

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**Present**

Mrs M Shaw (Parish Councillor)  
  
Mr S. Packer (Chair)  
Ms K. Hudson (Vice Chair)  
Mr I. Kirkham (Parish Councillor)  
Mrs N. Bradley (Clerk)

**In Attendance**

Ms L. Cohen (County Councillor)(until 7.50)  
  
Ms C. Braun (District Councillor)  
Mr G. James (District Councillor)(from 7.15)  
Mr R. Bartlam (Resident) (until 7.50)  
Mr & Mrs W. Farmer (prospective residents)  
(7.30-7.50)

**1) Apologies**

Mrs D. Davidson(Parish Councillor)  
Mr K. Tucker (District Councillor)

**2) DPI Declarations and Dispensations**

There were no declarations.

**3) Approval of Minutes of the Meeting Held on 13<sup>th</sup> October**

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Ms Hudson and carried unanimously. They were duly accepted and signed. (248/21)

**4) Matters Arising From the Minutes**

- Mr Lawfull has now cleared the area at the entrance to Tait's Hill Industrial Estate and has thanked the Council for its understanding. (249/21)
- Severn Trent again and received a much more positive reply (attached). All communication pipes from the main to properties on Tait's Hill Road and Old Hill Lane are now to be renewed though no date has been set. (250/21)
- Cllr Cohen has met Mr Kirkham to look at the problem of flooding at the War Memorial and this is now to be dealt with by Highways as priority. (251/21)
- The Clerk wrote to the occupants of Ford Cottage regarding the roadside dummy which has now been removed. (252/21)

All other matters arising are dealt with later in these minutes.

**5) Reports by County and District Councillors**

Cllr Cohen's report is attached. (253/21)

Cllr Cohen drew particular attention to the Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme and asked that it be publicised in the village. The Clerk will place this on Enews. [Action Clerk](#). (254/21)

The District Councillors' latest report is also attached. (255/21)

**6) Planning Matters**

New since last meeting

- S.21/2603/HHOLD, Dingley, Tait's Hill, Erection of side extension, detached car port & new roof to existing garage. The Council has no problem with this application and will post to that effect on the SCD website. [Action Clerk.](#) (256/21)
- S.21/2337/FUL, land At Southend Farm, Wick Lane, demolition of three agricultural buildings. Conversion of agricultural barn to 5-bedroom dwelling house, garage and boundary wall. The Council supports this application and will post to that effect on the SCD website. [Action Clerk.](#) (257/21)

Decided since last meeting

- S.21/2229/HHOLD, Treetops, Tait's Hill Road, erection of two-storey extension. Withdrawn (258/21)
- S.21/2149/HHOLD, Lamport Court, replacement of existing painted metal driveway gates with timber gates; alterations to raise low level wall garden wall between lawned and drive by approximately 375mm. Permitted (259/21)
- S.21/2421/TPO, The Elms, The Avenue, fell 2 large ash trees. Approved (260/21)
- S.21/2024/T5DAY, Melbury, Wick Lane, maple tree - remove upper branches & leave lower branches. Approved (261/21)
- S.21/1819/AGR, land at Stinchcombe, agricultural storage building. Required - Prior Approval or EIA (262/21)

Still Undecided

- S.21/2270/FUL, land adjacent to Lorrige Farm, temporary change of use (3 yrs) from Agricultural to football pitch. The Council has posted a comment in support of this application. (263/21)
- S.21/2256/FUL, land adjacent to Lorrige Farm, erection of extension to agricultural building (264/21).
- S.21/2301/FUL, land At Hill House, Wick Lane, Erection of two dwelling houses. (265/21)
- S.21/2037/HHOLD, Tumbling Fields, Echo Lane, Proposed front & side extensions, re-cladding and swimming pool. (266/21)

## **7) Footpaths and Rights of Way**

Mr Snellock has stepped down as Footpaths Warden and Mr John Thomas of The Stables, Wick Lane has offered to take on the role. The Clerk will write to both to thank Mr Snellock for his contribution, confirm Mr Thomas in post and facilitate a handover. [Action Clerk.](#) (267/21)

