

Shaping the heart of Stroud **Options workshop Wednesday 4th February**

About 20 volunteers attended the workshop and over 2.5 hours they:

1. were given a summary of the work done by the Thematic Groups
2. discussed the key things that the Plan might address.

The outputs of this discussion are set out below

Outputs: *Note: For Zones see map*

Flip Charts – summary of key points:

Core / Lansdown / Nelson Street zones:

Fawkes Place – public square? Servicing conflict?
Market Tavern – catalyst > linkage Square location?
Lansdown/Nelson Street – direct access from Nelson Street
Should car parks be developed?
Goods transfer station

Canal-Frome / railway / The Hill zones:

Cheapside car park – bus station/interchange/housing
Wallbridge area – gateway
Frome wildlife corridor
Industrial estate – mixed use and connections

Beeches Green / Merrywalks/ Zones

Site-rich - potential regeneration (social)
Green corridor – unculverting
Connectivity > Stratford Park
Old Convent – bring back into full use
Reducing pollution/danger along Merrywalks

The whole designated area

Connectivity - where appropriate? Individual area (e.g. canalside) or whole area identity?
Gateways – define and enhance
Car parking – clear centre (except disabled) v stop and shop
Trees and planting – including use of water

Group flip charts

Railway/Canal/The Hill

- Cheapside car park as a bus station – must be better linked and signed
- Cheapside housing/parking and hotel
- Wildlife corridor:
 - Frome Banks and along canal
 - Refinding the old green island

- Best gateway is Wallbridge green – rebuild canal basin and re-develop Travis Perkins and industrial area
- Multi-modal bus/train/cycling LINKS and the ‘Tim Mars’ bridge
- Need good signing
- Focus on railway and canal

Beeches Green/Merrywalks zones

- Site-rich area
- Environmentally rich – green wildlife corridor
- Routes through site to Stratford Park (link to point above)
- The Old Convent – valuable; economic activity
- Social resource – health and education
- Removal of bus station
- Reducing congestion on Merrywalks

Core/Lansdown/Nelson Street zones

- Fawkes Place as a public square opening backs of the shops and more residential
 - is it deliverable?
 - Needs to be investigated; confused multiple ownerships.
 - Fabulous site for the ‘Stroud catalyst’;
 - lack of public or private funding
- High Street viability
- Market Tavern – market square is key (or better);
 - Connection to London Road and canal
 - Parking spaces – catalyst phase1
 - Housing element (car park by police station)
- Lansdown/Nelson Street ‘fringe’
 - Needs a link
 - Get rid of wall
 - Extend High Street ‘treatment’ into Nelson Street
 - Centre for Science and Arts – its future
 - Library – its future
 - Should sites on the ‘fringe’ be development zones or car parking?
- Changed use classifications to facilitate a viable town centre
- Enforcement of shop Design Guide and Conservation Area Design Guide

The whole designated area

- Gateways – sense of arrival; legibility; information about the town
- Barriers – major roads and railways – creating identifiable ‘quarters’ or confused centre
- Linkages within and into town centre
- Joining up core town centre areas – conflict between pedestrianised and non pedestrianised areas
- Promotion of residential in the town centre
- Car parking:
 - keeping people in the centre – charging regime
 - keep centre clear (except disabled) v stop and shop

- large car parks v smaller more distributed parking areas
- Identity – individual zone v coherent centre
- Catalyst: greening the town centre / good design

Next Steps

The Steering Group will meet on 4th March to review all of the matters raised at the workshop and consider the options to be considered at the next major public consultation event on 7th to 14th March. Following that event the draft plan will be prepared.

Any matters raised which will not be taken forward into the Plan will be separately recorded and reported to the Town Council when the Plan is submitted for approval by them.

LJR
5.02.15