

## **Transition Stroud**

### **Directors report for AGM for Year Ending September 2010**

#### **A. Activities during last 12 months**

##### **1. Projects and events**

The following projects and events have taken place over the year:

##### **1.1 Support from Spanish student – Marta Suarez**

Marta worked with TS from January to July 2010, contributing to Stroud Pound, Open Homes, the web site, Trip Switch, Council meetings and so on. Marta arranged EEC finance for her assignment via her University in Madrid. This was a very helpful contribution to the work of TS and Marta's presence and contribution will be very much missed. Marta has returned to Madrid to do a masters degree and is considering TS as a case study.

##### **1.2 Marling School Bursary**

The Marling School Bursary enabled a teacher, Hayley Smith, to be funded for half a day a week from January to April to focus on environmental matters. This has raised the profile of environmental issues in the school, and caught the attention of the Governors who are developing policies to continue the work. The bursary was funded by £1,270 raised within TS and from friends, led by John Meadley.

##### **1.3 Open Eco Homes**

The Open Homes weekend ran in September for the third year running and attracted 1000 visitors to 23 homes to view environmental home improvements in situ. The weekend was organised by Neil Buick, Marta Suarez and Helen Royal, with support from Stroud Town Council, SWEA, Stroud District Council and Ecotricity.

##### **1.4 Public Liability**

Increases in our public events have required us to take out public liability insurance. This has been partly funded by Stroud District Council for this year.

##### **1.5 Skills Gain Courses**

A programme of 7 Skills Gain courses was launched this year and have been very successful attracting 25 participants to date. The courses have been self funding and the work has been led by Erik Wilkinson.

##### **1.6 Strategy**

Work on the development of a strategy for TS has been led by Gail Bradbrook through discussions with individuals and the Council resulting in a strategy paper proposing closer and more powerful working between like minded organisations in Stroud.

##### **1.7 Stroud Pound**

Stroud Pound has grown steadily throughout the year with £10,000 now in circulation and 40 traders agreeing to take Pounds. A survey of all shops in Stroud was undertaken to improve understanding of the retail economy of the town. The project has attracted national and international media attention, and a stall at the Framers Market has benefitted us all. The work has been led by Molly Scott Cato and Bernard Jarman.

##### **1.8 Trip Switch (Stroud District Travel Partnership)**

Stroud District Council asked TS to facilitate the Trip Switch Partnership from the beginning of 2010, through to March 2011, and together with Gloucester County Council have provided funding to enable Helen Royall to do this. This work has dramatically increased our profile with the local authorities. The following events have taken place as part of this work:

- **Green Travel Month**

This took place in June with a different theme each week to coincide with national green travel initiatives. 5 secondary schools were invited to participate, with Marling being the most active with a cycle-to-school week culminating in a bikers breakfast. Sympathetic businesses were invited through SWEA but response was poor. A stall was held on the Sub Rooms forecourt on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June to attract public involvement. Local papers covered events during the month on 3 occasions. Good contacts were made with the secondary schools and local bus companies laying the foundations for greater involvement in 2011, when it is planned to concentrate efforts into 1 week in June 2011. The following activities were promoted as part of GTM:

- **Access Bike**

Funding was available for this scheme to provide bikes for young people with limited finance but there were no takers this year.

- **Back2Bike**

6 new cycle trainers were trained this year and Bike2Bike events were run for the public in Stroud and Stonehouse. Whilst very successful, greater numbers could have been taken, indicating that in the future more publicity will be required.

- **Changing Gear**

This programme is the Trip Switch contact point for schools. 5 schools are involved and interest has been shown for next year. John Roberts and Helen Royall will be taking this forward.

### **1.9 Web team**

Julia Lawrence led the formation of web team to improve and develop the website and take over the management of the site and its financing from Dave Cockcroft.

## **2. Working Groups**

The following Working Groups have been active this year:

- Energy Group
- Livelihoods / Stroud Pound
- Textiles Group

The following Working Groups have been started this year:

- Skills Gain

In addition, ad hoc 'central' groups have met to develop a strategy for TS and to deal with web site development.

## **3. Grants received**

The following grants have been received during the year:

- Stroud District Council £5,100 (Trip Switch, Back2Bike, PI insurance,)
- Gloucestershire County Council £1,500 (Trip Switch/ Changing Gear/ Green Travel Month)

## **4. Council Meetings**

10 meetings have been held throughout the year. Average attendance has been 9 people. The format has been developed to enable networking, informal discussions and formal sessions.

## **5. Policies developed**

Policies have been developed and agreed concerning:

- Criteria for making decisions re the giving of TS funds to projects and other activities allied with the purpose of TS.

- Criteria for organisations wishing to affiliate with TS.

Other policy issues discussed during the year concern clearer statements around TS being open to all people; about TS not being aligned to political or religious groups; about the need for the word resilience and its meaning to be better enshrined in our work and the importance of maximising the impact of our efforts through thinking strategically. These matters will be presented to the AGM as resolutions for approval.

## **6. Membership**

Members 24. Work needed to clarify roles of Members and supporters.

Directors 8

## **7. E mail contact lists**

DISCUSS (regularly active people) 67 people

ANNOUNCE (people interested in announcements only) 173 people

## **B. Proposed new activities**

### **1. Fund raising**

An invitation to members to contribute funds by direct debit has just been launched. A fund raising sub-group has been proposed.

### **2. Heart and Soul Group**

Helen Royall plans to re-launch the Heart and Soul Group this year.

### **3. Open Edible Gardens – Summer 2011**

TS is leading a planning group for this weekend event planned for summer 2011.

### **4. Paid co-ordination /office support work**

There is a consensus view in Council that having some paid co-ordination work /office support work would further the aims and purposes of TS so long as this is set up on a contract basis and does not replace the leadership roles and responsibilities of Directors and Working Group co-ordinators.

### **5. Potato Day – February 2011**

It is planned to hold a day in February to celebrate the diversity of potatoes and encourage people to grow their own and understand more about food security.

### **6. Strategy implementation**

Those interested in taking the strategy ideas developed by Gail Bradbrook to the next step will be invited to form a group to do this.

### **7. Web site development**

The web team plans to continue the work of developing the website including an area where volunteers can express interest.

## **C. Directors report on finances**

(see separate report for finances for the year and budget for the next year)

Signed for and on behalf of the Directors, Simon Allen, 25 September 2010