Mr Packer has been in touch with Mr Kendall again about the footpaths on his land will continue to liaise with him as well as putting him in touch with Mr Thomas. [Action Mr Packer.](#) (268/21)

There has been no further progress regarding the footpaths at Piers Court. Mr Packer has met with a Police representative who stressed the need to record and report any incidents of harassment and Mr Packer will relay this via Enews. A meeting is being arranged for early January with Sarah Macauley-Lowe to which Ms Lawton will be invited. [Action Mr Packer.](#) (269/21)

## **8) Highways**

Cllr Cohen has visited Old Hill Lane/Clingre Down with Paul Helbrow and established that the problem wall is the responsibility of the landowner. Mr Helbrow has written to the landowner but there has been no response to date. Mr Helbrow is now off sick and Cllr Cohen will raise the matter with his temporary replacement. [Action Cllr Cohen.](#) (270/21)

Ms Hudson reported that progress on VAS has been delayed because of Mr Helbrow's absence but his replacement is now dealing with the matter and there should be a decision after Christmas. (271/21)

It was agreed to support a 20mph speed limit in residential areas in Gloucestershire. This was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Ms Hudson and carried unanimously. Ms Hudson will liaise.

### Action Ms Hudson. (272/21)

There has been no further progress on a change to the speed limit at Berkeley road and this is ongoing. (273/21)

Ms Hudson's discussion paper on village gateways is attached and she would like comments from Councillors on colour, style, wording etc before the next meeting. There will be a chance for the village to comment before a final decision is made. Action All. (274/21)

## **9) Facilities**

The new bin and flagpole are now in position. Mr Lawfull was extremely helpful in fitting them and the Clerk will write to thank him Action Clerk. (275/21)

The Clerk will check on final details of costs for the new notice board and make the purchase. Action Clerk (276/21)

The PC has not been informed of any further progress on plans for an improved playground. Cllr Cohen pointed out that there has been no application for funding from the Community Recovery Fund. (277/21)

Ms Hudson reported some rain leaking into the phone box that Mr Pinch has offered to fix. Some walks leaflets have been damaged but Mrs Shaw has ordered 20 new sets at a cost of £100. She will try to retrieve the original art work from the printers and Mr Kirkham should then be able to produce more. Action Mrs Shaw and Mr Kirkham. (278/21)

DRFC has expressed concerns about litter and dog mess, particularly the latter as the existing dog bins are overflowing. Mr Packer proposed and Ms Hudson seconded that another bin be purchased and placed near the bus shelter at the Village Hall. This was carried unanimously subject to agreement from SDC. Action Clerk (279/21)

## **10) Environment**

A cultivation licence was not needed for planting on the verge on The Avenue and the money paid was returned. Plans for planting are ongoing and several residents have expressed interest and willingness to help. (280/21)

## **11) Financial Matters**

The Statement of Payments and Receipts was signed by the Chair and Ms Hudson. (281/21)

Authorisation of payment of £98 for SLCC membership was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Mrs Shaw and carried unanimously. (282/21)

The draft budget was discussed and after the addition of approximately £200 in 2021-22 to fund the Queen's Jubilee beacon, and removal of £200 entered in error for 2022-23, the budget was agreed with an increase of £100 to the precept. This was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Mrs Shaw and carried unanimously. The final budget is attached. (283/21)

## **12) Councillors' Reports**

Mr Kirkham reported that the fence around the Millennium Tree has been replaced and is very strong. Mr Packer thanked all who had helped. (284/21)

## **13) Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

The Council has registered to be part of the chain of beacons on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and the Clerk will write to Natural England to inform them. [Action Clerk](#). (285/21)

The Council has also been allocated two oak trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy which should be received soon. Planting locations are to be decided. (286/21)

#### **14) Data Protection**

There were no Data Protection issues.

