



STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL

Members of the Town Environment Committee

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Town Environment Committee to be held on Monday 2nd September, 7pm at Stonehouse Library, High Street, Stonehouse, GL10 2NG.

Committee Members:

Councillors: Deborah Curtis (Committee Chair), Marcus Dixon, Neil Gibbs, Simon Macgregor, Val Randell (Committee Vice Chair), Theresa Watt

A period of up to 15 minutes will be set aside at the beginning of the meeting for members of the public to raise questions.

Carlos Novoth
Town Clerk
27th August 2024

Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded.

A G E N D A

E/814 To receive apologies.

E/815 Declarations of Interest

E/816 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 1st July.

E/817 To receive the latest updated Environment Budget.

E/818 To comment on the first draft of the new management plan for Doverow Woods.

E/819 To provide a response on the Government's consultation on reforms to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

E/820 To note the temporary road closure for Stroud Half Marathon 2024.

E/821 To approve new signage for the Willow Tree Practice.

E/822 To comment on and feedback to Stroud District Council on their Cultural and Delivery Action Strategy.

E/823 To recommend the formation of a new Woodland & Outdoor Spaces Management sub-committee/working group.

E/824 To discuss the details on the proposed consultation for the planting of the Tree of Gernika.

E/825 To recommend for council approval town council applications for both the Woolpack and Globe Public Houses to become 'Assets of Community Value'

E/826 To comment on planning applications.

E/827 To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council.

E/828 To receive Working Groups updates. Members may wish to note any reports from the following: Comms, Stroudwater (Bristol Road) Station, Canal Rejuvenation, Transport and Highways, Public Rights of Way and Recreation.

E/829 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: Monday 30th September 2024.



E/816.

STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting) of a meeting of the Town Environment Committee on Monday 1st July, 7pm at Stonehouse Library, High Street, Stonehouse, GL10 2NG.

Present:

Councillors: Deborah Curtis (Committee Chair), Marcus Dixon, Simon Macgregor, Val Randell (Committee Vice Chair), and Theresa Watt.

Also present: Jacqui Sanders (Deputy Clerk),

Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed, or recorded.

E/802 To receive apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Neil Gibbs.

E/803 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

E/804 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 28th May.

Committee APPROVED the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

E/805 To receive the latest updated Environment Budget.

Committee NOTED the updated report showing a total 'Actual Net' Income of £0; 'Actual Net' Expenditure of £7,683.73 and Reserve Expenditure of £0.

E/806 To review directional signage within the Town and Canal corridor.

Committee AGREED to undertake a survey and research design options.

E/807 To review Environment Committee's Terms of Reference and make recommendations to Full Town Council for approval.

Committee APPROVED the Terms of Reference.

E/808 To review Working Groups Terms of Reference and make recommendations to Full Town Council for approval.

Committee APPROVED the Working Group Terms of Reference with the following amendments:

Public Rights of Way - To investigate, support and sustain public rights of way and green spaces for the benefit of the community in Stonehouse Parish.

Committee RECOMMENDED the Business Networking Group be reviewed and renamed to incorporate tourism.



STONEHOUSE **TOWN COUNCIL**

Committee RECOMMENDED non councillor names are not listed in Working Groups.

E/809 To comment on planning applications.

S.24/1072/HHOLD 17 Regent Street, Stonehouse
Erection of single-story front extension.

Comment: No objections as long as none from neighbours.

S.24/0917/FUL Land Adjacent To Stonehouse Commercial Centre, Bristol Road, Stonehouse

Erection of 83 individual self-storage units.

Comment: No comment.

S.24/1055/CPL Mr & Mrs Lewin 18A Gloucester Road Stonehouse

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Comment: No objections as long as none from neighbours.

Pending Licensing Act 2003 Application

Ref: 24/00605/LAPRNW 2-3 Park Parade, Stonehouse

Sale by retail of alcohol - off sales, every day 06:00 to 23:00

Comment: No objections.

S.24/1097/FUL A B B Ltd, Oldends Lane, Stonehouse

Extension of a dropped kerb.

Comment: No objections.

7:46 pm - Cllr Dixon declared an interest in the following agenda items and left the room.

S.24/0350/TCA Winuwuk Studio , Downton Road, Bridgend, Stonehouse

T1 - Leylandii trees - trim to 4m. Prune apple, pear and plum trees. Removal of 4x cherry. Removal of walnut and ash saplings. 2x willow - 3m reduction from top. Side growth of 2x trees in the river need to be taken down to ground level. Removal of both alders. Removal of several trunks of hazel (coppicing). Pruning by 3m eucalyptus.

Comment: Stonehouse Town Council recommend securing the advice of a tree surveyor before the felling of the 4 cherry trees.

7:57pm Cllr Dixon returned to the room.



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These are applications to which Stroud District Council have been notified of. There is no formal mechanism for consultation on these types of applications, particularly where “prior notification” is involved.

S.24/1054/DISCON Dairy Partners Ltd, Oldends Lane, Stonehouse
Discharge of condition 5 from S.23/0065/FUL (Erection of mechanical equipment and acoustic panels on the roof of the existing plant room).

S.24/1069/MINAM Dairy Partners Ltd, Oldends Lane, Stonehouse
Minor Amendment to permitted application S.23/0065/FUL (Acoustic Cladding Wall, to suit same colour and material as existing main building, with acoustic cladding wall to plant deck area to side of existing building) - Continuation of existing Planning Approved acoustic cladding wall to existing building. No material changes, no visual changes as the area is within a plant room perimeter and is not visual from anywhere other than within the grounds of the building.

Comment: Stonehouse Town Council requests that it should be recorded that Stroud District Council do everything in its power to reduce the noise to a minimum to lessen the distress caused to neighbouring residents.

E/810 To receive Working Groups updates. Members may wish to note any reports from the following:

Comms - Meeting scheduled for July.

Stroudwater (Bristol Road) Station - Not met

Canal Rejuvenation - Meeting held with Robert Hitchins concerning Wyatt's Field which was very positive. Robert Hitchings is to revise drawings in response to comments made.

Transport and Highways - Not met.

Public Rights of Way - Nothing to report.

Recreation - Not met.

Events - Flower Sculpture Trail, 13th - 26th July, with Stonehouse in Bloom.

Goodwill - Saturday 7th December, planning is in process and events are being booked.

Next meeting scheduled for 9th July.

Committee were REMINDED that Working Group updates need to be written and submitted by the Chair of each group, to the relevant committee.

E/811 To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council.



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Committee NOTED the latest planning decisions.

E/812 To approve communications in support of the meeting's decisions.

Committee noted the decisions and AGREED that there no communications to approve.

E/813 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: Monday 2nd September 2024.

Committee NOTED the date of the next meeting.

Notes on Agenda items, Environment Committee, Monday 2nd September 2024

E/804 Minutes	Minutes attached
E/805 Budget report	Report attached
E/819 NPPF	To consult on the government's proposed updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Click link to view: https://mailchi.mp/bab02a3437b0/august-2024-planning-newsletter
E/821 Willow Tree Signage	The Willow Tree Practice has requested permission to put a sign up on the grass verge outside the surgery. The sign will be no higher than 600mm from ground level so that people can see over it when exiting the carpark. The Practice is requesting permission from council before submitting a pre-planning application. See supporting papers.
E/823 New working group	See attachment
E/825 ACVs	See attached guidance notes
E/826 Planning Applications	S.24/1389/FUL Unit 1, Pear Tree Way, Stonehouse Installation of a dust extraction unit on the north elevation (including filters, hopper & motor housing) & 4no. paint booth extracts on the southern elevation. Respond by 3 rd September. Click here .
E/827 Report on Planning Decisions	S.24/0752/FUL Riverside House Bridgend Works Downton Road Bridgend Stonehouse Siting of two shipping containers for storage. (Retrospective). REFUSED. S.23/2172/FUL 29 Gloucester Road Stonehouse. Erection of store and staff room in association with the ground floor hot food takeaway (sui-generis) and extended dormer to first floor apartment. (C3 Use Class). PERMITTED. S.24/1072/HHOLD 17 Regent Street Stonehouse Erection of a single storey front extension. WITHDRAWN. S.24/0350/TCA Winuwuk Studio , Downton Road, Bridgend, Stonehouse. T1 - Leylandii trees - trim to 4m. Prune apple, pear and plum trees. Removal of 4x cherry. Removal of walnut and ash saplings. 2x willow - 3m reduction from top. Side growth of 2x trees in the river need to be taken down to ground level. Removal of both alders. Removal of several trunks of hazel (coppicing). Pruning by 3m eucalyptus. CONSENT GIVEN. S.24/0917/FUL Land Adjacent To Stonehouse Commercial Centre Bristol Road Stonehouse Erection of 83 individual self-storage units. (B8 Use Class). REFUSED.
E/828 Reports Working Groups	Updates to be received at the meeting.

