountain Piece		23.33			
4407	Strim Oakridge Play Area Soft Surface		20.00			
		4424		173.83	1042.99	n
4465	OVHT-Pavilion electricity	4425	87.32		87.32	n
4200	EON- KGV electricity	D/D	74.31	3.72	78.03	
4015	Graduate Gardeners - ASC grass cutting	4426	81.50	16.30	97.80	n
4055	GCC Highways - 1 x VAS survey	Card			186.00	y
4202	Ben Lilly deposit return KGV hire	4427			40.00	n
4455	Spinneywell nursery - Oakridge tree planting	4428	518.50	103.70	622.20	n
4202	Seated furniture ltd- KGV pavilion	Card			177.62	y
4401	A Montague - Oakridge walling	4429	3826.00		3826.00	n
4201	Homefree - cleaning KGV pavilion 42175	4430	132.00			
4201	Homefree - cleaning KGV pavilion 42207	4430	132.00		264.00	n
	D W Robbins					
4072	Oakridge notice boards	4431	30.00			
4450	Oakridge allotments gate posts	4431	90.00			
4201	KGV repair soffit & guttering	4431	40.00		160.00	n
4320	Chalford PC - verge strimming 2021 Fourways	4432	36.00		36.00	n
4116	ARB vision - KGV field larch removal	4433	210.00		210.00	n
4072	Acorn workshop - jubilee oak plaques	4434	480.00	96.00	576.00	n
4026	GAPTC internal audit fees	4435	247.60		247.60	n
	Ian Trueman					
4320	Eastcombe grass cutting		170.00			
4300	Eastcombe allotments - gate post repair		25.00			
4055	Eastcombe Green - Bench installation		30.00			
4055	Eastcombe graveyard - rubbish clearance		40.00			
4072	Bisley Church nature reserve - sign installation		40.00			
4072	Bisley - new notice board installation		110.00			
		4436			415.00	n
4315	Water plus -allotments Eastcombe 1st Feb to 1st Mar	D/D	9.08		9.08	y
4075	zoom- monthly subscription	D/D	11.99	2.40	14.39	y
Totals			9839.55	407.95	10651.12	

## 11. Correspondence – Clerks report

- a) Letter sent to Bisley resident whose dog caused damage at the allotments.
- b) Letter requesting housing support was received, which MB as District Cllr will deal with
- c) Query received from a resident regarding the PCs 'strimming' policy. The PC has a 'verge' policy. It was agreed to post this on the website and let the resident know.  
Action: Clerk to organise
- d) Eastcombe WI have asked for permission to 'yarn bomb' the village green to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. This was approved. Action: Clerk let the WI know
- e) The storage heater in KGV pavilion needs reconnecting. Action: RB to organise
- f) Website review. The Clerk asked if all members if they would look at the PC website and see what they think works well and what could be improved. Action: all members to feedback to the Clerk
- g) Oakridge tennis court access coded lock was reported broken. Now fixed

12. **Ward Reports – Ward Chairmen to report on Ward matters**

**Bisley Ward** – HS advised members of water problems at the allotments and a quote has been received to undertake some remedial work. MB advised members of his meeting with the PCSO and County Councillor Sue Williams to look at options for working with residents regarding parking on the High Street, speeding and pavement obstruction. The idea is to hold a public meeting, which would also include the residents of Wells Road and George Street. HS suggested having a facilitator; MB commented that this could be the PCSO

**Eastcombe Ward** JE – 2 Highways signs advising HGV's that the road is unsuitable are next to each other and in the wrong place to be seen in time. ME commented that this would be raised at the Highways meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Also mentioned was the need for a serious discussion about where a member of the ward who dies would be buried

**Oakridge Ward** – RB nothing to report. HS commented that an enforcement report is awaited on two houses. Also that a dog agility course has been set up, which is causing additional parking and other problems. This could be a change of use issue, an email has been sent to SDC planning enforcement and a reply is awaited

14. **Date/location/format of Next Meeting – Chair** - May 4th at Bisley WI Village Hall for the AGM at 7:30pm.