#### **15) Items for Website**

Before he left, Mr Bartlam asked that the council make more use of the website. (287/21)

Mr Packer still intends circulate a draft of suggestions for better use of the website for comment and further discussion. He will also write an end of year report for the website. [Action Mr Packer](#). (288/21)

The clerk will post a notification about the Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme on Enews. [Action Clerk](#). (289/21)

#### **15) Post- Covid 19 Agenda Items**

- Parish/Neighbourhood Plan. Everyone should look at the Cam plan before the next meeting. The Standish plan is also worth looking at. [Action All](#) (290/21)
- Meeting re cyber crime
- Post-Covid celebration.

#### **15) Dates of Next Meeting**

The next meetings will be:-

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 7.30pm

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30. Parish Assembly

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30. AGM

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF 13TH DECEMBER 2021  
STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS AND AUTHORISATIONS

Building society balance on 13th October £12,288.45

Receipts since 13<sup>th</sup> October

SDC Precept £ 2775.00  
Severn Trent payment £ 25.00

Payments since 13<sup>th</sup> October

Clerk's salary, Aug/Sept/Oct £ 333.00  
Glassfibre Flagpoles £ 310.74

Building society balance on 13<sup>th</sup> December £ 14,444.71

Authorisation is sought for

SLCC subscription £ 98.00

Prepared by

Approved by

E.N. Bradley  
Clerk & RFO  
December

S. Packer  
Chairman

K. Hudson  
Vice Chairman 13<sup>th</sup>

**STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

**BUDGET 2022-23**

	<b>Actual 2021-22</b>	<b>Predicted 2022-23</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Parish Precept	£5,550.00	£5,650.00
Building Society Interest	£14.36	c£20.00
VAT Refund	£292.10	*£104.90
Grants & Windfalls (CIL)	£1,556.51	£161.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£7,412.97</b>	<b>£5,935.92</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Clerk's Salary (full year)	£1,316.00	c£1,360.00
<u>Regular expenditure paid (to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021)</u>		
Insurance	£424.08	c£450.00
Playsafety	£82.50	£82.50
Audits	£105.00	£105.00
Subscriptions		c.£200.00
Grant to Village Hall		£300.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,927.58</b>	<b>£2,283.50</b>
<u>Regular expenditure still outstanding</u>		
Subscriptions	c£200.00	
<u>Other expenditure (to end 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021)</u>		
Zoom	£28.78	
Litter bin	£207.60	
Flagpole	£310.74	
General	£75.00	
<u>Other planned expenditure</u>		
Village gateways	c£1,400	
Notice board	c£500.00	
Jubilee Beacon		c£200.00
Training		£50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4,649.70</b>	<b>£2,533.50</b>
<u>In reserve</u>		
Avenue trees contingency	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
CIL payment	£144.00	£144.00
Traffic calming equipment	£2,000.00	£4,000.00

Contribution to improved play equipment	£500.00	£500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£8,793.70</b>	<b>£8,677.5</b>

\* To end 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021

**Notes**

Subscriptions still to be paid:-

GAPTC 22-23        £130.00 approx  
 SLCC                    £ 65.00

(2) Reserve – contribution of £4,000 was agreed to be spread over 2 years. All other reserve items carry over from year to year.

## **Village Gateway Design: Discussion Document**

The gateways cannot be completely standardised due to site specific constraints, however, it would seem sensible to aim for uniformity where possible and to fit in with existing signage.

### **Gate Dimensions**

#### ***Echo Lane & Wick Lane***

Highways have said that the Echo Lane gateway should not be higher than about 125 cm i.e. a little over 4 ft. I suggest that we adopt this as the height for the gates on Wick Lane as well.

The width of the existing "STINCHCOMBE Please drive carefully through the village" sign on Wick Lane is about 138 cm. Presumably replacing it with a gate of the same width would be acceptable. This width would also work on Echo Lane.

I suggest three or four bars, depending on the size of the posts and rails that we choose. There are examples of both in the artist's impressions.

Slimbridge went for a gate with a sign on one side of the road and a narrower gate without a sign on the other. Elsewhere I have seen identical gates with signs on each side, which would have more visual impact if affordable and acceptable to Highways.

