

**Spiritual Group meeting for Shaping the heart of Stroud
Stroud Town Centre's Neighbourhood Development Plan
5pm to 7pm Star Anise (£25)
Thursday 16th October 2014**

The intention for the meeting is to see if we can agree a statement on what makes a town have a supportive spiritual well being that the Neighbourhood Development Plan can adopt as a core value.

Interested to come:-

Person	Notes
Rev Simon Howell	Vicar of Holy Trinity and charged as a pioneer vicar to work with groups outside of the church setting.
Julian Carlyon	Stroud Town Councillor and instigator of the meeting and homeopath
Camilla Hale	Member of the NDP Steering Group and convenor of the meeting
James Flowers	Director of Family Tree Funerals
Maggie Peters	Transpersonal psychotherapist and dream worker
Rachel Le Vay	Manager of Allsorts charity
Jane Mace	Quaker and clerk of the area meeting (8 meetings in Gloucestershire) published a book about Quakers and decision making
Jo Rowbotham	Interfaith minister
Girish Patel	Yoga teacher
JJ Howell	Druid
Margaret Koolman	Astrologer and follower of the Ridhwan school
Aaron Mirkin	Priest for the Christian Community at St Lukes

**Summary of the discussion at Star Anise October 16th2014
What makes a town spiritually healthy and what would that look like in practice?**

Values and concepts	Applications (not necessarily directly related to the values)
African saying – if you don't initiate the boys they will burn down the village.	Festivals and seasonal celebrations and food events that are open and shared
Honouring spirit and place	Bringing nature and trees into the town
Qualitative touchstones – generosity, hospitality, invitation, nourishment, alignment, holding, unifying	Valuing and supporting an aesthetic look and relishing and working on beauty
Stillness	A place of stillness that is welcoming – a calm meditative space which is for everyone – outdoors and sheltered or indoors
Dissolving barriers	Young people to be asked and integrated into town planning – invest in them and they will invest in the community
Field of love	Build on what is already there
Respect and reverence for the land and earth on which the town is built	Build something really interesting
Aesthetic appearance	Celebrate what happens in the town
Wholeness and peace	Lack of joined up thinking. Lack of a 'place' to go to find contacts and links
Tolerance	How to fund subsidised spaces
Soul health	Funding the cultural life of a town
All the communities	Festival of diversity and diverse expressions
Meeting in the field beyond right and wrong	Reflect the spark of life through music, beauty,

	food, the arts
Everyone who lives in Stroud can find themselves included and Stroud speaks to all in one way or another	Use the council's ethical procurement policies as a basis for values for the town. (this has been passed on to the environmental group as it has a very strong environmental theme)
Profit is recognised in life and culture	
Spark of life	
Meeting needs on different levels	
Welcome and expression	
The outer reflect the inner	
Reflect the spark of life	

Other information-

Christian Community young people's camps and links with the Friendship Cafe
 JJ and his work with young men
 Quakers are meeting every week in the Exchange

Values statement that can be offered to the Neighbourhood Development Plan
 Version 1

Spiritual welfare in an urban setting is evidenced through an obvious respect for the earth on which the town is built; a diversity of places, beautiful spaces and organisations that reflect or involve anyone who comes into the town and a welcome at every door.