Financial Budget Comparison

for Town Environment Committee

Comparison between 01/04/24 and 27/08/24 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/24

	2024/2025	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age
2010 In Bloom					
2010/1 Contract Planting	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2010/2 Non-Contract Planting	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2010/3 Watering Services	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2010/4 Other	£0.00	£0.00	£338.17	-£338.17	100.00%
2010 Total	£0.00	£0.00	£338.17	-£338.17	100.00%
2050 Cultural Events & Studies					
2050/1 Goodwill	£6,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6,000.00	-100.00%
2050/2 Civic Awards	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00	-100.00%
2050/3 Other	£3,000.00	£0.00	£735.00	£2,265.00	-75.50%
2050/4 Communications	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2050 Total	£9,300.00	£0.00	£735.00	£8,565.00	-92.10%
2080 Neighbourhood Plan Review	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2090 Planning Specialist Advice					
2090/1	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2090/2	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2090 Total	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
Total Town Environment Committee	£58,100.00	£0.00	£15,971.70	£42,128.30	-72.51%

Financial Budget Comparison

for Town Environment Committee

Comparison between 01/04/24 and 27/08/24 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.
Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/24

	2024/2025	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age
INCOME					
Town Environment Committee					
200 Stonehouse in Bloom	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
205 Event Income/Donations					
205/1 Events	£1,200.00	£0.00	£410.00	-£790.00	-65.83%
205/2 Donations	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
205 Total	£1,200.00	£0.00	£410.00	-£790.00	-65.83%
210 Planting Sponsorship	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
215 Grants	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
Total Town Environment Committee	£1,200.00	£0.00	£410.00	-£790.00	-65.83%

EXPENDITURE

Town Environment Committee					
1190 Amenity Areas					
1190/1 Grounds Maintenance (contract)	£27,500.00	£0.00	£11,875.00	£15,625.00	-56.82%
1190/2 Grounds Maintenance (in-house)	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	-100.00%
1190/3 Play Equipment maint/repairs/insp	£3,000.00	£0.00	£569.20	£2,430.80	-81.03%
1190/4 Public Space Improvements	£5,300.00	£0.00	£1,197.50	£4,102.50	-77.41%
1190/5 Tree & Hedge/boundary maintenance	£3,500.00	£0.00	£263.86	£3,236.14	-92.46%
1190/6 Waste Collection	£5,500.00	£0.00	£992.97	£4,507.03	-81.95%
1190 Total	£46,800.00	£0.00	£14,898.53	£31,901.47	-68.17%
2000 Christmas Lights	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	-100.00%
2005 Climate Change	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%

Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:	
Woodland or Property name	Doverow Wood, Stonehouse
Woodland Management Plan case reference	N/A
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland	Yes
Plan author name	John Parker BSc(Hons)Arb FArborA FICFor CEnv AMRSB

For FC Use only:			
Plan Period (dd/mm/yyyy - Ten years)	Approval Date:		Approved until:
Five Year Review Date			

Revision No.	Date	Status (draft/final)	Reason for Revision

Template user support:

The functionality in this version of the management plan template has been downgraded to ensure compatibility with Word 2003. This document is not protected and as such rows can be added & deleted or copied and pasted from tables where needed.

UK Forestry Standard management planning criteria

Approval of this plan will be considered against the following UKFS criteria.
Prior to submission review your plan against the criteria using the check list below.

UKFS management plan criteria		Minimum approval requirements	Author check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Plan Objectives: Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, and environmental objectives will be achieved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan objectives are stated. Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. 	Yes/No
2	Forest context and important features in management strategy: Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.	Management intentions communicated in Sect. 6 of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) Sect. 2 . Management intentions should take account of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant features and issues identified within the woodland survey (Sect. 4) Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (Sect. 5). Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement and documented in Sect. 7. 	Yes/No
3	Identification of designations within and surrounding the site: For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey information (Sect. 4) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. Management intentions (Sect. 6) have taken account of any designations. 	Yes/No
4	Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity: When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS requirements. Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context. Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). Current diversity (structure, species, age structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (Sect. 4). Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees). 	Yes/No
5	Consultation: Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder engagement is in line with current FC guidance and recorded in Sect. 7. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland. 	Yes/No
6	Plan Update and Review: Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan. Sect. 8 is completed with 1 indicator of success per management objective. 	Yes/No

Section 1: Property Details

Woodland Property Name		Doverow Wood	
Name	Stonehouse Town Council	Owner YES	Tenant NO
Email	townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk	Contact Number	01453822070
Agent Name (if applicable)		John Parker	
Email	john@trees.org.uk	Contact Number	07971797782
County	Gloucestershire	<u>Local Authority</u>	Stroud District Council
Grid Reference (e.g. ST 625 785)	SO 81480 05351	Single Business Identifier	N/A
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		3.6	
You have included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan?		No	
You have listed the maps associated with this woodland management plan? (PLEASE NOTE: Google Maps/ images of maps will not be accepted because they are copyright protected and should not be used commercially without the appropriate licencing from Google).		Yes	
Do you intend to use the information within this woodland management plan and associated Inventory and Plan of Operations to apply for the following?		Felling Licence	No
		Thinning Licence	No
		Woodland Regeneration Grant	No
You declare that there is management control of the woodland detailed within the woodland management plan?		Yes	
You agree to make the woodland management plan publicly available?		Yes	

Section 2: Vision and Objectives

To develop your long term vision, you need to express as clearly as possible the overall direction of management for the woodland(s) and how you envisage it will be in the future. This covers the duration of the plan and beyond.

2.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s). (*Suggest 300 words max*)

Doverow Wood is a site of special environmental, social and cultural importance to the people of Stonehouse and surrounding villages. Management of the wood over several decades has been limited, and almost exclusively reactive and confined to work related to safety. Areas of biodiverse importance have been neglected, resulting in the replacement of glades with self-sown trees. Paths have deteriorated and benches fallen into disrepair. The species diversity of the woodland is relatively good, but almost exclusively restricted to plantings from approximately 150 years ago and natural regeneration.

The long-term vision of the wood is one in which its naturalistic character is maintained as a place of amenity for the community, but where proactive management is undertaken in order to preserve and enhance the site, with particular consideration for biodiversity. Once gradually brought into a state of active management, maintenance will be relatively straightforward and achieved through a combination of Town Council staff, volunteers, community groups and specialists (such as arborists) where appropriate.

In 2021 Stonehouse Town Council formally adopted the Stonehouse Community Arboretum Management Plan, a tree and woodland strategy that sets out the town's approach to trees and tree care. As an important part of the Community Arboretum project, access to and enjoyment of Doverow Wood should be improved and encouraged for the local community and beyond. In a time of climate and biodiversity crises, and as a place of public recreation and amenity, Doverow Wood has never been more important and it must be cared for appropriately, for current and future generations.

2.2 Management Objectives

State the objectives of management demonstrating how sustainable forest management is to be achieved. Objectives are a set of specific, quantifiable statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long term vision.

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	The upkeep and maintenance as a pleasure ground of Doverow Wood
2	To protect and enhance Doverow Wood as a public green space
3	To maintain and enhance biodiversity
4	To increase public access to, and awareness and usage of, Doverow Wood
5	To maintain and enhance infrastructure such as paths and benches
6	To proactively plan necessary arboricultural and landscape operations
7	
8	

Section 3: Plan Review – Achievements

Use this section to identify achievements made against previous plan objectives. This section should be completed at the 5 year review and could be informed through monitoring activities undertaken.

Objectives	Achievement

Section 4: Woodland Survey

This section is about collecting information relating to your woodland and its location, including any statutory constraints i.e. designations.

4.1 Description

Brief description of the woodland property:

Doverow Wood can be found at the top of Doverow Hill, an important landmark in the Stroud District of Gloucestershire which rises to the east of Stonehouse above the town to a height of 145m. The woodland covers an area of around 28,000 square metres. Roughly rectangular in shape, it extends approximately 380m from east to west at its longest point, and around 85m from north to south.

The overstorey of the woodland is comprised predominantly of ash (*Fraxinus*), beech (*Fagus*), hornbeam (*Carpinus*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) with a few Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and larch (*Larix*). The understorey is dominated by a mixture of wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus*), with occasional apple (*Malus*), whitebeam (*Sorbus*), holly (*Ilex*), yew (*Taxus*), hazel (*Corylus*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), cherry (*Prunus*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and lime (*Tilia*). Ivy (*Hedera helix*) persists throughout and there are many large areas of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*). The wood contains some very good specimens of beech and hornbeam, and one particularly substantial larch.

Public footpaths can be found across the site, and benches are located at certain points. In the centre of the woodland is a disused quarry. The hill and wood are well-used by the local community, particularly by walkers.

4.2 Information

Use this section to identify features that are both present in your woodland(s) and where required, on land adjacent to your woodland. It may be useful to identify known features on an accompanying map. Woodland information for your property can be found on the [Magic website](#) and the [Forestry Commission Land Information Search](#).

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland(s)	Map No
Biodiversity - Designations				
<u>Site of Special Scientific Interest</u>	No		No	
<u>Special Area of Conservation</u>	No		No	
<u>Tree Preservation Order</u>	No		Yes	
<u>Conservation Area</u>	No		No	
<u>Special Protection Area</u>	No		No	
<u>Ramsar Site</u>	No		No	
<u>National Nature Reserve</u>	No		No	
<u>Local Nature Reserve</u>	No		No	
Other (please Specify):	No		No	
Notes				

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species				
Bat Species (if known)	No			Bats likely to be present, but unconfirmed
Dormouse	No			
Great Crested Newt	No			Great Crested Newts known to occupy a site around 1km to the west
Otter	No			
Sand Lizard	No			
Smooth Snake	No			
Natterjack Toad	No			
Biodiversity - Priority Species				
<u>Schedule 1 Birds</u> Species:	No			
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)	Yes			One confirmed sighting of a juvenile pine martin



Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)	No			
Plants	No			
Fungi/Lichens	No			
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	No			
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			
Historic Environment				
<u>Scheduled Monuments</u>	No			
<u>Unscheduled Monuments</u>	No			
<u>Registered Parks and Gardens</u>	No			
<u>Boundaries and Veteran Trees</u>	Yes			Several veteran trees present within the woodland
<u>Listed Buildings</u>	No			
<u>Burial Grounds</u>	No			
Other (please Specify): Disused quarry workings are located at the centre of the site	Yes			
Landscape				
<u>National Character Area (please Specify):</u>				
<u>National Park</u>	No			
<u>Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</u>	Yes			Within the Cotswolds AONB/National Landscape
Other (please Specify):	No			
People				
<u>CROW Access</u>	Yes			
<u>Public Rights of Way (any)</u>	Yes			
<u>Other Access Provision</u>	No			
<u>Public Involvement</u>	Yes			
<u>Visitor Information</u>	Yes			
<u>Public Recreation Facilities</u>	No			
<u>Provision of Learning Opportunities</u>	No			
<u>Anti-social Behaviour</u>	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes/No			
Water				
<u>Watercourses</u>	Yes			There is a spring in Verney Field, to the west of the woodland.
<u>Lakes</u>	No			