#### ***Taits Hill***

On Taits Hill we need something larger to be noticeable because it is a wider verge on a busier road. My suggestion is something resembling a 5-bar field gate, a similar height to those on the lanes but 240 cm wide.

### **Signage Colour Scheme**

I suggest black lettering on white with a grey or yellow surround. The yellow would stand out more but some might find it garish. The existing Welcome signs at the top of Taits Hill Road and at the entrance to The Avenue are on a grey background so we might want to match them on Taits Hill.

Where the speed limit is incorporated it is proposed that it should be the familiar black numerals in a red circle.





## Signage Text

In the images I have used 'STINCHCOMBE Please drive carefully' for the lanes. This would get the message across in the fewest words and permit the largest text.

On the Tait's Hill sign I have used 'Welcome to STINCHCOMBE Please drive carefully'. This matches the wording on the existing signs at the top of Tait's Road and at the entrance to The Avenue. We could have 'Thank you for driving carefully' on the reverse like those signs do but it might be taken as permission to speed up coming into a dangerous bend.

## Artist's Impressions

N.B. Because I have adapted existing images the proportions are not identical to those suggested above.

### *Echo Lane*

The location agreed with Highways is that of the existing 30 mph signs, between the gates to Echo Stables and Churchfield House's double wooden gates. These signs are to be retained so there is no point in showing the speed on the gateway signage.



*Existing arrangement*



I propose identical gates on each side of the lane, using one of the colour schemes above. They would be immediately in front of the existing posts with the 30 mph signs.



### **Wick Lane**



*Existing arrangement*

The existing "STINCHCOMBE Please drive carefully through the village" sign would be removed. As there is no speed limit sign the new gateway signage must include the speed limit. Highways have said that the Road Narrows sign on the reverse must be retained on the back of the new sign.

The left-hand verge is wide enough to accommodate a gate without sacrificing the useful unofficial passing place.

Two different colour schemes and sizes of sign are shown below. My preference would be for the larger sign, as on the right, combined with the yellow background.



### **Taits Hill**

There is currently no sign on Taits Hill to warn cars coming up the hill that they are entering a residential area. Highways have agreed to a single gate, roughly level with the end of the Delafield's garage (the house called "Rufton"). Depending whether the proposed 60 house development goes



ahead and whether it necessitates a change in the road layout, a second gate may eventually be installed on the other side.

The idea is to have a planter in front of the gate so the bottom edge of the sign must be high enough not to be obscured by the planting.





17 November 2021

Stinchcombe Parish Council  
Hill House  
Wick Lane  
Stinchcombe  
Dursley  
Gloucestershire  
GL11 6BE

Customer Care  
PO Box 407  
Darlington  
DL1 9WD

**02477 715697**

[customercare@severntrent.co.uk](mailto:customercare@severntrent.co.uk)

[www.stwater.co.uk](http://www.stwater.co.uk)

Internal Ref **COM- 63877**

Dear Mrs Bradley

Thank you for your patience while I've been looking into your complaint.

I'd like to apologise for the delay in getting back to you about your concerns. As we've failed to reply to you within 10 working days, you're entitled to a payment in line with our Guaranteed Service Standards Scheme (GSS). A GSS payment to the value of £25.00 is due and in order to process this payment, please confirm your full name and address, including postcode. Additionally, please disclose on how you would like to receive this payment, either credited to your water account, bank transfer or cheque.

I'm so sorry for the lack of updates concerning this situation, I can only imagine the disruption the water leaks have had on numerous occasions.

I've been liaising with Frances, the project manager for Tait's Hill, and Fred, our asset planning engineer, regarding the reoccurring water leaks for the area affecting local residents. In view of reoccurring issues, I'm pleased to confirm a project has been approved for all communication pipes leading off from the 90mm water mains, running along Tait's Hill Road and Oldhill Lane, will be renewed. This will be for Severn Trent owned communication pipe assets only.

Once we receive further information from the project team, we'll organise for this work to start promptly, currently we don't have a finalised date for this at present time.