Before closing the meeting the Chairman read out Debbie Meredith's thank you message for her leaving present and leaving event at the Lamb.

Annex A.  
**County Councillor report for April**

**Ukrainian Motion at Full council**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March the full council unanimously reinforced their commitment for the people of Ukraine, to support Ukrainian Nationals within our county and paid tribute to those who have responded to the crisis and supported the humanitarian relief sent from our county.

**The full council: -**

- wholeheartedly condemns the barbaric and illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces.
- As a democratic chamber, we are appalled by what we have seen unfold over recent weeks and we support the Ukrainian people in their fight to maintain democracy and self-determination as a nation.
- We applaud countries across the world who have come out to condemn the Russian regime and President Putin's leadership.
- Welcomes the sanctions placed on Russia by the Government of the United Kingdom and other nations to target those Russian individuals responsible for the aggression and the organisations which benefit from, and fund, the corrupt and oppressive Russian regime.
- Approves of the decision by our Pension Committee to prohibit new investments in Russian assets and to disinvest from all Russian-controlled and Russian-owned assets.
- Recognises the need for wrap-around support mobilising services such as adult social care, children's services, education, public health and mental health services.

The council also noted that as of 8 March 2022, over 2 million people had fled Ukraine. This figure will increase further, and that Gloucestershire has a proud record of welcoming refugees to our county.

This council therefore agrees and affirms:

- We stand with Ukraine and offer our full support for the people and their government in the face of unprovoked aggression.
- To provide any reasonable help and support to all Ukrainian nationals living in Gloucestershire and recognise the generosity of the public in offering homes to refugees.
- To work with District colleagues and GARAS to provide support for all refugees who arrive in Gloucestershire to help ensure that accommodation is appropriate, safe and sustainable.

Finally, this council extends its thoughts and prayers to members of the Gloucestershire Ukrainian community and pays tribute to the incredible generosity the people of Gloucestershire have shown in their personal efforts to support the humanitarian response to this crisis.

### **Cabinet agrees to consult over health and social care recommendations**

The proposals were put forward following a period of engagement with Gloucestershire's independent care market at the end of 2021 to help ensure the changing and more complex needs of residents can be met.

As well as being asked to agree to developing new services that help protect and maintain people's physical and mental wellbeing, supporting them to stay independent at home for as long as possible.

The Cabinet also agreed to begin a six-week consultation on the proposed closure of four of its existing care homes: Orchard House, Bishops Cleeve, Tewkesbury Westbury Court, Westbury, Forest of Dean, Bohanam House, Gloucester and The Elms, Stonehouse, Stroud

Demand for standard residential care home places has been falling consistently for the past five years. At the same time, more people are wanting to be cared for within their own home.

At the end of 2021 99% of Gloucestershire residents (across all ages) who responded to a survey said it was '*very important*' or '*quite important*' to be supported by community-based care to enable them stay in their own home for longer.

To further support people's stronger desire to stay at home for longer, the cabinet also agreed a new approach to using advances in technology to support caring for people at home.

The approach being taken by the county council has the backing of local NHS leaders who with an equally strong desire to support people to remain well and independent for as long as possible fully agree with the approach the council has set out.

Following the decisions take today, the county council and The Orders of St John Care Trust, who run the care homes as part of the Gloucestershire Care Partnership, will consult residents, their families, and employees to capture their views, concerns and comments as part of a six-week consultation.

The six-week consultation will begin next month, and the findings will be reported to Cabinet in June, where cabinet members will be asked to take a final decision on whether or not to proceed with the closure of the four homes.

**Residents do not need to do anything at the moment. They will continue to receive the care they need. If plans to close are approved residents and those who support them will be fully supported in finding the most appropriate way to meet their needs.**

### **The Holidays Activities and Food Programme Returns 11-14<sup>th</sup> April Easter Holiday**

Bookings are now open for the spring Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) funded by the Department of Education, for children eligible for benefits related free school meals.

Using grant funding, the council is also once again able to offer local holiday activities which are available to all children and young people across the county.