Ponds	No			
Other (please Specify): There is a covered reservoir on the north-eastern side of the woodland. There is a covered well just outside the western edge of the woodland.	Yes			

4.3 Habitat Types

This section is to consider the habitat types within your woodland(s) that might impact/inform your management decisions. Larger non-wooded areas within your woodland should be classified according to broad habitat type where relevant this information should also help inform your management decisions. Woodlands should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context of the woodland.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Yes			No formal designation, but an application has been made and documentary evidence supports continuous woodland cover since pre-1600
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes			
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	No			
Wood-pasture and parkland	Yes			The fields around the woodland are a combination of agricultural and wood pasture
Other (please Specify):	No			
Non Woodland Habitat Types				
Blanket bog	No			
Fenland	No			
Lowland calcareous grassland	No			
Lowland dry acid grassland	No			
Lowland heath land	No			
Lowland meadows	No			
Lowland raised bog	No			
Rush pasture	No			
Reed bed	No			



Wood pasture	Yes			Areas of wood pasture around the woodland site
Upland hay meadows	No			
Upland heath land	No			
Unimproved grassland	Yes			Unconfirmed but likely in some parts of the surrounding fields
Peat lands	No			
Wetland habitats	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			

4.4 Structure

This section should provide a snapshot of the current structure of your woodland as a whole. A full inventory for your woodland(s) can be included in the separate Plan of Operations spreadsheet. Ensuring woodland has a varied structure in terms of age, species, origin and open space will provide a range of benefits for the biodiversity of the woodland and its resilience. The diagrams below show an example of both uneven and even aged woodland.

Woodland Type (Broadleaf, Conifer, Coppice, Intimate Mix)	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure (even/uneven)	Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)
Broadleaf	95%	Uneven	Overstory predominantly ash and beech. Lots of natural regeneration throughout the woodland.
Lapsed coppice	2%	Even	An area in the west of the woodland historically managed as coppice, but not for several decades.
Conifer	2%	Even	Occasional larch trees can be found in the woodland, but very limited distribution.

Uneven-aged woodland – many wildlife habitats because of high diversity



Even-aged woodland – tidy but of low diversity



Section 5: Woodland Protection

Woodlands in England face a range of threats; this section allows you to consider the potential threats that could be facing your woodland(s). Use the simple Risk Assessment process below to consider any potential threats to their woodland(s) and whether there is a need to take action to protect their woodlands.

Note: To add more tables, Copy the table and Paste below.

5.1 Risk Matrix

The matrix below provides a system for scoring risk. The matrix also indicates the advised level of action to take to help manage the threat.

Impact	High	Plan for Action	Action	Action
	Medium	Monitor	Plan for Action	Action
	Low	Monitor	Monitor	Plan for Action
		Low	Medium	High
Likelihood of Presence				

5.2 Plant Health

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Ash dieback
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitoring and removal where necessary

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Dutch elm disease
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	No action needed

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Phytophthora
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Known to be on one Turkey oak
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low, potentially medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitoring, possible removal of affected tree

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Beech leaf disease
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Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	If it arrives in the UK, then high
Response (inc protection measures)	None at present time

5.3 Deer

Species - Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	No action needed

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	No action needed

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Rabbits
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	No action needed

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Soil erosion of banks adjacent to paths
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium – Could affect access

Response (inc protection measures)	Monitoring
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Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Wind
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High, particularly on southern edge
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	No action required

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.8 Social

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Some key public access routes to woodland threatened by neighbouring landowner
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Steps are being taken to ensure continued access along established routes, including Town Green Status and footpath applications

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights etc)	
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	

Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.9 Economic

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.10 Climate Change Resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Provenance – most trees likely to be of local provenance
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Diversification of species and provenance will be considered when planting

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Majority of canopy volume is beech and ash – particularly susceptible to climate change and associated factors.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Diversification of species and provenance will be considered when planting

Section 6: Management Strategy

This section requires a statement of intent, setting out how you intend to achieve your management objectives and manage important features identified within the previous sections of the plan. A detailed work programme by sub-compartment can be added to the Plan of Operations.

Management Objective / Feature	Management Intention
The upkeep and maintenance as a pleasure ground of Doverow Wood	<p>Regular monitoring of the woodland, including tree condition, health and risk, and assessments of the condition of the infrastructure – such as benches and paths.</p> <p>Maintaining aesthetic value by removing selected areas of fallen deadwood (where appropriate) and seeking to open up views through selective tree removal/pruning.</p>
To protect and enhance Doverow Wood as a public green space	<p>Introduction of improvements to the woodland to maximise environmental and social benefits.</p> <p>Proactive rather than reactive maintenance, balancing the need for access with the value of minimal intervention.</p>
To maintain and enhance biodiversity	<p>Diversification of species and provenance in planting programmes.</p> <p>Identification and protection of trees of particular interest or value.</p> <p>Restoration of sections of glade for biodiversity management.</p> <p>Restarting of coppice programme.</p> <p>Identification of standing/fallen deadwood suitable for retention.</p>
To increase public access to, and awareness and usage of, Doverow Wood	Working with adjacent landowners to ensure public access to Doverow.

	<p>Supporting events and projects to raise awareness of Doverow, including events to be held within the woodland.</p> <p>Working to communicate the benefits and social importance of Doverow.</p>
To maintain and enhance infrastructure such as paths and benches	<p>Assessing all infrastructure on the site for safety and suitability.</p> <p>Maintenance and repair of paths where necessary.</p> <p>Restoration of original benches where appropriate to do so.</p>
To proactively plan necessary arboricultural and landscape operations	<p>Annual tree surveys to be undertaken by qualified professionals with a good understanding of the objectives of the Town Council – including the Stonehouse Community Arboretum Management Plan.</p> <p>Required works to be identified and prioritised with appropriate timeframes, and undertaken only by suitably qualified and insured professionals.</p> <p>Community engagement in some activities – such as glade clearance and coppicing – to be encouraged as appropriate.</p>

Section 7: Stakeholder Engagement

There can be a requirement on both the FC and the owner to undertake consultation/engagement. Please refer to Operations Note 35 for further information. Use this section to identify people or organisations with an interest in your woodland and also to record any engagement that you have undertaken, relative to activities identified within the plan.

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
Informed about the production of this plan	Doverow Hill Trust	Fill in when completed	Fill in when completed	N/A	N/A
Informed about the production of this plan	Friends of Stonehouse Community Arboretum			N/A	N/A
Informed about the production of this plan	Friends of Verney Fields			N/A	N/A
Informed about the production of this plan	Stroud District Council			N/A	N/A
Informed about the production of this plan	Gloucestershire County Council			N/A	N/A

Section 8: Monitoring

Indicators of progress/success should be defined for each management objective and then checked at regular intervals. Other management activities could also be considered within this monitoring section. The data collected will help to evaluate progress.

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
The upkeep and maintenance as a pleasure ground of Doverow Wood Error! Reference source not found.	Improved general condition of the site	Monitoring	Annual	Stonehouse Town Council	
To protect and enhance Doverow Wood as a public green space Error! Reference source not found.	Improved general condition of the site	Monitoring	Annual	Stonehouse Town Council	
To maintain and enhance biodiversity Error! Reference source not found.	Increased species diversity – including trees, plants, animals and birds etc.	Surveying and monitoring, including tree surveys	Annual	Stonehouse Town Council	
To maintain and enhance biodiversity	Increase age range of trees in the woodland.	Tree surveys	Annual	Stonehouse Town Council	

To increase public access to, and awareness and usage of, Doverow Wood	Increased number of events and activities in Doverow.	Town Council records	Annual	Stonehouse Town Council		
To increase public access to, and awareness and usage of, Doverow Wood	Increased visitor numbers to Doverow.	Monitoring	Annual	Stonehouse Town Council		
To maintain and enhance infrastructure such as paths and benches	Improved quality and condition of infrastructure	Monitoring	Annual	Stonehouse Town Council		
To proactively plan necessary arboricultural and landscape operations	To only use properly qualified, experienced and competent professionals to undertake tree surveying and tree work	Monitoring	Annual	Stonehouse Town Council		
To proactively plan necessary arboricultural and landscape operations	Less reactive, and more reactive, work where appropriate	Tree surveys	Annual	Stonehouse Town Council		

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UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For FC office use and approval only:

UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Achieved	Review notes
Plan Objectives: Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, environmental objectives will be achieved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan objectives are stated. Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. 	Yes/No	
Forest context and important features in management strategy: Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.	Management intentions communicated in Sect. 6 of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) in Sect. 2 . Management intentions should take account of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant features and issues identified in the woodland survey (Sect. 4). Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (Sect. 5). Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement are documented in Sect. 7. 	Yes/No	
Identification of designations within and surrounding the woodland site: For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account is taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey information (Sect. 4) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. Management intentions (Sect. 6) have taken account of any designations. 	Yes/No	
Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). 	Yes/No	

When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made to meet UKFS requirements. Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and age range of trees, appropriate to the scale and context. Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current diversity (structure, species, age structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (Sect. 4). Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees). 		
Consultation: Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder consultation is in line with current FC guidance, and recorded in Sect. 7. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland. 	Yes/No	
Plan update and review: Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan Sect. 8 is completed with 1 indicator of success identified per management objective 	Yes/No	

Approved in Principle

This means the FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements.

a) You can use it to support a CS-HT or other grant application.

b) You do not yet have a licence to undertake any tree felling in the plan.