We take pride in trying to reach a fair resolution for our customers and having fully reviewed your complaint, we're confident we've taken this approach. Following our regulated guidelines, you have reached the end of our internal complaint process, this means we will not be able to respond further on this matter. Should you not be satisfied with our outcome, your next step would be to contact the Consumer Council for Water, who will independently review your case. Their contact details are included in the attached complaints process leaflet. If we hear from the Consumer Council for Water, we'll work with them closely to give a full account of your case. Please be aware, if you do respond to us directly, we'll refer you to the Consumer Council for Water so they can complete an independent review.

Stinchcombe Parish Council

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

My next monthly meeting to allow residents to meet and discuss concerns and new initiatives will be at The Keepers on Symn Lane in Wotton on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 at 11.00am. Due to safeguarding, if residents would like to attend can they inform me in advance by email or phone. Details below. It would be useful if this information could also be shared on the Parish Council website.

**Oldhill Lane/Clingre Down Junction** – We visited the site on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and met with residents. Paul Helbrow confirmed that the wall was on the owner’s land but subsequently wrote to the owner. Paul has been off sick since. No reply has yet been received.

**Flooding Wick Lane** – Arrangements were made on 8<sup>th</sup> December to have the drains highlighted cleared and jetted. If the crew report back that this is a collapse or further investigation is required, a CCTV survey will have to be raised in the new financial year.

**Piers Court** – At the meeting in September Simon had confirmed that he would meet with Helen Lawton and that the Parish Council would write to her. I also spoke to Helen Lawton and requested that she submit her proposals. I am yet to receive any updates.

**Playground Improvements** – I am yet to receive any requests from residents for The Community Recovery Fund to provide funding.

**Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

Registration for the winter HAF programme is now open for children eligible for benefits - related free school meals. The winter programme will run from 20 – 23 December 2021. Children who signed for the summer programme will be automatically registered.

Families can register at: [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/HAF](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/HAF)



## **Two for one replanting scheme**

To prevent the spread of ash dieback 4,955 dangerous and diseased trees have been removed with 28,304 trees expected to be planted by March 2022.

Wood removed is sent to biomass power stations to produce electricity and heat to fuel homes.

The county council has identified the presence of the violet click beetle at a number of sites. These insects are found in the heart of decayed trees. Where safe, mature stumps have been left to preserve their habitat.

## **Strategy to tackle domestic abuse in Gloucestershire**

This has been published by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to mark the beginning of 16 days of action against violence. Full details together with a list of support services can be found here: [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/domestic-abuse-strategy/local-support-domestic-abuse/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/domestic-abuse-strategy/local-support-domestic-abuse/)

## **A Greener Christmas**

A campaign has been launched to encourage residents to reduce waste over the festive season #greenerChristmas

Four key areas of focus:

Food: Shop local, plan meals, use up leftovers

Gifts: £42 million of unwanted gifts. Regift something you have, think sustainable

Trees: Rent one, plant one, use a fallen branch instead

Traditional items: Think recyclable, reusable options for wreaths, crackers and advent calendars

## **COVID-19 and FLU:**

## Latest Advice

The groups who will be offered COVID and FLU vaccinations this winter are:

- Anyone who is eligible but has not had their first or second dose of the COVID vaccine
- Those eligible for COVID boosters – these invitations will be received directly from NHS services
- 12-15 year - olds (COVID) – delivered by a school based immunisation team
- Flu Vaccinations:
  - All children aged 2-15
  - Those aged 6 months to under 50 in clinical risk groups
  - Pregnant women
  - Those aged 50 and over
  - Those in long stay residential care homes
  - Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
  - Frontline health and social care staff

Adults and two and three year olds who are eligible for a flu vaccine will receive an invite from local GP services.

Testing: Our nearest Mobile Testing Unit location is:

Dursley Rugby Club, Hounds Green, Dursley GL11 6AJ (Monday-Tuesday)

Permanent Test Centre

Stroud, Stratford Park Leisure Centre

Lloyds Pharmacy Wotton-under-Edge provides on-site testing for people with no symptoms – 43 Long Street, GL12 7BX. Opening hours 9am-6.30pm (Monday – Friday), 9am-5pm (Saturday).