The spring programme will run for 4 days between 11 and 14 April 2022. Families who have registered previously will be automatically enrolled and do not need to sign up again.

Gloucestershire's HAF Programme is going from strength to strength, with the DfE confirming its continuation for the next three years and £1.59m funding for spring, summer and winter 2022.

In 2021, the council worked together with 6 district partners and over 140 activity providers to keep children and young people across the county active and engaged, with access to healthy food, for six weeks during the school holidays.

Following a successful pilot last spring, the summer and winter 2021 programmes supported:

- 21,063 children to attend face to face activity sessions, with 8865 also supported remotely
- 14,418 food boxes/tokens and 18,581 meals served
- 743 children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities

Go to Gloucestershire County Council web site

### **Government extends bus support grant after council lobbying**

Gloucestershire County Council welcomes the decision by the Government to extend the Bus Recovery Grant.

The council and its Cabinet member responsible for public transport, Cllr Philip Robinson, have lobbied for the extension of the grant.

The Bus Recovery Grant is financial support to bus operators from the Government to make up for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on passenger numbers.

The grant was due to end in March but has now been extended until October 2022.

Cabinet member Cllr Robinson said: "I am delighted that the Government has listened to our lobbying and extended this support for bus service providers.

"I hope that this additional support will give bus providers the time needed to recover from the pandemic and help prevent the loss of services for the people of Gloucestershire. I also hope that this extension in funding encourages more people to start using buses for their daily travel."

### **New special school for Stroud proposed**

The proposed new school would offer 60 places for children aged 4-11 years with moderate and additional learning difficulties, MALD for the academic year 2023/2024 in the school building formerly occupied by Severn View Primary Academy. The county council is asking parents and carers, head teachers, and local residents, especially those who live close to the proposed location for the new school to share their views on the proposal.

There is an increasing demand in Gloucestershire for special school places which means these children sometimes have to go to schools out of the county or to independent schools when there aren't places available locally.



The council wants to expand provision to make sure more children have the opportunity to go to school close to where they live and that specialist places are available where there is the most demand.

It has already increased the capacity of other special schools in the county and a new £9.5m special school for children and young people aged 11 – 16 years, Brook Academy, is opening in Brockworth, in September 2022. However, analysis shows that more special school places will be required in the coming years.

For more information and to have your say visit:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/newstroudschool>

### **Council set to put levelling up and social value at the heart of its work**

At its meeting on 30 March, the Cabinet considered changes to the policy. The changes will see new council contracts worth more than £178,000 ranked, where appropriate, not only by price and quality, but also by the additional social value that the proposal can bring to the people of Gloucestershire.

The additional social value includes job creation and the environment, as well as healthier, safer and more resilient communities.

In line with the council's ambitions to improve the quality of life for every community, changes to the policy will help ensure residents get the most out of money spent by Gloucestershire County Council and help to address areas of deprivation in the county.

This new policy has already been trialled by the council in several contract procurements. The council will publish the social value benefits from contracts each year to showcase the outcomes to the community.

Contractors that make successful bids will be held to their social value commitments, ensuring that they are providing the best service for both the council and its residents.

### **Repair, Reuse and Help for a Greener Gloucestershire**

Many items are thrown away with almost nothing wrong with them, but lots of people don't have the skills to repair things themselves.

Repairing and reusing items is even better for the environment than recycling, it can save money, reduce carbon emissions, reduce plastic waste, and reduce resource use.

If everyone in Gloucestershire repairs just one item, more than 600,000 items could be saved – the equivalent of 125 lorries worth of recycling.

Repair Cafes have been set up across the county, where talented volunteers can repair items for you. Items such as clothes, electronics, furniture, bric-a-brac, and bikes are all regularly brought along and repaired.

Those people that have DIY or crafting skills are encouraged to get involved and share their skills at their local Repair Cafe.

There are Repair Cafes all over Gloucestershire, including in Cheltenham, Cirencester, Yorkley, Newent, Tewkesbury, Stroud and Nailsworth.

Please get involved using #GreenerGloucestershire on social media, with your stories, hints and tips on repair.

