BUILDING BACK BETTER SURVEY - RESULTS

Stroud Green Party, July 2020

Introduction

In May 2020 the Stroud Green Party asked for people's ideas of how to build back better from the Covid–19 emergency and lockdown. Five questions were asked through local papers and local websites. An incredibly rich range of ideas were received from all over the District from 72 respondents. The Green Party would like this to be the start of a debate about how we want to make our District better. We are looking at how to follow this up, perhaps with local virtual workshops or even Citizens Assemblies. If you want to stay in contact with the Green Party's thinking in relation to Building Back Better in Stroud District please contact coordinator@stroud.greenparty.org.uk.

Q 1. Imagine – what type of community would you like to be part of after lockdown ends?

A fairer, more inclusive, greener and prosperous one.

One with less fear and more celebration of cultural diversity. Also initiatives that are community–enabling (such as co–housing, support of local farmers with 'shares' schemes, local businesses with delivery services etc), more community green spaces (which are kept safe, clean and drug free!!), better use of community and village halls, and housing and rehabilitation schemes for homeless. Also for arts initiatives to start back up again, such as the Stroud fringe!

A community that has local sustainable food security, where everyone has a basic income

Cohesive and supportive

An inclusive, friendly community that looks after everyone, that gives access to all and gives people opportunities to live and grow. A community that is respectful of nature and where progress is sustainable and where governance listens to the people.

One which recognises that when we are faced with a life–affecting situation, we have shown that we can accept sensible rules to make fundamental changes to our way of life.

A more locally secure community, energy, food, and general life and daily needs support.

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A caring and much more equal society, with much better public transport.

A vibrant caring community as has been shown these past few weeks with much less inequality

One that celebrates and supports a diversity of views and experience. One of interdependence and solidarity. One that thinks more systemically and holistically about how we can dwell richly in our beautiful corner of the country and regenerate natural systems – including caring for each other.

Greener, more locally empowered, more cohesive, less unequal, more sustainable

A very cautious one. One where Everyone wears masks, for the safety of each other.

A community that supports and nurtures local living, local working, local producing, local schooling, local shopping and local leisure.

All of the lockdown gone, all the restrictions gone, all the social distancing gone. Maybe a new government but any new government must now look at the way they handle any future crisis as we must never go through this again. It's very bad for people's mental health.

A community which makes a genuine attempt to – work towards reducing the immense inequalities in society – take very concrete measures to reduce climate change

Thriving circular economy and business sector; deliberative political system that engages citizens in decisions that affect them; vibrant cultural life that enables everyone reach and achieve their potential; a beautiful, healthy, accessible, biodiverse natural environment.

A community of people who care about the environment and each other.

A socially supportive community which is working towards local independence in its food and energy supply, resulting in both increased resilience and a lowering carbon footprint.

Equitable, inclusive, sustainable.

Slower, compassionate

I want there to be more things happening locally. More shops and businesses within walking or scootering distance. No cars, I don't think we need them in places where people are living. They are heavy equipment that should be used in spaces apart from people. Someone is going to say we need them for the disabled etc. I'm not saying we need to get rid of cars and replace them with nothing. We should have lightweight electric transport. Low power equipment based on bicycle plants are totally feasible and can be produced locally.

A connected, locally resilient and strong community built on different values – ones of fairness, equity, equality and happiness and not financial greed

Friendly, Green community

More local food production initiatives and greater support of existing ones. More cycle ways. More support for businesses which put the health of the planet before profit. Keep the homeless homed.

A quieter, cleaner one. I hadn't realised how intrusive the noise and smell of traffic and planes is until it actually stopped.

Growing its own food and generating its own energy

One with less noise, more time, less traffic, better protection of the existing trees and wild spaces, more green spaces for people, more wild spaces for wildlife. In particular, wetland restoration by the Severn, including more land for salt meadows/marshes.   Wetlands rank alongside tropical forests and coral reefs for biodiversity and as the best carbon sinks. The mud flats, sand banks and salt marshes of the Severn are rich in biodiversity. Not just birds – the basis of the food chain is down in the mud! It is a 3D habitat with lots of life below the surface.   We do not have coral reefs or tropical forests in the UK but we do have wetlands. From the zero emissions target, It makes sense for the UK to have more wetlands, not just planting

trees. I want both.   By the Severn, we have severe coastal squeeze. It is bad here but don't think Somerset and S Wales can make up for it because the Severn there is even more highly restricted by coastal development and infrastructure.   SDC, including the Green Party, seems to be very focused on the Cotswolds at the expense of the area by the Severn. I feel that it can only be down to ignorance of the Severn area and its importance. Otherwise I cannot square your planning policies with your whole raison d'etre as a party.   I voted Green many times in the past but have not done so for a few elections now as you have become more interested in social issues and Brexit/remain than in environmental issues. And as a result, you have wasted your opportunity to influence many corners of society.

