

Notes from Stroud Valleys Action on Plastic Meeting, March 2019

Dear SVAP supporter,

At our last monthly meeting in March we made an exciting announcement about our future activities. Our group is well positioned to contribute in a positive and pragmatic way to Stroud District Council's strategy to become carbon neutral by 2030 which is also fully supported by Transition Stroud. We hope the following will inspire you even more to take part in our activities:

- We have decided to rename our group **Stroud District Action on Plastic** (SDAP) in order to broaden our activities and reach out to individuals, business and retail, community groups, schools and clubs across the whole district. Our group continues with all its usual activities such as the refill scheme, monthly drop-in meetings, workshops, educational talks and joining with others on supermarket plastic action and litter picks. See our new logo below.
- Our main activity in the next 12 months is to gain **Plastic Free Community** status, an accreditation awarded by Surfers Against Sewage (plastic free in this context means free from unnecessary single-use plastic). *Plastic Free Communities* is a movement to engage and connect individuals, communities and businesses in the collective effort to reduce the flow of single-use plastics into the environment. The movement has spread from coastal towns across the UK to include land-based communities. It has gained a significant number of participating towns and even a county, Anglesey in Wales, in 2019:

<https://www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-communities/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-47787793>

We are hoping to become the first district to gain this accreditation. We are required to have at least two steering group meetings a year with stakeholders which needs to include a local council member (Cllr Catharine Braun) and an employee from a flagship employer (we have approached Renishaw) amongst others. In order to combine the work for the accreditation and our activities generally as a Transition Stroud action group, we have put together a simple organisational structure which will be in place until we are accredited (see below). We are in a position to recruit a part time project coordinator to enable us to work on the accreditation at a faster pace and we have some core funding to do so. We are also in the process of applying for further funding. If you wish to take part in the overall strategy for SDAP or the steering group for the plastic free community accreditation, please do contact me.

- In order to announce our future activities and to get our story in the paper, we are planning a launch day (May) and a launch activity for everyone to join in with. Our idea is to invite communities, neighbourhoods, groups and families to join us in organising a plastic free community picnic in their locality in July (date to be decided). We envisage this to be a fun way of getting people together and for us to spread the word about our activities.

We need your help, ideas and participation. Please come to our next meeting on Saturday April 27 where we will start planning for **SDAP** launch and the community picnic as well as continuing to nudge along our other projects.

Thank you,

Claudi

Plastic Free Community Leader for Stroud
Stroud Valleys District Action on Plastic Transition Stroud