Approved

Name (WO or FM):	Date:
Name (AO, WO or FM):	Date:

<p><i>This means FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements, and we have also approved a felling licence for any tree felling in the plan (where required).</i></p>	
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Stroud Half Marathon

27th October 2024

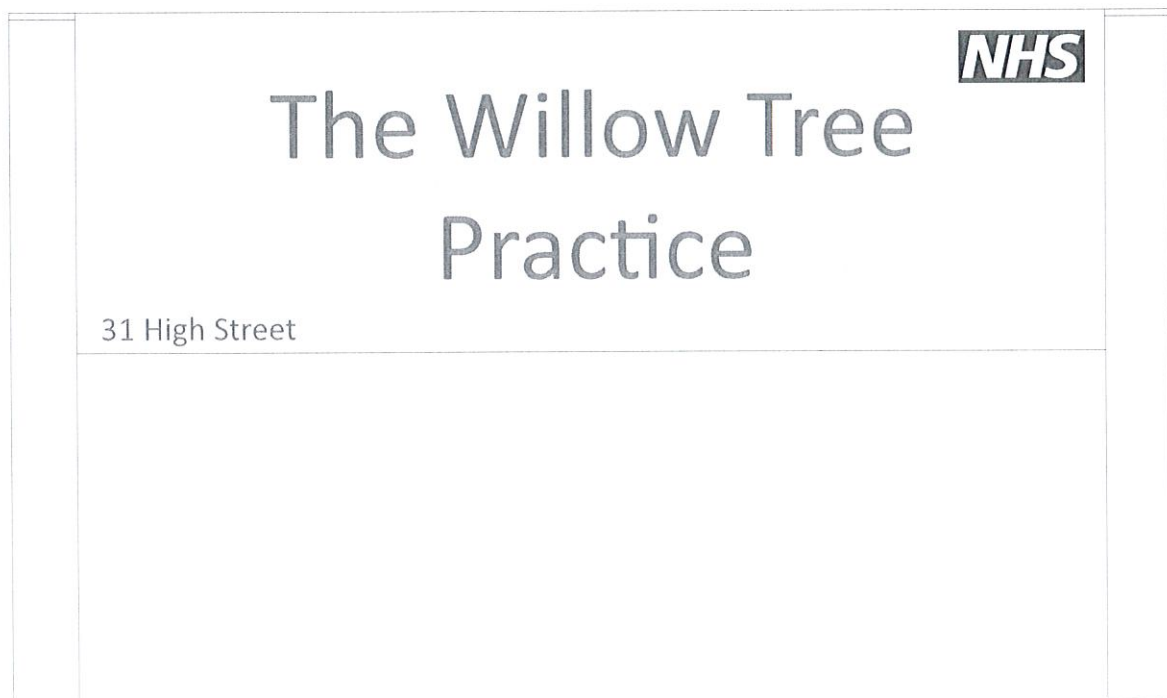
The following roads will be subject to temporary road closures on Sunday 27th October 2024

Road Name and Number	From its junction with	To its junction with	Distance approx.	Times
A419 Cainscross Road	Merrywalks Roundabout	Cainscross Roundabout	1.2 kilometres	07:30 – 13:00
3/214 Standish Lane	Standish Church	A38	Its entire length of 2 kilometres	09:20 – 11:00
3/226 Grove Lane, Whitminster	A419 Chipmans Platt	A38	Its entire length of 2 kilometres	09:30 – 11:15
47564 Paganhill Lane	Stratford Road	Cainscross Road	Its entire length of 600 metres	09:50 – 12:30 (Access to be maintained at all times for emergency vehicles from Fire and Ambulance Stations and access for bus services)
3/209 Oldends Lane	A419 Bristol Road	Midland Road	1.15 kilometres	09:35 – 12:00
A419 Dudbridge Road	Cainscross Road	A46	380 metres	08:45 – 12:30

Clear sign with stand off studs
1200x780mm



Sign Tray with Square Posts
1220x400mm



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CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATION DRAFT

A DISTRICT OF CREATIVITY

A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR STROUD DISTRICT



Word cloud created during the Cultural Strategy Consultation

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STROUD - A DISTRICT OF CREATIVITY

This Report sets the context, rationale and recommendations for a cultural strategy for Stroud District.

THE AIM OF THIS STRATEGY

A District that harnesses the creativity of its diverse communities and generates more opportunities for people to connect, create and communicate. Capitalising on Stroud's unique heritage, character and landscape, this strategy will unlock ways for creativity to contribute to a greener, healthier and more prosperous district for the generations to come.

THE DISTRICT

Situated in the South of Gloucestershire, Stroud District is home to some 115,000 people in towns, villages and hamlets. It is bordered by the River Severn with historic canals and mills showcasing its unique industrial rural heritage. Its hills and woodland areas are popular with tourists and visitors, and it has a rich cultural heritage; it has long been the home of artists, writers and activists.

WHAT THIS DOCUMENT IS FOR

This strategy sets out key challenges and opportunities that the District Council, in partnership with the community, can act upon over the next few years to build on Stroud District's vibrant culture. It outlines how working across traditional agendas, creativity can support regeneration, sustainability and health and wellbeing. It is designed to initiate action leading to a series of recommendations, some specific and others more aspirational. The overall aim is to create a platform for the council to facilitate the transformation of attitudes and ambition around creativity and culture from 2024 into the future.

Consultants' work and support

Over 12 months from December 2022, the national champion for everyday creativity, the consultancy company 64 Million Artists, worked with citizens from across the district to understand the value they placed on culture and creativity, where they saw opportunities and what their hopes and worries were for the district in the future. These conversations, creative encounters and collaborations grew a sense that culture was central to people's lives and their sense of wellbeing and belonging. These conversations, with people across the district, will form the basis for these recommendations and ideas for future action. Everything in this strategy has been generated and created by the people of the district - 64 Million Artists has coalesced these ideas and hopes into several themes and prioritised suggestions according to what we heard people needed the most.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

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A particular focus in speaking to people across the district was to hear from people who feel excluded from culture. These perspectives are particularly important because culture has the power to challenge historic oppression and marginalisation. The approach herein aims to consider throughout how culture and creativity can be agents for change to improve the lives of everyone in the community and help generate more equitable ways of living together.

INTRODUCTION

Stroud District has a vibrant, joyful, and dynamic cultural and creative scene, including excellent cultural organisations, festivals, and craftspeople, alongside a huge and involved community of volunteers. It is home to international creative businesses, world renowned artists, and is a beacon of creativity. Its rich literary and artistic history along with its living heritage of making and creating means it has a reach and reputation internationally - it punches above its weight as an area of culture and the arts.

Culture has long contributed to the district's vision of itself. It is quirky, independent and knows its own mind. It revels in the beauty of its history and landscape but it is gritty and sometimes impatient to try new things. Artists have helped build an identity for the district - whether they grew up here like Laurie Lee or Adjoa Andoh or located here like Sade or Damien Hirst. People from across the district are proud of it and proud to come from here. They enjoy coming together at events and festivals, at gigs and exhibitions, online and in person.

The district is unique. On the edge of the Cotswold's, it is pretty but not picture postcard with an industrial heritage unlike other parts of Southern England. It is quickly connected to Bristol, Cheltenham, Swindon, and London but parts of it are deeply rural and quiet. It has long bred activists and changemakers from William Tyndale to the founders of Extinction Rebellion. It is also forward looking with a young population and business sector quickly embracing the potential of new technologies.

While Stroud has a national and even international profile, it could do more. There is a sense of a potential not quite fulfilled, that more could be done to celebrate, shout and advocate for the district as a whole and what it has, and can, achieve. Too many of its cultural highlights are undervalued, obscured or unknown. Too many potential creative citizens are unable to find fellow travellers, explore their creativity or connect with what is on offer. Some residents don't see themselves in the culture that is made visible and feel the culture of the district is not for them.

Opportunity across the District is uneven, inequalities that exist in employment, health and education are often emphasised further in access to culture and creativity. National (cost of living) and global (climate) crises are affecting the district and its residents acutely. The next decade will be one of huge change for the district with massive population shifts, digital opportunities, and a revolution in the future of work existing alongside climate changes that will directly affect the district through flooding and the need to change the way we live, work and travel.

While this strategy cannot solve these issues, it aims to draw on the potential of culture and creativity to bring Stroud's people together, to instil optimism, build hope, and generate community. It will specifically point to the ways in which culture can contribute to improving the health and prosperity of the district's residents, as well as the ways in which creativity can offer approaches to climate and the wellbeing of future generations of the district.

WHAT WE WANT TO SEE

By celebrating the value of culture, creativity and the creative industries, Stroud District Council wants to help harness the incredible power of culture to build community resilience and wellbeing; make positive individual, local and district-wide impacts on the environment and climate; and tackle economic and social inequality across the district. Growing awareness of what is happening in the district's cultural sector will build civic pride, enhance people's sense of belonging and burnish the area's reputation nationally and internationally.

Small, coordinated changes along with modest investment over a 2-year period will build on the district's existing strong cultural offer to attract inward investment and boost tourism and employment. Tapping into the cultural sector's existing environmental activism will embed a spirit of hope in citizens and in their willingness to tackle global challenges. At the heart of this will be our attempts to set an example by proactively valuing culture and what it has to offer, encouraging others to do the same and enabling all citizens to explore their creativity.

WHAT WE WILL DO

The Council will take the same approach to culture and creativity as it is taking to carbon and climate.

- To always... act as an example in the community.
- To be an enabler and encourager of positive action.
- Through its services, policies, and projects to do everything in its power to collaboratively achieve a creative, resilient, inclusive and, equality driven district.