Cases

In the 7 days 20/11/21 – 26/11/21 there were 3,127 confirmed cases of COVID 19 in the county. This represents a decrease of 4% from the week before.

Of these cases:

793 Gloucester

635 Cheltenham

518 Tewkesbury

464 Stroud

384 Cotswold

333 Forest of Dean

The rate of cases in the last 7 days per 100,000 is 488.1  
in Gloucestershire.

My contact details [linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk) . Mobile 07791110906

# Stroud District Councillors' Report – December 2021

## Report of meetings during November

All Stroud District Council and Committee papers can be found here:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings>

Recordings of meetings are available via the Committee meeting webpage on the Council's YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeH\\_AmF0s-TShcYIM8Stweg/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeH_AmF0s-TShcYIM8Stweg/videos)

### Housing Committee – 2 November

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Committee papers can be found [here](#). The committee discussed the following items:

**Revised Tenancy Estates Management Policy** – to implement 'The Social Housing White Paper 2020'.

**Revised Homeseeker Plus Allocations Policy** – to address areas where the Homeseeker Plus policy was open to interpretation and could be implemented differently across the partnership.

**Mobility Scooters Policy** for Council properties – to highlight the positive aspects of owning and using a mobility scooter and that storage and charging must be achieved safely for all.

**Council's Out of Hours Call Out Provision** - corrective action to strengthen the call out provision for council tenants following a recent audit report. Update and progress acknowledged.

**Volunteering Policy (Independent living)** – new policy improving the management of volunteers and the volunteer experience.

**Pet Policy** – update of pet policy – balancing tenant wellbeing with socially responsible pet ownership - reported in Stroud News & Journal [here](#) ("*Cockerels to banned from Council Houses*").

**Warm & Well Partnership Renewal** – continuing to contribute £20K for core funding to the partnership which provides advice and support to those in fuel poverty. Also renewed the Council's membership of the Partnership with other local authorities in Gloucestershire and with South Gloucestershire Council –with SDC as the lead authority, and supporting the submission and acceptance of a bid for £5.2 million to the Sustainable Warmth Competition for energy efficiency improvements to the homes of those in fuel poverty under the Warm & Well Scheme.

### Development Control Committee – 23 November

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Two items were considered – both were approved (see papers [here](#)):

- **Littlecombe Zone E, Lister Road, Dursley (S.20/2098/FUL)**

Residential development comprising 28 dwellings together with public open space, access, parking, landscaping and associated works.

- **Cambridge Avenue, Dursley** (S.21/1025/FUL)

Demolition of existing buildings and erection of thirteen affordable dwellings, with landscaping, parking and associated works.

## **Strategy & Resources Committee – 25 November**

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Committee papers can be found [here](#)

- **Fit for the Future Programme** – brief update on the change programme which aims to put the communities at the heart of the council's work. There are four workstreams: Community Connection, Service Delivery, People and Organisational Development and Technology & Digital. Council processes will be improved with a digital first approach where possible – leaving more time to support residents who are not online. The first two services / processes to be improved are Customer Services and Waste & Recycling.
- **Property update** – report on property reviews since 2019 and timetable for updating the Corporate Asset Management Strategy. The planned review of Public Conveniences has been delayed until early 2023. A [map](#) was shared, showing the diversity of council assets – from The Pulse leisure centre to Woodchester Mansion, Nailsworth Fountain and Stringers Wood.
- **Performance Management** Framework agreed.
- **A Revised Social Value Policy was approved.** The Public Sector (Social Value) Act 2012 sets out public sector organisations' responsibilities to consider social value in higher value service contracts, or where there is a service element in goods or works contracts.

SDC is now implementing the Social Value Portal (SVP) to enable the Council to measure and report on its Social Value activity and to highlight the benefits. The SVP is an online solution that allows organisations to report both non-financial and financial data, and measures environmental, social and economic activities delivered through a project in terms that are meaningful to local residents and businesses. It uses the National TOMs (Themes, Outcomes and Measures) Framework that was developed in collaboration with the Local Government Association. SDC will use the SVP for all procurements over £75,000. Wherever possible, procurements below £75K should also seek social value benefits from contracts.