For more information,

visit <https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/reduce/repair/>, or email, [waste@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:waste@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

For the latest news in this area, subscribe to the [Gloucestershire Recycles Recycling and Waste Minimisation newsletter](#), or the [Greener Gloucestershire Climate and Sustainability newsletter](#).

### **Significant progress made in Children's Services says Ofsted**

In the first line of its inspection report recently published, Ofsted recognise the significant progress the council has made in many areas of its children's services. The report goes on to highlight the relentless drive for improvement and significant financial investment made by the council, which has resulted in children being better protected.

Inspectors also commend social workers for their passion in achieving the best for children they support and how generally a more stable workforce is helping to deliver better support for children and young people.

The council's social work academy, another area of strength identified by inspectors, will support the council in delivering a strong, effective workforce for years to come.

### **Gloucestershire Living with COVID**

As the remaining government covid measures come to an end, it's important to acknowledge the fantastic community response seen across Gloucestershire throughout the pandemic.

Gloucestershire County Council also recognises the efforts of communities over the last two years and shares sincere thanks to the county for pulling together during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Gloucestershire Help Hub - run by the county council and designed to connect those who could help with those who needed help as a result of COVID-19 and isolation - received a total of 3742 individual offers of help; proving Gloucestershire people will go above and beyond to help those in need.

Although the county has some of the best vaccine take up rates in the country it is important every continues to take a few simple steps to remain safe and well.

## **What you do to prevent the spread:**

- Wash hands and use sanitiser regularly
- Open a window to ventilate indoor spaces
- Consider wearing a face covering in crowded places
- Stay at home and rearrange plans if unwell
- Get a jab; vaccinations remain the best way to prevent serious illness.

There are some settings and circumstances where additional infection, prevention and control measures will continue to help **protect** people who are most at risk of harm from COVID-19 and **contain** any spread of the virus. This includes in care homes who will put specific measures in place that work for their specific circumstances. We will also make sure rapid testing is available for individuals for those at greater risk to ensure they can access new treatments as quickly as possible, to minimise the impact of covid on them.

In the same way as the Government is intending to remain able to respond to any new variant, Gloucestershire will remain ready to respond in a number of ways, including:

- Prepared to bring back Local Contact Tracing
- Prepared to carry out Targeted Community Testing
- Access mass surge testing if required
- Building resilience in our workforce in advance

Cllr Tim Harman, cabinet member for public health, said, "As we take the next steps towards living safely with Covid-19 in Gloucestershire, I want to reassure our communities that we are ready to act if a new variant causes problems in future. Thanks to a fantastic vaccination roll out and take up in Gloucestershire its clear there is a widely shared commitment to minimising the impact of covid of our lives. We must continue to do the simple but effective things we know will help."

"Our plan to live safely with Covid-19 also has a focus on addressing the health inequalities highlighted by the pandemic; we need to continue to work hard to improve the health of individuals and communities across the county, making sure everyone in Gloucestershire can live a healthy, happy life."

Sarah Scott, director of Public Health and Adult Social Care, said, "We need to be mindful that the last two years have affected everyone differently as we make this transition. It's okay to be cautious as our routines change again, and there are ways we can protect ourselves from covid and other bugs that will be circulating."

"Good hand hygiene, opening a window to let air in, and rearranging your plans if you feel unwell will help us all to stay safe and well. However, the best defence we have is the vaccine, and there are still opportunities to get whichever jabs you need."

## **About the plan**

Gloucestershire's updated plan sets out our local strategy to live safely with COVID-19 in Gloucestershire. It replaces Gloucestershire's Local Outbreak Management Plan and sets the direction for how we will continue to prevent, contain, respond and monitor COVID-19 in a different way.

It also outlines how we will be able to step back up surge testing if necessary. It focuses on how to prevent the spread of the virus, steps which will be taken to protect and contain, and then respond effectively to outbreaks.

The plan has been published in preparation for testing in England to stop from 1 April. Last month the Government announced it would no longer provide free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the public in England. As a result, all testing sites in Gloucestershire will be closing at the end of March and are currently scheduled to be demobilised and dismantled by UKHSA in the summer.