It will achieve this by emphasising the impact creativity can have in a District that thrives on its:

- Invention
- Innovation
- Independence
- Industry
- Disruption

CELEBRATING, ENCOURAGING

To embed the potential of culture and creativity across the Council's agenda, a strengths-based approach will be necessary. There is already a brilliant, imaginative and impressive network of cultural organisations, artists, musicians, crafters, writers, thinkers who are making great culture in the district. They need to be celebrated, showcased, highlighted and valued.

There is also a huge audience for this culture, people who want to dance, sing, laugh, play, eat and be entertained. More can be done to bring these people together with the culture on their doorstep. The Council can also blur the lines between audience and provider by encouraging people to be adventurous, trying new things, seeing other cultures and ways of being, inventing new stories and unearthing hidden ones.

This role of cultural cheerleader needs some resource to be credible and to bring the many different players working in creativity and culture together. Some of this process has begun through the development of this strategy. The next stage is to build on this and to join the dots, creating a role within the council with real power and influence to act as an agent for change and an internal advocate for culture and creativity. In the same way that everyone who works for and with the council is empowered to promote 2030 (Climate) Strategy, so should a mindset of exploring and exploiting creativity be adopted across the council. Leadership will be key.

This leadership role for the council can be ably supported by organisations working across the district to create cultural opportunities for the people of the district. These organisations can be supported to widen their delivery - bringing the excellence of their cultural offer to new geographies and communities who are currently limited in their capability to access arts and culture.

The wider pool of volunteers exploring their own creativity and creating opportunities for others should be celebrated and bolstered. One approach to this will be to measure and capture the wider impact of culture in the district - looking at numbers of people contributing to the vibrancy of the district. Volunteering contributes economically and as a boost to health and community cohesion. Capturing and celebrating this will help articulate the special qualities of the district.

It is these special qualities which have (particularly in recent years) drawn creatives to the district. The honeypot effect of Stroud's buoyant creative scene has the potential to create a virtuous cycle bringing people and businesses into the district, growing opportunities and magnifying impact. Alongside creating a district in which young people wish to remain in, to live, work and play.

As Stroud grows and changes, its creative history should be celebrated and lauded. As well as the prestigious and well-known artists and histories, under-told stories should be shared. The story of Stroud as a leader in creative health, of creativity in activism, of diverse communities sharing their creativity and culture needs to be shouted from the hilltops.

The Strategy Themes

The consultation led to the following six themes:

- 1. Creativity and Climate**
- 2. Communicating and Connecting**
- 3. Economy and Regeneration**
- 4. Future Generations**
- 5. Communities and Wellbeing**
- 6. Heritage, Place and Nature**

Each theme has three recommendations which are explored below.

Whilst the recommendations are specific, it should be noted that the strategy is designed to be open and encompassing. Culture includes a broad range of disciplines and organisations/ individuals. This is a self-defining strategy and its intention is for organisations and individuals to see connections and opportunities beyond just the recommendations. For example, it could provide context and support for external funding applications for projects aligned with the themes listed above.

The consultation highlighted the need for a strategic approach to make a difference to cultural creativity in the district. The initial 2-year action plan is designed to create connections and raise the profile of cultural activity to enable sustainable delivery of cultural creativity in District with a freedom of expression.

1. CREATIVITY AND CLIMATE

The Council has an active and ambitious plan to tackle climate action, the 2030 Strategy. Founded on its mission as enabler, exemplar and encourager the strategy is detailed, wide ranging and focused. It fails to capitalise on what creativity and culture might add to its approach which is to ground this work in hope, belief and aspiration for the future. Without creativity, action on climate is liable to become mired in a sense of what will be lost, rather than what will be gained. Organisations like Hawkwood College are already part of a national conversation about climate activism and the role of culture in tackling these challenges. Arts and creativity can help spearhead broad behaviour change - one of the biggest challenges in tackling the climate crisis. There are creative ways to achieve all sorts of climate action outcomes.

There is the potential for the Council to use a creative approach to stimulating conversations at a family, business and community level to help deliver on its 2030 strategy. Beyond this, the Council can rightly celebrate its successes in achieving its climate goals and, again, culture can be an effective partner with the council to celebrate and communicate these achievements. Framing this approach in hope and a focus on future generations will likely embed new opportunities for the cultural sector to generate fresh thinking and action on climate change.

The potential for old and new technologies to help people be more creative and act sustainably is huge. By embracing new digital technologies, the Council can support online cultural activity and sustainable in-person activity (active travel, renewable generators, drone displays replacing fireworks). At the same time, sharing tools, premises and makerspaces will offer new ways of reducing the carbon footprint of individuals and organisations. The Council can lead the way in innovating towards sustainability.

And nowhere is this more in demand than across the Stroud District. The area's long history of social action has bubbled forth around the need to take drastic and immediate action on climate change and planet preservation. Ensuring that everyone understands the perspectives of other people, communities and eco-systems is essential if climate activists are to succeed. Art and creativity is the key to building this understanding and framing the most difficult of conversations in ways that make it possible for people to engage. The Council should be proud of its citizens' passion to save the planet and should unite with storytellers to enable, encourage and set an example.

Recommendations 1 – Creativity and Climate

1. Audit opportunities for old and new technologies to enable cultural activities to reduce their carbon footprint and enable the sharing and application of good practice.
2. Challenge myths and suspicions around creativity and climate by working with communities to co-create responses to the challenge of active travel, public transport and carbon footprints.
3. Support, promote and enable creative and cultural programmes which raise public awareness about realistic and achievable actions to reduce carbon emissions.
4. Support Climate Action Networks to raise awareness and engage communities in identifying and delivering local responses to the climate emergency.

2. COMMUNICATING AND CONNECTING

Crucial to growing the District's cultural and creative future is the means to tell people about what is going on. Investing in what the creative community is already doing to share ideas and promote activity will quickly yield results. At present, communication about cultural opportunities across the District is patchy and unequally distributed. While the Council will not set up its own cultural communications work, it will provide support in developing localised offers to make them district wide.

Further to this, the Council will help support the cultural creative sector to take its existing offer and link it authentically to the needs of the community by forging connections with the community hubs. The strategy to foster an eco-system of a connected, integrated (and celebrated) cultural community which is embedded in its community and not existing alongside or only in relation to certain parts of the community. It will trial support for individual creativity champions to activate and build connections across and within communities through creative activities.

Better communication of cultural opportunities will encourage micro-tourism and foster civic pride. Helping people to explore the wealth of opportunity on their own doorsteps and growing audience and market for local artists, makers and producers. This would foster a more sustainable and durable approach to culture in the district, creating new and younger audiences and potentially fostering dialogue that ensures that the culture that happens locally is made by, with and for local people.

Recommendations 2 – Communicating and Connecting

1. Establish a Community Cultural Panel to oversee the delivery of key Recommendations and Action Plan programme
2. Identify and support a cultural advocate to promote cultural activities across sectors and communities.
3. Identify a network of Local Cultural Hubs, strengthening local cultural networking and engaging with other community based groups and organisations
4. Adopt a district wide communication and promotion plan to underpin a coherent communication network for cultural, creative and arts organisations which will support forums and sharing opportunities and enable co-production, collaboration and promotion.
5. Create and maintain an online platform for detailed 'what's on' information aggregated from other websites.

3. ECONOMY AND REGENERATION

The cultural and creative sector within Stroud's District is a core part of the ecosystem that defines the place. People and businesses move to the District because of what is there already, its reputation, its nightlife, its food, its character. These are all defined and determined by the creatives who live here already. As discussed above, an audit of cultural value will help quantify this and identify opportunities for growth. Beyond this, though, the Council can foster a culture of cross-sector collaboration, encouraging businesses that are not defined as part of culture to consider themselves creative, to challenge themselves to work in new ways and try new things.

The process of researching and creating this strategy has initiated new conversations, networking and ambitions within and beyond the District's cultural sector. As already embedded in the Council's Economic Development Strategy, investing in the cultural sector will help it become better networked and connected - so that they avoid duplication and find shared ways to work together (e.g. joint bids for funding). There is already evidence of the cultural sector sharing resources - volunteering, fundraising and equipment, more is possible. New and hitherto unimagined projects and partnerships might emerge through a generous approach to creating networking and community building activities with the cultural sector.

A number of small, practical measures would help ease red tape and make delivering creative activity easier. Whether this is help with planning processes, road closures, costs for hiring parks, or in putting on events. It has been reported that the community feels the Council does not currently 'get' culture and its value; while individual officers and elected members may champion the value of culture, there is not a collective, organizational instinct that recognizes culture's wider value.

The Council wants to support opportunity and not, itself act as an unwitting block to unleashing the District's creativity. Training for staff and a process of internal advocacy will help the Council build an approach that makes it a valid, genuine and plausible fellow traveller in igniting the District's creative flame. Accompanying this with profile boosting action on the high street and with business partners will potentially generate rich rewards.

Recommendations 3 - Economy and Regeneration

1. Commission an audit of cultural value across the District to establish baseline measures of culture's impact on economy, health, criminal justice.
2. Work with Stroud District Council, the Local Strategic partnership and Town and Parish Councils and local chambers of trade to establish and develop connections between cultural organisations and business to enhance high street regeneration, nighttime economy and event opportunities.
3. Enable co-working opportunities between cultural organisations and the hospitality and tourism sector to promote inward investment.
4. Provide training and advice support to enable sharing of good practice and resources to maximise the benefits of fundraising, volunteering and training opportunities.
5. Establish training and employment channels between cultural and creative organisations and training and education providers such as Stroud College and local schools careers leads.