- **A Draft Economic Development Strategy** for the District for the next 10 years was approved for consultation ([link](#)). The Strategy sets out 88 actions (in coloured lines on pages 12-18) to support the vision for a sustainable, inclusive and thriving economy for businesses, communities and visitors.

Parish clusters are shown on page 19 of the draft Strategy with a proposal for how the Strategy will be delivered spatially across the district – with the top 3 priority areas for each of the parish clusters – indicating where commitments relating to the key priorities are more likely to have an impact.

Many of the actions are for SDC to work in partnership with others and to support locally led action. Some actions where SDC leads, link to ongoing projects, such as restoration of the Cotswolds Canals. One of the new actions in the Strategy is for SDC to recruit a Tourism Officer.

The strategy identifies five economic objectives

- Improve skills and opportunities and reduce inequalities
- Reduce carbon and ecological impacts

- Boost our market towns and rural vitality
- Support advanced and connected work spaces and communities
- Support inward investment into the local economy

Priority areas for the local economy are identified as:

- The green economy
- Retail and hospitality
- Tourism and the visitor economy
- The arts and culture
- Agriculture, agritech and rural diversification
- Manufacturing and advanced engineering

Other reports to the committee, for information, were presented on:

- **Performance Monitoring**
- **Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC)** - which covered employment, skills and economic recovery.
- **Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee (GEGSC)** – on the Gloucestershire Transport Strategy, £m funding for the Gloucestershire Renewable Energy, Energy & Nuclear Skills (GREEN) Centre at Berkeley, Modern Methods of Construction for new, zero carbon homes – which offer cost savings due to a quicker build with a modular approach.
- **Regeneration and Investment Board** – ([link](#)) with updates on the following:
  - **Levelling up Fund (LUF)** bid for a Stroud Town Centre ‘package’ bid that will bring benefits to the whole district (see below).
  - **One Public Estate** (Zero Carbon Project) - which will enable the design and feasibility of regeneration schemes at Beeches Green and the Railway Station (Stroud). The funding will also be used to review identified public buildings in Stroud, such as Ebley Mill, the Old Town Hall and the Subscription Rooms, and make recommendations on their future usage for a more efficient use of the public estate.
  - **Pipeline Schemes** for regeneration. Priorities are Stonehouse Canalside, Brimscombe Port, May Lane (Dursley), Levelling Up Bid (see above) and Zero Carbon Public Estate.
  - **Tricorn House**, Stroud – Discussed the efforts that the Council and others are making to encourage the owners of the building to bring forward their redevelopment plans. The dilapidated former Department of Health and Social Security office, just off the Cainscross roundabout, has been empty for over two decades.
  - **Brimcombe Port** – work now underway on this £40m regeneration scheme - to procure a Developer partner (Supplier Questionnaires due to be submitted by 6 December). Demolition on site has started. A leaflet was delivered to local residents with background on the redevelopment proposals; and to invite people to sign up for updates.

The committee papers and meeting recording can be found [here](#)

**Internal Audit Progress Report** – a verbal update was provided on the Out of Hours provision for council tenants with assurances that arrangements were in place to avoid the situation over last Christmas when there were serious service failures. All audit report actions are being undertaken. An update will be provided in February.

**Audit Reports: Planning Review Enforcement ([link](#)) and Planning Applications ([link](#))**– There was considerable debate on both reports which identified numerous failings raising a high number of recommendations and actions.

The Enforcement Audit highlighted deficiencies in procedures, policy, poor and disconnected IT systems, and a lack of resource. The department has put together a (business) improvement plan. It was agreed progress on actions will be reported back to a future committee.

Planning Application Audit – Although the service is performing highly against national metrics, improvements on the quality assurance process on accepting/validating applications, consistency of process and record keeping are impaired.

It was agreed that the Strategic Director of Resources, and auditors ARA will discuss if further work can be included in next year's budget as these audits had already taken a large part of the 21/22 plan.

