

## Shaping the heart of Stroud

### Note of meeting with residents living in the town centre The Ale House Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015

#### Present:

Leonora Rozee Chair of NDP Steering Group  
Camilla Hale Steering Group member and lead on community engagement  
John Bloxsom NDP administrator  
12 local residents and the Neighbourhood Police Officer

#### Purpose

To find out what those living in the town centre think of it and their views on what changes might be beneficial

#### Key points made in Discussion

- Stroud has a lot of potential which is not being fully realised - we should be building on the success of the farmers' market and rejuvenating the town as a cultural centre.
- The town centre is generally a safe place to live.
- It can be noisy and the town centre take aways attract late night activity.
- Traffic and parking are major issues – but do people living in the town centre need a car?.
- There are opportunities to bring new life to unused or underused buildings.
- The quality of road surfaces is poor (eg The Hill).
- More people living in the centre will help to address social issues but question suitability of centre for family housing.
- The centre has a good diversity of shops – with independents well represented.
- The setting of the town centre is very important.
- More/better use should be made of the industrial heritage and canal.
- The town centre is not cycle friendly.
- There is real potential for the redevelopment of the police station which is underused.
- To attract new businesses the town centre needs to be smartened up whilst protecting the bohemian character.
- Stroud has a soul – people have a real passion for Stroud and there is a great community in the town with a diversity of cultural life.
- It is 'make or break' time for Stroud.
- The town has great treasures in the Leisure Centre, Museum in the Park and Stratford Park and more should be made of them.
- Bank Gardens is an attractive public space.
- Church Street offers potential for housing development.
- Open the access to Cheapside
- Improve crossings for pedestrians
- Mirror on the railway bridge to see round the corner if possible
- Fewer late night take aways

6.2.15