4. FUTURE GENERATIONS

There has been a national degrading of access to culture for young people both in and out of school. This is creating a generation of culturally disenfranchised children where only those with family wealth or family connections experience the benefits to their health, learning and future careers that cultural engagement can generate. What is more, young people don't know what they are missing - if they don't see it. As a consequence, many young people are not in a position to advocate for improved access to culture and the arts. Coupled with a reduction in available opportunities for young people to participate in culture, even young people keen to get involved struggle to find routes to express their creativity.

The Council will draw attention to reanimating youth provision to embed creativity, particularly in parts of the District with the most limited access to other cultural opportunities. By embedding creativity in youth clubs and other out of school provision, the Council can help build a level of cultural articulacy in young people across the District which will help ensure the District - and all its citizens can benefit from imagining, dreaming and advocating for a bright future. Creativity breeds confidence and a consciousness of the perspectives of others. It generates an appetite for risk and for vulnerability which will be vital in a rapidly changing society. Most pertinently, it builds a meaningful sense of civic rights and community connection which will have benefits in schools and across society.

As this takes hold, a greater range of young people can build skills and enthusiasm for shaping the district's cultural offer. This should take the form of young people being given the keys to the castle and enabled to put on their own events, defining content, building new forms of dialogue and sharing hitherto underground stories to help everyone hear diverse perspectives. This could take the form of an annual event or a fund for young producers. New and emerging artforms can be explored so that agency and the power of production shifts to the next generation.

Further, training and opportunities can be developed that will help young people see their futures in the district. The Council's Economic Strategy has already committed to increasing creative opportunities for young people. These could be developed in partnership with colleges and cultural institutions but also with new and untapped partners in digital technology industries, gaming, design, manufacturing and invention. A focus on young voices will not only benefit this generation of young people but the generations of the future. By exemplifying the concept of being a good ancestor, the Council and its partners will foster a culture of innovation that is future focused and takes into consideration the planet and the heritage we will leave to future generations.

Recommendations 4 - Future Generations

1. Encourage and enable a co-ordinated pathway for young people to launch creative careers through cultural sector apprenticeships, training and mentoring etc
2. Encourage a reanimation of cultural youth provision by supporting creatives to be embedded in youth clubs, schools, after school provision and colleges.
3. Encourage cultural organisations to co-create youth led activity such as diversifying decision-making, providing a ring-fenced resource for a youth led festival or other-celebrations.

5. COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING

The District is nationally renowned for its work in creative health. Dursley was one of the first places to successfully develop arts on prescription - a forerunner of the now national move towards social prescribing. With a track record going back 20 years, Artlift is well established as a nationally significant leader in social prescribing and arts and mental health. Along with Create Gloucestershire and other work across the District, there is the opportunity to build on this history and continue to attract national acclaim for this important work in connecting creativity with health and wellbeing. As the evidence base continues to grow for the role of culture in supporting the health of individuals and communities, this practice will only spread, and the Council can play a significant role in supporting and shaping this to the benefit of all its citizens.

The landscape of the District with its pattern of national paths, historic parks and leisure spaces, lends itself to drawing people outside. Already there is a wealth of creativity on display in festivals in summer and winter encouraging people to get outside and to get involved. While the District Council already draws on the Five Ways to Wellbeing to support residents' mental health, there is room to be more explicit about the ways that culture can connect and contribute to this agenda through joining with cultural sector partners to encourage creativity and curiosity for all. Partnerships with sport and leisure can also draw people to explore creativity and try cultural activities they may have felt weren't for them. There are potential connections through the Council's health and wellbeing team and with both leisure centres moving towards an active lifestyle focus.

There is evidence that a sense of belonging to a place and a community has a positive impact on individual and community wellbeing - and the arts and culture can play a key role in supporting the District Council to foster this sense of place. Crucial to this will be the way in which people and groups who do not typically see themselves represented and reflected in the stories that are shared start to hear and see them and people like them being given platforms to explore creativity. Through actively collaborating with historically marginalised groups, the Council can utilise creativity as a tool to bring communities together through shared storytelling in a range of forms.

By magnifying the role of culture as a tool for the council to achieve its aims to tackle loneliness, social isolation, the needs of an ageing population and contemporary challenges in adolescent mental health, there is the potential for culture to make a significant contribution to everyone in the district living healthy and happier lives. Other local, regional, national public and charitable bodies share this agenda, and these relationships should be fostered and developed.

Recommendations 5 – Communities and Wellbeing

1. Promote and enable partnerships between cultural sector and bodies such as the community response network, ICS, the police, Age UK, to develop new activity and relationship building.
2. Promote and enable opportunities for professional creatives to work with community hubs, schools and hospitals (e.g. a small creative health grants scheme for creatives to support community activity).
3. Promote and enable intergenerational cultural practice to build community cohesion focused on the wellbeing of future generations and the role of the good ancestor.

6. HERITAGE AND PLACE

Stroud District is visibly a place of the past and the present. Many churches, castles, canals and cottages have a beauty, grandeur and awe that can inspire everyone and needs to be preserved and protected. Alongside this, stories and histories of the past (both uplifting and heartrending) have the means to teach us about the present and learn for the future. Many of these stories are not well known and in shining a light on them, the Council will help to tell a story about a District and its people that is optimistic, inclusive and ambitious. The significant current work in restoring and reimagining the Stroudwater and Thames and Severn canals, of which the District Council plays a leading role, presents a great opportunity to shout about how heritage can connect communities today. The Museum in the Park and Stratford Park itself are much loved and valued jewels in the District's crown but more could be done to connect and highlight the many brilliant groups and communities which are conserving and capturing the history of a unique place.

The District Council has a key role in heritage and place, not just through planning, but also through the district's museum, the Museum in the Park. The Council is also the landlord, and as such supports in partnership, Woodchester Mansion and Kingshill House – both of whom play important roles under the theme of heritage and place. Alongside these, there is a vibrant and diverse mix of organisations across the district delivering activity that supports this theme.

The District's story - and its future - has been and will continue to be shaped by its landscape and developing new ways of interacting with this offers a simple way to help people learn about and love their home. Through reinterpreting landscape names and places, the Council can also unearth hidden stories and address the difficult and even shameful histories that are also an important part of Stroud's story. Artists are skilled at bringing stories to life with nuance and care to help everyone understand where we have come from and where we might go.

While the District has a fascinating history, the present and future will require new infrastructure and growth. This strategy is an opportunity to centralise the value of culture and heritage and by committing new developments to invest in culture, the Council can secure funds to deliver on its cultural and creative ambitions. Adopting creative approaches to planning and development could bring widespread benefits to the whole community.

National policy movers (such as the National Lottery Heritage Fund's new strategy) are strengthening the connection between culture, creativity and heritage. By building on the Council's existing planning heritage strategy but weaving in the contribution of artists and creatives and actively supporting the sharing of stories that have been marginalised, Stroud's heritage can be brought to life for residents and visitors to the District now and in the future.

Recommendations 6 – Heritage and Place

1. Strengthen the connection between culture, creativity and heritage by promoting and enabling activities and events which capture and share the District's history through innovation and collaboration.

2. Promote and enable the connectivity and development of accessible nature trails across the historic landscape.
3. Identify and promote heritage and cultural hotspots in collaboration with town and parish councils, VCSE organisations and local champions to showcase how creativity and exploration can foster understanding, ownership and involvement in the of heritage of the District
4. Share good practice, peer advice and fundraising expertise across the district to stimulate and support culture sector business development, local economic activity, job creation and training programmes.

RECOMMENDATIONS INTO ACTION – A DELIVERY ACTION PLAN

There is a lot of community cultural activity already happening across the District – which can and should be celebrated. The Cultural Strategy Action Plan is not about duplication but adding provision where it is absent and building awareness and confidence among Stroud's citizens to get involved in the activity that is out there.

While these areas of work are self-evidently interconnected, the action plan identifies threads of work and allocated pump prime or kick start funding for each. They align to the strategy recommendations but do not specify the delivery of these in details at this stage or prescribe specific delivery methods. This will be focus of the Strategy's Action plan to create the districts network of community, local government (including town and parish councils) and cultural organisations.

The strategy's six themes will, at their heart, be brought to life with the precise emphasis in each local area. They will be determined by local communities, while the quality of this activity will be assured by the partnership involvement of local, professional cultural organisations. Organisations with expertise in specific aspects of the strategy will be engaged to inspire, inform, fundraise and connect across these areas.

To provide a community-based structure to connect communities to cultural activity and focus the work on the six themes and recommendations, a Community Cultural Panel will be formed, along with a Cultural Hubs programme to deliver activity and a number of Sector Beacon organisations who will champion cultural activity, provide advice and support across the district.

Budget

An initial period of two years investment by the District Council in culture and creativity will kick start this strategy and demonstrate commitment to the cultural sector. It is vital that this opportunity is exploited and sustainable longer term.

Any budget allocated to the action plan will initially be based on experience, however, until the governance structure is put in place, partners come together, and delivery actions are planned, there is a degree of creative uncertainty. For this reason, a sum has been included which will be used through the strategy's governance structure, either for actions noted or new opportunities that arise over the two years that will deliver on this strategy's aims.

The Role of the Council

While the delivery of this action plan will be in the hands of Community Cultural Panel, Sector Beacons and Cultural Hubs and wider community, the Council will play a key role in creating the governance and environment to bring together these groups and approach this 2-year period of funding as an action learning process for all. By deliberately learning from each other and generating knowledge of impacts and opportunities the case for investment in culture and creativity across the district can be created for the longer term.

It is essential that these first two years act as a springboard for a long lasting transformational way of working into the future, including cross district peer support, making the most out of the cultural resource within the district, levelling up the cultural offer district-wide and ultimately helping make all of the Stroud District a happy place to live, work and play and a region known nationally for punching above its weight culturally.

