



## Public Meeting

**Saturday , 15 November 2014**  
**Stroud Subscription Rooms**  
**10am–4pm**

You are all welcome to a public meeting of *Shaping the heart of Stroud*.

Short presentations will be made at 11am, 1pm and 3pm.

- Add your comments and vision for the centre of Stroud.
- Discuss current spaces and places.
- Think about new ideas and proposals for the town centre.
- Look at the results of the community consultation.

The heart of Stroud is important for everyone who either visits, lives or works here. All opinions will be valued.

## The Planned Timetable

The planned timetable following the public event at Stroud Subscription Rooms is:

### November to December 2014

Develop and refine plans based on feedback from November 15th event.

### January to April 2015

Consider options and draft policies and proposals, with further consultation and public meetings.

### April and May 2015

Wide public consultation on a draft plan which goes to the Town Council.

### May 2015

Stroud's Neighbourhood Development Plan is finalised and submitted to the District Council, who will appoint an independent examiner.

### September 2015

We hope for a referendum open to ALL Stroud town parish residents. If more than 50% of people who vote say 'yes' to the plan, it will become a statutory Neighbourhood Development Plan alongside Stroud District Council's Local Plan.

## How do I find out more?

If you are interested in joining a group looking at particular issues and themes please contact the email addresses on page 2 & 3. They will get you in touch with Steering Group members who are co-ordinating work to bring these groups together.

If you don't have email, do pop into the Stroud Town Council's offices to pick up some information or to leave a note for John Bloxsom, who is the administrator for *Shaping the heart of Stroud*, and he will make sure you are connected to the right person.

Our website, [www.shapingtheheartstroud.org](http://www.shapingtheheartstroud.org), will have up-to-date information, a gallery of photos and a downloadable map outlining the designated area for Stroud's Neighbourhood Development Plan.

For more information generally about Neighbourhood Development Plans, look at the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council website – <http://www.grcc.org.uk/neighbourhood-development-plans>.

There are more than 700 NDPs being developed across England. The national group Locality gives lots of information on their website – <http://locality.org.uk/projects/building-community/>

## Steering Group

The Steering Group members are, as of 1 October 2014:

**Independent Chair: Leonora Rozee** – Retired Deputy Chief Executive of National Planning Inspectorate

**Vice Chair: Steve Hurrell** – Stroud Town Councillor

**Kevin Cranston** and **Simon Arundel** – Stroud Town Councillors sharing the representation

**Professor Hugh Barton** – Emeritus Professor of Planning, Health and Sustainability at UWE, Bristol

**Camilla Hale** – Chair, Stroud Preservation Trust

**Councillor Simon Pickering** – Representing Stroud District Council

**Chris Brain** – Local resident

**Clare Mahdiyone** – Director of Stroud Valleys Project

**Tom Rosser-Smith** – Landscape architect

**Fiona Mills-Carlyon** – Chamber of Trade

**Andrew Grigg** – Local business proprietor

**Michael Handford** – National activist and expert on canal restoration

## Contacts

**Email:** [info@shapingtheheartstroud.org](mailto:info@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

**Web:** [www.shapingtheheartstroud.org](http://www.shapingtheheartstroud.org)

**Twitter:** @ShapingStroud and the hashtag is #ShapingHeartStroud

**Linkedin:** <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Shaping-Heart-Stroud-8183639>

**Phone:** 07920 656581, John Bloxsom, project administrator – leave a message (John only works three days a week so may take a couple of days to reply)

**Drop in:** Stroud Town Council offices, 58 London Road, Stroud, Tel: 01453 762817

**Talk to:** Your local town councillor – [www.stroudtown.gov.uk](http://www.stroudtown.gov.uk), click on Councillors



## What is Stroud Town Centre's Neighbourhood Development Plan?

*Shaping the heart of Stroud* is a programme of community consultation, events and research to guide the creation of a plan for the centre of Stroud. The project is led by Stroud Town Council and supported by Stroud District Council. It is run by a Steering Group of volunteers.