## **Annex B**

### **District Council Notes April 2022**

**Development Control Committee.** Decisions at the March meeting of the DCC that may interest this council: Voted to permit a 49.9MW solar farm on 116 ha. near Whitminster (Moreton Valence), said to be able to generate enough electricity for 15,000 + houses – about 25% of the District. Permitted a ‘passivhaus’ standard new build (replacing a barn) on Summer Street, Stroud, which is (barely) outside the settlement limits.

**Community Engagement Board:** The Council has recruited a dozen residents of the district with a variety of community connections – education, health care, arts, business, voluntary sector, etc. – to serve as volunteers on this Board. Its remit is to help further SDC’s net zero goal, and ‘give voice to social needs that may be helped by 2030 action’.

**‘Levelling-up Bid’:** SDC, together with Stroud Town Council and the local MP, is preparing a bid for ‘levelling-up’ funds, to remodel parts of the centre of Stroud, especially around the train station and the Sub Rooms. The plans would improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the station (including a lift), and make the station forecourt a more welcoming arrival point for visitors.

**Gazprom:** SDC has a fixed-tariff contract with Gazprom, that ends in September. A new gas provider will be found by then. The council will now use less gas as a result of the water-source heat pumps installed at Ebley and Brimscombe.

**Brimscombe Port:** A short list of three developers has been chosen, who will now prepare plans for as co-developers with SDC.

**New Council Housing:** Seven new council houses have been completed – and occupied – in Minchinhampton. They are EPC A-rated. Others are currently being built in Nailsworth and Eastington. SDC is the only local authority in Gloucestershire that maintains council-owned housing.

**Planning Enforcement:** SDC has opened cases on several sites in the Parish that have been the subject of complaints for violation.

## Annex C

### **Stroud District Councillor's Report – April 2022**

Report of meetings during March

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

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

Recordings of meetings are available via the

Committee meeting webpage on the Council's You Tube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeH\\_AmF0s-TShcYIM8Stweg/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeH_AmF0s-TShcYIM8Stweg/videos)

### **Strategy & Resources Committee – 10 March**

Meeting papers can be found here

#### **• Economic Development Strategy & Action Plan**

The Committee discussed and approved these documents. Following public consultation some changes had been made to the draft strategy, including updating the baseline data, clearer references to other complementary strategies and policies and removing the priority areas for parish cluster groups – which had appeared confusing.

The action plan sets short term actions from 2022 – 25. **Tourism** is a key objective and interviews have been held for a new SDC tourism post to work with the market towns. A question was asked about the slow role out of Fastershire and the Chief Executive confirmed that it was due to be discussed at an upcoming county level meeting. Councillor Phil Robinson at Gloucestershire County Council is the point of contact for this work. An update on delivery of the Economic Development Strategy will be provided in 6 months.

#### **• Regeneration & Investment Board**

- Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid. Work is progressing on the bid led by SDC – entitled Gateways, Landmarks and Access for All. A summary of the emerging bid can be found here.
- Project Updates had been discussed by the Board including for the One Public Estate (ZeroCarbon) project, and the current situation with Tricorn House, where the Council continues to apply pressure on the owners to maintain the site and facilitate its redevelopment

**• Brimscombe Port redevelopment** – demolition work continues and is expected to conclude in April/May. SDC officers are in discussion with three shortlisted developers as part of the competitive dialogue stage of the procurement process to appoint a developer partner for the site. Following assessment, the preferred bidder is expected to be confirmed in July. Next steps will be submission of a planning application (expected Jan 2023) with development work due to take place between October 2023 and October 2025.

#### **• Gloucestershire meetings**

- Leadership Gloucestershire report – included an update on discussions about the options for a county devolution deal under the Levelling Up white paper proposals. Glos CC are preparing options, with the district councils providing comments.
- Gloucestershire Economic Scrutiny Committee meeting – GFirstLEP provided an update on the Gloucestershire Infrastructure Investment Fund (a revolving loan fund governed jointly by GFirstLEP and GCC), on strategic planning in Gloucestershire, and on economic growth issues in the county.