In making recommendations and through the action plan, the District Council acknowledges the fragile ecology that this work is built on – cultural organisations are operating at or above capacity, community organisations are stretched, reliant on volunteers and facing existing challenges in supporting their neighbourhoods. Funds for action plan delivery will include resources for participants' time in meeting each other, sharing insight, delivering and communicating activity and contributing to building a more connected and coherent cultural ecology across the District.

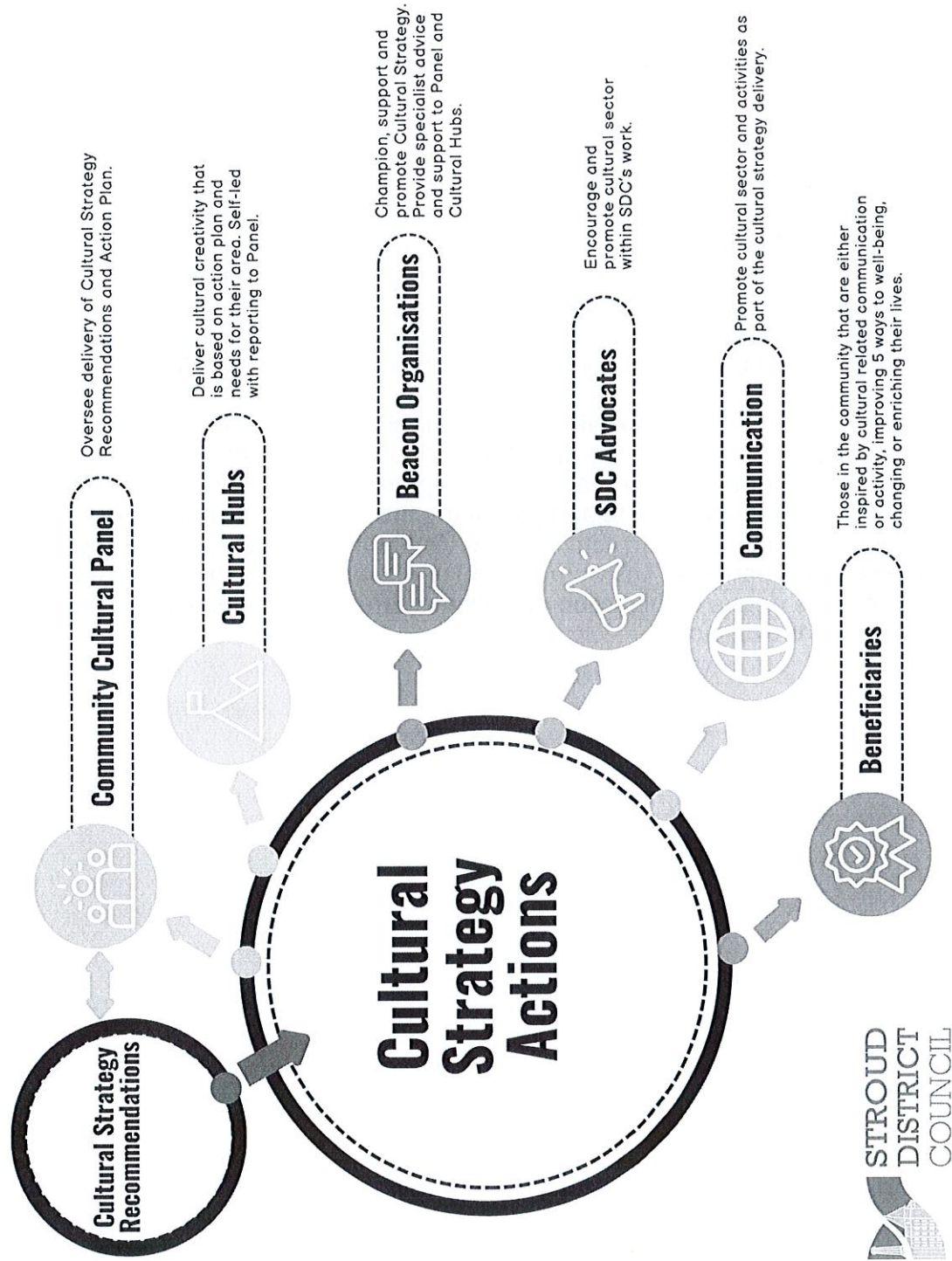
Launching the Strategy and this Action Plan

The investment of some time and energy into launching this strategy will be important. This should be done in a way which embodies a commitment to culture across the district and which harnesses the energy and collaborative nature of the strategy's development. This could be through a series of events, public announcements, cultural activities in tandem with Cultural Hubs and Sector Beacons. It should be loud and proud and kick off a series of activities.

Consideration can be given to delaying the launch until some of the collaborative partnerships with Sector Beacons and Cultural Hubs are in place. It should not be a website announcement and a straightforward press release. The Cultural Panel could play a key role in shaping and producing the launch of the strategy and generating excitement among communities. The launch is a key opportunity to engage potential partners (Arts Council, etc) and sponsors. It should demonstrate the district-wide nature of the action plan itself – through a series of linked events spread across the district. .

A DISTRICT OF CREATIVITY- A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR STROUD DISTRICT ACTION PLAN 2024 TO 2026

Action Plan – the connections



**A DISTRICT OF CREATIVITY- A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR STROUD DISTRICT
ACTION PLAN 2024 TO 2026**

#	Action	Detail/context	Lead	Completed within	Recommendation	Measured by
1.	Form Community Cultural Panel	<p>Modelled on 2030 Community Panel set out ToRs (for panel and cultural hubs) and Governance arrangements.</p> <p>The role of the panel will be to oversee the delivery and achievement of the recommendations and in particular provide a governance link into SDC and SDYC (Youth Council).</p>	SDC	4 months	<p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Terms of Reference (TOR) agreed.</p> <p>Chair in place.</p> <p>Membership established.</p> <p>Schedule of meetings diarised for two years.</p> <p>Secretariat in place.</p> <p>Meeting venues booked.</p> <p>Creation and review of risk register.</p> <p>Establish definition of Beacon Organisations.</p> <p>Agree ToR template for Cultural Hubs.</p> <p>Cultural Panel considers information from sector and hubs.</p> <p>Work programme to deliver strategy recommendations.</p>
2.	Identify beacon organisations	To champion, support and promote the cultural strategy. Act as critical friends, advisors. Advise Community Cultural Panel.	SDC/Panel	5 months	2	Organisations onboard. Connection to Panel and Cultural Hubs – providing specialist advice and support.

**A DISTRICT OF CREATIVITY- A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR STROUD DISTRICT
ACTION PLAN 2024 TO 2026**

#	Action	Detail/context	Lead	Completed within	Recommendation	Measured by
3.	Convene a cultural launch event – a celebration of cultural creatives in the Stroud District	Launch of Cultural Strategy by cultural organisations. Profile raising for cultural sector – build connections within and externally. Development of cultural hubs.	Panel	3 months	2 3	Celebrating and encouraging. Diversity of attendance and breadth of cultural creatives involved. Strategy public launch. Evaluation of event.
4.	Identify cultural advocate(s) from cultural organisations and Stroud District Council	The advocates encourage and promote cultural sector within SDC's work. These would be unpaid roles for leaders and champions in the sector or partner organisations across the district. From SDC advocates may be one Member and one senior Officer advocate.	SDC	3 months	2. 3. 5	Cultural advocates identified within the council bridging into partners organisations incl. economic development.

**A DISTRICT OF CREATIVITY- A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR STROUD DISTRICT
ACTION PLAN 2024 TO 2026**

#	Action	Detail/context	Lead	Completed within	Recommendation	Measured by
5.	Form Localised Cultural Hubs	To deliver cultural creativity that is based on the needs of the local area (see Action 6 below). Cultural hubs, as key stakeholders, can advise/update the Panel.	Chair of Panel/SDC	12 months	2 3	Individuals and organisations identified and buy-in. Adopt ToRs (drafted by Panel). Align to community hubs, District wide spread (est. five). Community creative delivery functioning and self-managing within the local community. Each has a set of priorities, aims and action plan. Outreach plans created with KPI's to measure the impact
6.	Establish Cultural Hubs with outreach plans	Determine how best to tackle objective of outreach into their respective communities using creative residencies (aligned to heritage, climate, future generations) etc...? Cultural Hubs raise profile locally.	SDC SDYC Community Hubs		4 5 6	Cultural Hub outreach plans which reflect delivery of recommendations are agreed and funded including. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth activity / festival Embedded professional artist Organisations can feed in projects to the Hubs that fit wider Strategy to allow a tactical view to be gleaned and connect as suits. Updates to Panel enable a District wide perspective.

A DISTRICT OF CREATIVITY- A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR STROUD DISTRICT ACTION PLAN 2024 TO 2026

#	Action	Detail/context	Lead	Completed within	Recommendation	Measured by
7.	Audit and map activities	Provide information about cultural creativity in the district to support further activity and develop better understanding of sector. To include cultural value assessment	Panel	12 months initiation 24 month complete	1 2 4 6	Independent commission 12 months. Completed 24 months. Feed outputs into SDC Strategies. Make data available to cultural sector to help understand need/gaps.
8.	Identify a small fund for public awareness building for creativity and climate	Use cultural creativity to raise awareness of actions within 2030 Strategy	Climate Change and Sustainability Team	18 months	1	Outputs that support delivery of 2030 strategy. Work with Cultural hubs.
9.	Adopt a district wide communication and promotion plan.	Promote the cultural sector's 'evergreen' elements and strategy specific actions. Specialist communication professional to undertake. Panel to review brief and receive updates on outputs.	Panel	12 months	2 4	Funded communication plan in place and adopted by the Panel. Communication support for local activities and activity planned across the district. Cultural organisational data based/contact list held centrally and accessible by all partner organisations. Online platform established with sustainable business plan.