The plan when finalised will be a detailed approach to future development in Stroud's town centre and legally will have to be taken into account when any future planning applications and policies and strategies are being drawn up for the centre of Stroud.

Everyone who uses Stroud town centre – residents, workers, shoppers or visitors – has an opinion about the place. To find out these opinions our recent research and evidence-gathering have included talking to more than 1,000 people and asking three simple questions:

- What don't you like about Stroud?
- What do you like?
- What changes would improve the town centre?

This community consultation has brought issues and concerns to the surface that are important to people. These issues are now being examined, researched and worked on by seven groups as described on the next pages. A public meeting at the Subscription Rooms on 15 November will be open to everyone to come and see the plan unfolding.



**October 2014**  
**Newsletter No. 1**

*Creating the*  
*Town Centre's*  
*Neighbourhood*  
*Development Plan*

## Public Meeting

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**10am–4pm**

You are all welcome to join *Shaping the heart of Stroud* at a public meeting

- Hear presentations at 11am, 1pm and 3pm or just drop in to find out more.
  - Discuss and give us your comments on the emerging vision for the town centre.
  - Discuss the future of current open spaces.
  - Look at the community consultation feedback.
- and much more...

The town centre is the heart of Stroud and its future is important for everyone who visits, lives and works here. All opinions are valued.

Stroud Town is not alone in producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

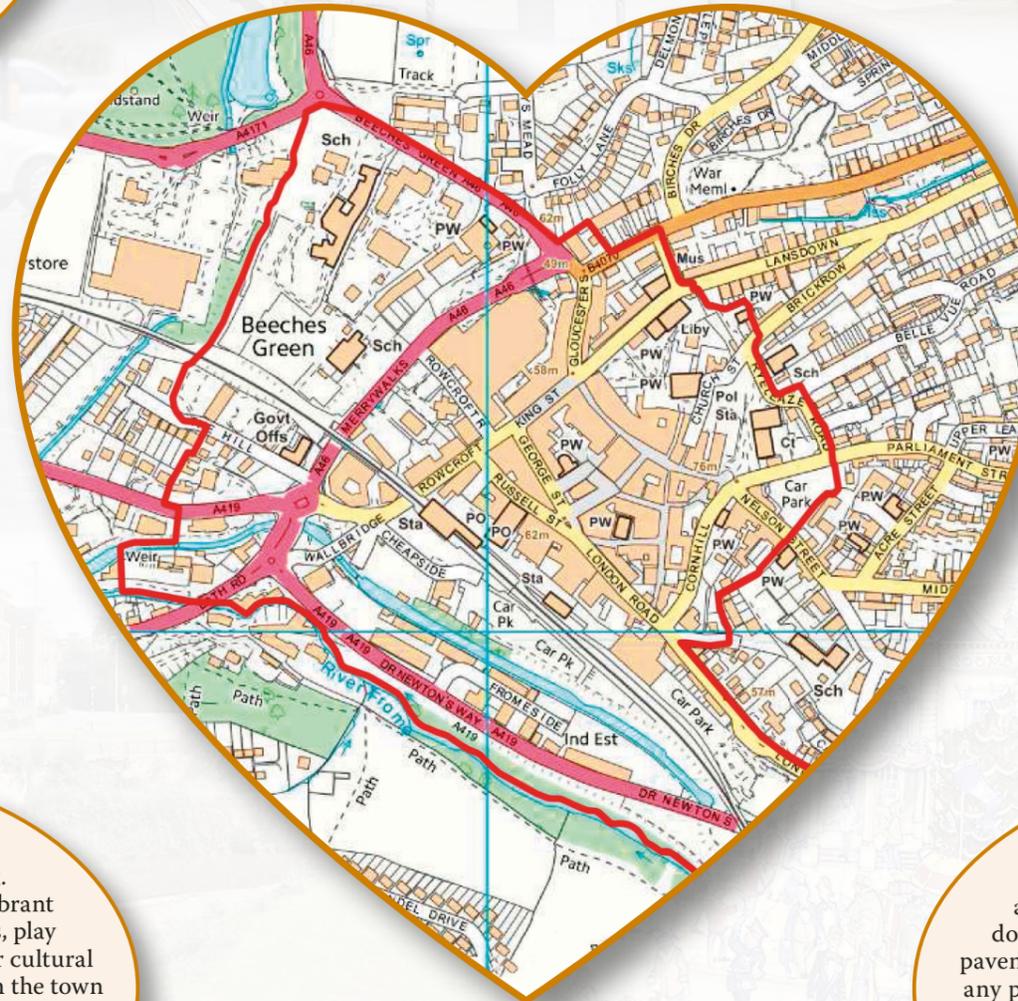
These parishes within Stroud District have also had their designated area agreed since September 2013:

*Eastington, Stonehouse, Whiteshill & Ruscombe, Standish, Chalford, Hardwicke, Cam, Kingswood and Dursley.*

# Themed Groups

There are seven sets of issues and themes around which experts and interested volunteers are coming together to respond to what people are saying about Stroud. They are researching previous planning documents and are checking what further information is needed. This will guide research projects, including work that schools and students can do, and then develop plans accordingly.

We won't take anything for granted. The Neighbourhood Development Plan process requires us to show the actual evidence which influenced the final plan.



## Sites

There are key areas within and around the centre of Stroud that need to be improved and might come up for development of some kind in the next few years. This could include the 'gateway' areas into the town, development around Hill Paul and along the canal, Wallbridge, Cheapside car parks and many others. What kind of planning is needed for these prospective sites and which familiar buildings might change ownership?

Contact:

[sites@](mailto:sites@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

[shapingtheheartstroud.org](mailto:sites@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

## Connecting

There is a dedicated group of volunteers working to ensure as many people as possible know about the plan and are encouraged to contribute their opinions. Good communication is essential and direct contacts with local press will help to explain the Neighbourhood Plan's importance. This team is planning and organising the key public events and recruiting people to help with any necessary research and analysis.

Contact:

[engagement@](mailto:engagement@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

[shapingtheheartstroud.org](mailto:engagement@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

## Economic

Stroud Town needs a mix of retail, hospitality, workshop and office spaces in the town centre. We need to look at the levels of shop and office vacancy, shopping trends and what could increase commercial activity throughout the week. We need to assess potential economic benefits from the canal regeneration and the doubling of the train line, and weigh up any current and economic proposals for the town.

Contact:

[economic@](mailto:economic@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

[shapingtheheartstroud.org](mailto:economic@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

## Movement

How do people get into Stroud, and how do they get from place to place around the town, whether by bus, walking, cycling or driving? What are the transport problems? What is the parking provision like? What might be needed for the future? Does Stroud work for disabled people and buggies? How can we help this town become more accessible and easier for everyone to get around?

Contact:

[movement@](mailto:movement@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

[shapingtheheartstroud.org](mailto:movement@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

## Social

For many of us the unique social aspect of Stroud is what makes it tick. But what else is needed to make Stroud vibrant and successful? Do we want sports venues, play spaces, educational and faith opportunities or cultural additions? We need to think about who lives in the town centre and what kind of housing is currently available. What additional housing solutions might benefit the town in the future?

Contact:

[social@](mailto:social@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

[shapingtheheartstroud.org](mailto:social@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

## Quality

What is the quality of the building stock in Stroud's town centre and how many buildings are listed? What do the current streets look like with regard to pavements, surfaces, pollution and noise? Are there any proposals in the offing for change and what do people think of those? We need to look at how we shape streets and spaces, and how best to work with the highways authority.

Contact:

[quality@](mailto:quality@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

[shapingtheheartstroud.org](mailto:quality@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

## Environment

What open spaces, plants, trees and wildlife should we have in the town centre – what is lacking and what could be added, how important are the countryside views from the town centre?

Can the current proposals for the canal corridor be improved upon?

How can our town become more healthy and sustainable in the future?

Contact:

[environment@](mailto:environment@shapingtheheartstroud.org)

[shapingtheheartstroud.org](mailto:environment@shapingtheheartstroud.org)