I want to be part of a community that really cares about its wildlife and where people care about the impact on one another and our planet.

Connected, nature caring and eco friendly, and interlinked, with flexible ways of living

One in which everyone is living a sustainable lifestyle in which growth is based on measures of well−being, fairness, ethics, bio−diversity, carbon emissions and living within our environmental constraints.

Fairer, more egalitarian, quieter. More peaceful. Active travel promoted and made SAFER.

One which doesn't need Foodbanks

A fair sustainable one

Warm, open, inclusive , enriching

Caring, connected, supportive, sustainable, resilient, forward looking.

One that prioritises the health & well−being of people, the environment & nature.

One where we share our resources more − from garden tools to skills and date I say it even money.

Much the same as now. Everybody looking out for each other and offering help if needed or required.

One with a thriving growing economy to create not just jobs, but real career opportunities in growing industries so the younger generation remain here financially secure

Closer and greener. A community that recognises that communities should support one another all the time not just in a global crisis and that everyone has something to offer.

Not sure

This question is rather open ended! But I'd like to be part of a stronger community that looks after each other where local business thrives.

One which doesn't pander to the Greens, Extinction Rebellion and other loonies.

Well supported social care, incentives for using green modes of transport, electric charge points on every street, greenways connecting towns and villages, 'loose' shop on every street corner, free parking in towns.

A kinder, more cohesive community with a slower pace of life and more centred in the local.

An inclusive, fair and sustainable one.

One that actively strives together to reduce carbon emissions, build community resilience and meet basic human needs

more equal

One where we spend many years enjoying good health and prosperity

I would like things to be as they were.

It would be great if the community initiatives continued – I feel more connected to my neighbours than ever before (I realise that this is also down to me to work at and not a council responsibility). It would be great if cycle paths were improved and developed to encourage more people to cycle to work and shop. It would be good if people continued to meet virtually to save on unnecessary travel.

One that recognises that Climate Change is as important to deal with as Coronavirus and is as prepared to use similar levels of resources and commitment to tackle it.

One that might last a 1,000 years

One with a great sense of community cohesion; one which agrees to highlight action in the face of climate change

Thriving local businesses, with much stronger lower ownership structures, providing meaningful work over a four–day week – with others supported through Universal Basic Income. A creative and culturally rich community.

A locally based one where resources are produced and consumed more locally from a Stroud district food policy to ward–based tool libraries.

A greener community, more local food   Community support

A kinder and more sustainable community that values time for home food production. Greater access to veg growing for poorer families. With a balance of green job opportunities for young people and hard–working families.

Connected community looking for a sustainable future going forward.

Socialist, non–Capitalist, where the Earth and society is committed to coexisting in harmony.

A community that cares for the environment. A community that works toward self–sufficiency. A community that cares for each other

A caring society, one which does not worship money.   a society based on cooperation not competition, where everyone matters.

Supported community enterprises. An integration between the farming community and consumers that is mutually supportive. Five–day markets in every town that enables the poorer to afford food and trade.

One that is united and no longer fragmented. One where everyone is equal: women/men, black/white, disabled/abled, rich/poor, young/elderly

Stronger communities, more space for the environment, biodiversity and wildlife and public services fit for purpose – which provide real help to those who need it.

Wordcloud – most frequent words on imagining the community you would like to be part of

Q 2. Thinking about what you have experienced or learnt during lockdown – are there positive things you'd like to continue into the future?

Virtual meetings, working from home, less car use, local food.

I would absolutely love to continue to see less traffic on the road; making much better cycle lanes, better public transport and car–share schemes. Also making more of our current green spaces, and rewilding the many areas in Stroud that are derelict/ abandoned/ currently–wasted space.

We must not loose the sense of caring for each other that has grown during lockdown. Also the way life has slowed down, and the way people have noticed the nature around them.

Less cars on the road. More people outside. People helping and checking on each other

The importance of being selfless and looking after others, learning new skills e.g cooking, music, reading and learning and being out in nature

More cycling facilitation. Housing the homeless. Less pollution. Bigger state

Despite disagreements, there is more commonality about how to accept change than disparity

Long daily walks

Mutual community support and involvement.

People feeling more a part of their community.

Much less traffic, no shopping (except farm collect and Coop collect.

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Sense of community. More quiet. easier to cross roads. Less frenetic activity

Connection through shared experience and appreciation for place. I'm getting a sense of how privileged I am to have a house, good food and social capital to call on when I'm in need – in contrast to others who may be in much more insecure circumstances. We can reimagine a way of dwelling in this landscape that connects people with each other and with the rich natural capital it holds.

Solidarity and neighbourliness

Wearing of masks, for sure. I think at minimal, this should be done.

The rediscovery of the importance of the local high street and local organisations, their resilience, compassion and adaptability.

A crackdown on hygiene, a permanent ban on dogs in all parks and pubs and all council public toilets to be open all year round including private ones in shopping centres and community toilet schemes in pubs and cafes. And hope people will continue to pull together like they have.