**A DISTRICT OF CREATIVITY- A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR STROUD DISTRICT
ACTION PLAN 2024 TO 2026**

#	Action	Detail/context	Lead	Completed within	Recommendation	Measured by
10	Support and facilitate better coordination in apprenticeship, training, and mentoring	Develop connections between cultural sector, employment, and training. SDC experience in this area to be shared.	SDC/SGS College/Create Gloucestershire	12 months	4	Training and awareness programme for cultural organisations is in place.
11	Produce and deliver a heritage skills development plan	Opportunities are presented to access a greater awareness of heritage skills. Raise the profile of creativity in the sector.	Panel/SDC	12 months 24 months completed	6	Programme of skills development established /completed. Further activity is planned and sustainable.
12	Produce and deliver a fundraising plan	Enabled by pump priming core funding. Hubs undertake agreed work and update Panel as agreed	Panel (external support)	12 months	3	Costed raising plan is in place and adopted by the Panel. Development between Hub organisations and other workshops scheduled.
13	Creation of forum for the sector	Regular, discussion, awareness raising with each other and SDC	Panel	6 months	2	Mailing list Meetings scheduled and held.

**A DISTRICT OF CREATIVITY- A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR STROUD DISTRICT
ACTION PLAN 2024 TO 2026**

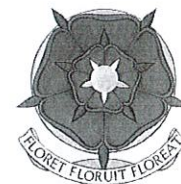
#	Action	Detail/context	Lead	Completed within	Recommendation	Measured by
14	Evaluation towards end of year two	Reports from Hubs to Panel, feeding into next action plan and updates to Cultural Strategy.	Panel	24 months		Evaluation undertaken. Next action plan created.

A DISTRICT OF CREATIVITY



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A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR STROUD DISTRICT



Stonehouse Town Council Agenda Item Template

Adopted April 2019 (TC 2150)

To be reviewed May 2022

Items must be submitted to give as much notice as possible but with the minimum of 5 clear days before a meeting date not including weekends or bank holidays. Items may be rejected or postponed if they are submitted too late, a power cannot be identified, the item requires further information, the item can be resolved by administration, or a form of words cannot be agreed. The final decision regarding these reasons will be taken by the Proper Officer.

To be completed by the Proper Officer		
Date Received by Proper Officer:		
Agreed / postponed / Rejected	Reason for postponement / rejection	
Added to agenda of (Meeting):	Meeting Date:	Item no.

Item Subject: (This is the same as the agenda item)

Woodland & Outdoor Spaces Management Sub-committee / Working Group

Explanation of the proposal:

In September 2021 the Council formally adopted the groundbreaking Stonehouse Community Arboretum Plan. Since that date, that plan has largely sat on the shelf gathering dust. The Council is soon to be presented with a professionally produced Management Plan for Doverow Wood, which has been in the Council's ownership since the late 1800's.

Stonehouse Town Council are committed to achieve net-zero and to improve the environment. In terms of our outdoor resources, we have recently achieved some notable improvements, but the historical approach has always been piecemeal and mainly reactive, resulting in no overall strategy and plan for the future biodiversity of our community. This is not just about trees, although they are clearly a vital component, it about the wider environment and what we intend to do to improve it for future generations.

The Council has never had a proper strategy in place to manage its outdoor space resources. For example, it has relied upon an outdated and inefficient private Trust mechanism to try to manage Doverow Wood. However, it is clear looking at the facts that this approach does not work and that the original purpose of the private Trust has not and probably never will be achieved. It is in short (in the writer's view) not fit for purpose and should be abandoned in preference to a proper plan.

At present, we have the following outdoor resources to manage:

Doverow Wood
 Stagholt Rec Ground
 Allotments
 Oldends Rec Ground
 Laburnum Rec Ground
 Meadow Rec Ground
 Town Greens

continued

Stonehouse Town Council Agenda Item Template

Adopted April 2019 (TC 2150)

To be reviewed May 2022



We currently have several major ongoing projects:

Stagholt

Court View (coming soon)

Landscaping of Oldends Lane car park.

Additionally, we now have a part-time Projects Officer whose input allows us to take-on projects and initiatives we could not previously aspire to.

The purpose of this proposal to Council is to bring all the above aspects under a common umbrella, driven either by a Standing Sub-Committee or a Working Group. The aims would be to fully develop and utilise the tools we already have at our disposal (Stonehouse Arboretum Plan, Doverow Wood Management Plan) and to actively seek to develop tree planting and other environmental schemes across the estate. We would achieve this by working in partnership with a variety of agencies, groups and individuals, such as our Allotments Association, Stonehouse in Bloom, tree consultants, community groups and other statutory authorities.

In addition to the above, there are opportunities for capital fundraising for environmental projects that could be actively pursued.

Full Terms of Reference would need to be discussed and developed but should include all the above principles; including ongoing management particularly of Doverow Wood; to develop a long-term planting and environmental improvement plan for all our open spaces to our recreation places. In the shorter term it should develop a detailed landscaping vision for Stagholt, should we achieve planning consent.

Options:

Convening either a Sub-Committee or Working Group in the first instance. This should report directly to the Environment Committee and be convened by an elected Councillor with a least one other Cllr in accordance with the policy. I would suggest a suitable tree expert and other individuals from the community need to be appointed to such a group.

Costs and Funding Source: If costs are involved please ask Customer Services or Committee Clerk to obtain them for you in accordance with Financial Regulations)

None foreseen.

Stonehouse Town Council Agenda Item Template

Adopted April 2019 (TC 2150)

To be reviewed May 2022



Carbon emission implications	
Nil	
Status: for information / for decision	
For discussion and decision.	
If for decision, Recommendations:	
Full Terms of Reference would need to be discussed and developed but should include all the above principles.	
Proposed by:	Dated:
Cllr Neil Gibbs	24/08/2024

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What are Assets of Community Value (ACV)?

GUIDE

PUBLISHED: 12 MAY 2020 | UPDATED: 18 OCT 2023
6 MINUTE READ



CONTENT BY

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Assets of Community Value (ACV) form a part of the Community Right to Bid.

It acts as the first stage in identifying and nominating buildings or other assets such as land that have a main use or purpose of furthering the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community, and could do so into the future.

acv) (ACV)

Once listed as Assets of Community Value with the local assets- authority, the local community will be informed if they ~~are~~ listed for sale within the five year listing period. The community- community can then enact the Community Right to Bid, value- which gives them a moratorium period of six months to acv) determine if they can raise the finance to purchase the asset.

What defines an Asset of Community Value?

An Asset of Community Value is defined as: A building or other land is an asset of community value if its main use has recently been or is presently used to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community and could do so in the future. The Localism Act states that 'social interests' include cultural, recreational and sporting interests.

The regulations list a number of situations where land or buildings are exempted from inclusion on the list or operation of the moratorium. These include:

homes

hotels

assets being transferred between kindred businesses

Church of England land holdings.

How do you nominate an Asset of Community Value?

A number of community organisations can nominate land and buildings for inclusion on the list:

parish councils

neighbourhood forums (as defined in Neighbourhood Planning regulations)

Unincorporated community groups of at least 21 members which do not distribute profits to members (this could include community groups with constitutions)

not-for-private-profit organisations (e.g. charities).

Community organisations also have to have a local connection, which means their activities are wholly or partly concerned with the area, or with a neighbouring authority's area.

Decisions and appeals

If a community organisation nominates land or buildings that meet the definition of an Asset of Community Value, and the nomination process was undertaken correctly (i.e. came from a group entitled to nominate), then the local authority must include the asset on its list.

Assets will remain on the list for at least five years. If the council decides that the nomination doesn't meet the criteria, then they must write to the group who nominated the asset and provide an explanation. They must also keep a list of unsuccessful nominations for at least five years. Landowners can ask local authorities to review the inclusion of an asset on the list, and this triggers an appeal to an independent body, called a First Tier Tribunal.

Moratorium Periods

The Community Right to Bid does not give the right of first refusal to community organisations to buy an asset that they successfully nominate for inclusion on the local authority's list. What it does do is give time for them to put together the funding necessary to bid to buy the asset on the open market. If an owner wants to sell property/land that is on the list, they must tell the local authority. If the nominating body is keen to develop a bid, they can then call for the local authority to trigger a moratorium period, during which time the owner cannot proceed to sell the asset.

There are two moratorium periods. Both start from the date the owner of the asset tells the local authority of their intention to sell. The first is the **interim moratorium period**, which is six weeks, during which time a community organisation can decide if they want to be considered as a potential bidder. The other is a **full moratorium period**, which is six months, during which a community organisation can develop a proposal and raise the money required to bid to buy the asset. The regulations list some situations where the Moratorium will not be applied, even when it is an Asset of Community Value on the list. These include:

- If the disposal is a gift

- If the disposal is made between members of the same family

- If the land or building being disposed of is part of a bigger estate

If the disposal is of a building or piece of land on which going-concern business is operating, provided that the sale is to a new owner to continue the same business (for example if an owner of a pub wants to sell the pub to a new owner, to continue running it as a pub).

During a moratorium, the owner of the asset cannot conclude the sale.

Why are Assets of Community Value and the Community Right to Bid important?

In neighbourhoods across the country there are buildings and amenities that are integral to the communities that use them. This could be a village shop, a pub, a community centre or a library for example. Many provide a base from which to deliver public services to the local community. The closure or sale of such buildings and amenities can create lasting damage in communities and threaten the provision of services.

Assets of Community Value and the Community Right to Bid offers greater opportunity for communities to keep such buildings in public use and ensure they remain a social hub for the community.

Read the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2012/9780111525791/contents>)

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