

## **Stroud Town Centre Neighbourhood Development Plan**

### **Report of Launch event held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Lansdown Hall Stroud**

#### **Present**

Running the event were the following members of the Interim Steering Group (ISG)

Leonora Rozee Chair of the ISG; Kevin Cranston; Simon Arundel; Julian Carlyon and Ben Spencer all Town Councillors; Hugh Barton and Camilla Hale.

Elin Tatterall from the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council was present as adviser to the ISG.

A total of 64 people attended during the afternoon (47 to the first and 17 to the second session), including Neil Carmichael MP. All were given a copy of the attached briefing paper explaining what the NDP is and the process for its preparation.

#### **Purpose**

To inform people about the STCNDP;

To seek volunteers to help in its preparation;

To generate interest in the Plan and start to identify issues

#### **Process**

Two identical 1.25 hour sessions were held: 2-3.15pm and 3.30-4.45pm during which there was

- a short introductory presentation using the attached slides;
- a Q&A session chaired by Elin Tattersall;
- a participatory session where those present could review information material; write down their thoughts about issues in the town centre and cross reference to a map of the NDP designated area; talk to ISG members and Elin about the NDP process and issues concerning the town centre; talk to Camilla and others about getting involved;
- a short plenary to explain the next steps.

#### **Outcome**

During the Q&A questions were asked about the process and reasons for choosing the designated area, and in particular why the parish population were not consulted. There was also some concern about those living just outside the boundary and how they would be affected. It was explained that the area chosen affected

all in the town but was a manageable area for the plan and that it was intended to consult with a wide range of people who use the town and to seek a referendum of the whole parish when the plan is submitted for independent examination. Trying to do a NDP for the whole town would be unmanageable especially as it consists of multiple neighbourhoods and the Local Plan is not yet finalised so the scale of uncertainty is too great. Members of the parish were not consulted as doing a whole town plan was not an option for the TC.

Questions were also asked about how doing the plan would affect current issues such as what is happening to the Cheapside site and the proposed supermarket in Cornhill. It was explained that planning proposals will continue to come forward but the further into the NDP process we get the more influence it can have and ultimately it will be a powerful tool for the Town Council to use in shaping the town for the future.

Participation by the audience both through plenary questions and the interactive participatory sessions was excellent, indicating general commitment to the idea of an NDP, and engagement with the issues. A number of people with useful skills expressed their interest to be involved.

### **Next steps**

All present were asked to complete an “issues” form and a “getting involved” form. For the Steering Group (SG) it was explained that this was for managing the process and would comprise not more than 15 people providing a range of expertise and knowledge. The SG would report to the Town Council who own and hold the budget for the process. The SG members would be identified by the ISG at a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> August against identified criteria (see attached) and they would make recommendations to the TC meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> August. The first meeting of the SG would be in the first week of September and it would meet regularly thereafter. People who have an interest or expertise in a specific topic might wish to become involved in one of the Thematic Groups whose role would be to look in detail at an issue, carry out community engagement, examine options and report to the SG. Anyone expressing such an interest will be on the most relevant group set up by the SG.

About 50 forms were completed and are being held by GRCC until we have an administrator to process them.