### **Community Services & Licensing Committee – 24 March**

Meeting papers can be found here There were many reports, including an update on the progress with Stratford Park Lido, budget monitor in and two review proposals:

- Taxi Policy Review - The Committee considered a recommendation that local authorities should consult on whether CCTV would have a proportionate positive impact on public safety in their district and also set up a task and finish group to develop a draft vehicle emission policy in accordance with the target in the Council Plan.
- Play Area Review - The Committee agreed to conduct a review, consult and develop SDC owned play areas across the district.

**Reports for information** were provided on the Gloucestershire Health Overview Scrutiny Committee, Covid-19 Engagement Board, Museum in the Park (Cowle Trust), Police and Crime Panel, Citizens Advice, Mental Health Champions, Performance Monitoring, Woodchester Park Mansion, Stroud Arts Festival Limited.

**Information sheets** were shared on Physical and Mental Health, Health and Wellbeing, The Pulse, Careline, Neighbourhood Wardens, Community Grants, Local Authority Trading Company progression (the preferred option for future leisure centre management), and Customer Services

#### **Development Control Committee – 29 March**

The Committee papers can be found at this link. Six applications were considered:

- Hambutts End, Edge Road, Painswick, Stroud - Rebuild garage on existing base - Permitted
- 137A Summer Street, Stroud - Demolition of agricultural barn and erection of passivhaus dwelling - Permitted
- Dudbridge Industrial Estate, Dudbridge Road, Stroud - Details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to the grant of outline planning consent under hybrid planning permission (for the retrofit of Building A (Redler), Building B and Building J, providing 30 apartments, historic archive, cafe and associated bin and bike stores. Approved
- Dudbridge Industrial Estate, Dudbridge Road, Stroud - Details of appearance, landscaping, layout & scale pursuant to the grant of outline planning consent under hybrid planning permission for residential development comprising 94 no. dwellings. Approved
- Land North Of, Cirencester Road, Minchinhampton - Proposed Medical Centre and Dentist, associated access, car parking and landscaping. Permitted
- Land Parcels A & B, Near Whitminster - The construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning for a renewable energy scheme of up to a 49.9 megawatt (MW) solar farm and up to a 49.9MW battery storage facility. Permitted

#### **Environment Committee – 31 March**

The committee considered the following reports which can be found here:

- Budget Monitoring quarterly report
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Project variation for Cam & Dursley Rail Station  
It is no longer possible to provide additional car parking spaces, so the funds will be used to improve bus and cycle infrastructure instead.
- Climate and Nature 2030 Strategy - Annual Report (2021-2022) – approved – and will now go to Council. Cllr Dave Mossman asked about electric car parking chargers. Conversations are underway with a commercial provider around the business model for provision of chargers on SDC car parks.
- Walking and Cycling Task and Finish Group: findings and recommendations approved – see detail here. An annual report on progress was requested – and there will be regular monitoring of delivery through the performance management process.
- Member Reports on the Strategic Planning Advisory Board, Stroud Regeneration Committee, and Performance Monitoring.
- Cllr Beki Aldam asked a Member Question requesting the committee consider more widespread air quality monitoring to help address air pollution.

#### **Other issues**

##### **Council Tax rebates to help with rising energy costs**

SDC is urging residents to pay Council Tax bills by direct debit, in order to receive their £150 Council Tax energy rebate more quickly. More than 54,000 households in the Stroud district will receive their Council Tax bills for the year 2022/23 in March. Householders who live in Council Tax bands A to D will qualify for a £150 rebate as part of the Government's initiative to help households with rising energy costs. It will not be taken off residents' council tax bills when they are issued but will be a separate payment. The rebate is expected to be paid to people who pay their Council Tax by direct debit from April, after their first payment has been collected. It will be paid into the same account the payments are taken from. Anyone

who continues to pay their Council Tax by other methods will be contacted with details of how to apply for the rebate in due course. There is more information about the energy rebate on the Stroud District Council website [www.stroud.gov.uk/energyrebate](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/energyrebate) and at [www.gov.uk/government/news/households-urged-to-get-ready-for-150-council-tax-rebate](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/households-urged-to-get-ready-for-150-council-tax-rebate)