**Risk Management Update** – The Corporate Risk Register was discussed.

A **Procurement Update** showed progress had been made in this area and new policy was generally welcomed.

The **Half Year Treasury report** was noted, work on **Ethical Investment** is ongoing and will report Feb/Apr 22.

The procurement of the **external audit service** provision was agreed. The update recommended by the Constitution Working Group to the **Members Code of Conduct** was agreed.

## **Covid response**

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SDC Licensing and Covid officers are visiting businesses to give advice and suggestions to help reduce the risk of Covid-19. Following the success of recent seminars to help businesses manage Covid through the winter, SDC's Health and Safety Team has arranged an extra session at the council offices at Ebley Mill on 13 December, from 10am-1pm - open to all businesses.

*<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news-archive/ventilation-is-key-for-hospitality-premises-to-keep-covid-safe-this-winter>*

## **Council Tax consultation – respond by 31 December**

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The annual Council Tax consultation closes at end of Dec. The consultation includes two proposals on the way Council Tax bills are calculated:

- A change to the way Council Tax Support bills are calculated – so that Council Tax Support is only recalculated if the changes to Universal Credit are £10 per week or more (not every month) to reduce the need to constantly issue new bills every time there's a minor change.
- To remove the second adult rebate – currently there is a Council Tax rebate if a second adult (not partners) in the household is on a low income.

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news-archive/council-tax-consultation-proposals-to-simplify-the-scheme>

### **Canal Strategy Consultation-** respond by 17 December

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A survey has been launched to understand how people use the canals in Stroud district, and identify any obstacles which may prevent them reaching their full potential. Everyone who uses the canal corridor is invited to take part, as well as those who don't use it – explaining the reasons why they don't.

The canals include the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal (running from Hardwicke in the north of the District to Sharpness in the south), and the two Cotswold Canals (from Saul Junction in the west, to Chalford in the east). The survey results will help to inform the strategic direction for the future of the canals, and provide a framework for an action plan which will identify short, medium and long term projects to be delivered by the council, stakeholders and local communities. The Draft Canals Strategy will be subject to public consultation during early 2022 and the final document will be used to ensure future projects and development meet the collective vision and objectives for the future of the canals.

Link: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/stroud-canals-vision>

### **Levelling up Fund bid – Stroud town centre with benefits to the whole district**

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SDC is working on a bid, to be finalised next spring, consisting of a package of projects for the Government's Levelling Up Fund. The Council can bid for up to £20 million focusing on town centre regeneration, active travel and heritage. Partners on the bid include Stroud's MP, Stroud Town Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Local Enterprise Partnership and local businesses. The date for the submission for the bid has not been announced by the Government at this stage but it is anticipated for the Spring. Further details of the bid proposals will be available in the new year.

### **Tree Planting**

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SDC has joined forces with Stroud Valleys Project to create a new woodland with more than 1,000 trees this winter, supported by the GCC tree fund which has been granted funds for tree planting by the Forestry Commission. The trees will be planted at Salmon Springs, on SDC owned land. There's a video about the tree planting [here](#).

### **Shop local – Christmas campaign**

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SDC is encouraging shoppers to 'think local first' to support local shops and traders. A short film (less than 2 mins) – featuring the market towns of Nailsworth, Dursley, Wotton, Stonehouse and



Stroud - encourages people to shop local and to shop in a Covid-safe way wearing a mask.

Watch the film here: <https://youtu.be/sayN7OBLFRg>

### **Fraud alert - 01453 telephone numbers targeted**

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Gloucestershire Constabulary are warning residents to be vigilant, as 01453 telephone numbers have been targeted by fraudsters posing as police officers. Four incidents have been reported so far involving a fraudster who had phoned local residents posing as PC Thomas Daniels from Paddington police station. Sadly one victim aged 74 handed over £6,300. If residents receive calls like this, they should hang up straight away and use a different phone to contact the police to report the incident. If they don't have access to another telephone, contact a friend or relative first to ensure that the fraudster has not stayed on the line. Victims of fraud should report to the police by calling 101 or reporting to Action Fraud by calling 03001232040 or online at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).