### **Ukraine**

Following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, SDC is showing support for Ukraine and its people by flying the Ukrainian flag outside the council headquarters at Ebley Mill in Stroud. SDC has a gas supply contract with Gazprom Energy. The contract is ending this year, and we have been exploring whether there are any possibilities of early termination and have agreed in any case not to renew the contract. Council officers and councillors are working to support the local council response to facilitate the settlement of Ukrainian refugees.

### **Canal Project**

The final stages of the Cotswold Canals Connected Ocean railway bridge project are in sight as the drained section of canal known as the Ocean is to be refilled, starting on 1 April. The Ocean railway bridge near Stonehouse was replaced between Christmas and New Year by Network Rail on behalf of the Cotswold Canals Connected partnership. The previous bridge with its narrow opening was too small to allow boats to pass underneath.

### **Noise nuisance**

Two separate Leonard Stanley residents have recently appeared at Cheltenham Magistrates' Court on charges relating to their persistent failure to stop their dogs from causing a noise nuisance. One of the residents was fined £300 and ordered to pay £2,000 costs and a £34 victim surcharge. Another was fined £870 as part of a total financial penalty of more than £7,800 including £6906.80 costs.

### **New eco-council homes**

Seven new eco-friendly homes for affordable rent have been built in Minchinhampton by SDC. The properties include one three-bedroom house, two two-bedroom houses and four one-bedroom flats. They were built on the site of a former MUGA (multi use games area) and a block of council garages that had both fallen into disrepair. Built by Beard Construction to high environmental specifications, the buildings are highly insulated, fitted with solar panels and air source heat pumps, resulting in an EPC rating of A. Local wildlife is catered for with features including bat and bird boxes, hedgehog holes and insect hotels. The flats have bike storage, access to a rotary washing line and allocated parking spaces. The same specification is being used for all future council house builds. Stroud District Council is the only local authority in Gloucestershire which still owns and manages council houses, with the others having transferred them into other social housing organisations. Work is almost complete on nine bungalows in Broadfield Road, Eastington, and 20 units on the site of a former sheltered housing scheme in Nailsworth which are scheduled to be completed in May.

### **Keeping dogs on a lead – reminder**

As more people are enjoying the lighter evenings, Stroud District Council's Animal Welfare Officers have issued a reminder to ensure dog walkers know where dogs must be kept on a lead. Canal towpaths, designated cycle tracks, cemeteries and footpaths used to reach schools and colleges are all covered by Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) that means dogs must be kept on a lead in those areas. Other PSPOs require dog owners to pick up dog faeces, put dogs on leads when directed to do so by an officer and keep dogs out of areas signed as exclusion areas, e.g., children's play areas, enclosed sports pitches including Multi Use Game Areas, basketball courts and tennis courts. Failing to pick up dog faeces is an offence resulting in a £75 Fixed Penalty Notice or prosecution in court, with a maximum fine of £1,000. A number of 'planned action days' by SDC's Animal Welfare Officers will take place throughout Spring along the towpaths and cycle tracks to check that PSPOs are being adhered to, as well as extra spot checks where dog fouling complaints are received.

### **Warning over cold callers targeting vulnerable residents**



SDC issued a warning about cold callers after a number of incidents were reported. In one, a vulnerable elderly SDC tenant was visited at home in the evening by two women claiming to be from the council, who said that work was needed to be carried out on their garden. Further reports have been made of cold callers offering to carry out garden work, some in the aftermath of the recent storms. Council officers always carry ID, and if they are carrying out work on council houses will only do so after first making an appointment by phone or letter. Reputable tradespeople rarely knock on doors and offer their services unannounced.

#### **International Women's Day 2022**

SDC celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March, which this year had the theme of "Break the Bias" which is about challenging bias, stereotyping and discrimination. Only 35% of elected councillors are female and only 17% of the country's council leaders are women.