– better contact with neighbours – more use of local shops – reduced traffic in towns and villages

Pristine fresh air, community i.e. street co–operation, mutual aid, community building More walking and cycling. TIme for conversations with strangers

Knowing our neighbours and helping them out on a regular basis Realising that family/friends and the relationships you have with others are far more important than grades on a sheet of paper Coming together as a community and everyone supporting each other The effect of humans being in lockdown has on the environment: it thrives

In the early weeks of lockdown things were so much more quiet and the air was noticeably cleaner – scents seemed more pronounced. What cars there were seemed to be slower and more courteous – waves and smiles. And no aircraft noise and contrails. Now we seem to be getting back to "normal". More cars, more aggressive driving, a return to aircraft noise. We miss the peace.

Recognition of people's true value to society; neighbour(ly)hood support; the role of local producers and suppliers.

Slowing down, more exercise, less travel and shopping

Going less places. It is stressful having to be in lots of places. As a home school family we need more local home school clubs etc. For instance Farm club/forest school is 6–10miles away which isn't so great for cycling there with kids. Possibly would be OK if there were proper bike routes.

Communities coming together to help each other and fill the gaps left from the state failing to provide the basic safety net that should already exist

The quiet – lack of traffic noise. Reduction of traffic in general.   Also, the local community that has developed in our road.

Less traffic noise and cleaner air. Awareness of more community support structures for helping others

Greater sense of connection and community support with other people, much more use of local services / less use of cars, more time for family, many more people exercising, started planting and growing food, slower life and more time for contemplation

Less reliance on cars!

Reduced car use

Less noise, less traffic, less tourism (inbound and outbound), less unnecessary consumption, people valuing time with family and friends, people rediscovering nature.

Yes, I have only driven my car once in eight weeks. It has made me realise I only really need it for work. I would love to be able to live without it.

More appreciation of key workers and nature. Work more from home, Put myself first. Remember how important everyday counts. Kindness is so important.

The value of quietness, enjoying wildlife, and progress at a peaceful pace.

Peace and quiet. Walking and cycling.

More use of Zoom for meetings to avoid unnecessary travel although some face to face will be important

A better sense of community, making time to really talk to people.

Less travel, less work, more time to focus on personal well–being .. reading .. keeping in touch with friends

Kind regards of neighbours, locals, family, friends and strangers. Reduced stress, slower pace Increased engagement with natural rhythms Less pollution of all kinds Positive actions and visions not moaning

Community aid groups & people looking out for each other in the community

Yes. Have loved getting to know my neighbours through our What's App group. We have been shopping for each other, sharing seedlings, etc

A slower delivery of consumerism. Stop the "want it tomorrow" huge pressure on delivery channels. Accept deliveries within a week or two weeks even to reduce roads pressures. Less air travel just because "people can". Better work–life balance, maintain home working where feasible and reduce need for commercial buildings. Better use of technology and innovation to maintain pace with the global trading world.

 reduced transport use. Increased interest in exercise. Less materialistic.

Using the car less, walking and cycling more. Working from home. Shopping local

Not commuting. Being able to ride a bike with fewer cars on the road. Less traffic in general.

Yes – no Extinction Rebellion protests wasting everyone's time.

Spending more time being creative, slow cooking, slow life, regular frequent exercise

Socialising with my neighbours, retiring and enjoying doing stuff at a leisurely pace.

Confirmation of the willingness of the majority to act with enlightened self–interest and personal kindness. More slow time. More time out of doors. Connecting with neighbours who normally just pass in a car. A live demonstration for everyone to see that the politics of empty rhetoric, bluster, spin, misdirection and vagueness are of no use and in fact are dangerous in the face of serious events.

Mutual aid schemes, generosity and kindness, active travel, local food growing, repair and recycle

More working from home to help the environment

Getting paid by others for doing nothing.

It made me valued our old ways far more

It was great to discover a community network that was offering help, even for quite small inconsequential things, and to be able to help others. I feel that I know my neighbours more than I did before and I'm sure that I will carry on feeling more connected to them. I hope that a lot of unnecessary travel will not happen after lockdown. I hope we will continue to appreciate people in low paid jobs who fill so many important roles.

Less traffic (of all kinds), less pollution (of all kinds), less use of fossil fuels, less rush and stress, skies without vapour trails or aircraft, more care among neighbours, less shopping as a way of life, etc., etc. A better world with more room for other species. A glimpse into a better future less governed by human greed and laziness.

Everything can change.

Zoom meetings have been a considerable boon and we should continue these, though not excluding face–to–face meetings.

We can use our time more efficiently as activists if we make the right use of technology at the right time.

Much of the economy is unnecessary

Fewer cars making it quieter with less pollution and more birds singing, also more wild–flowers

Growing veg at home and in a shared allotment. Having the time to do this, due to not commuting 1.5 hours to work and back each day.

Walking, cycling and not relying on a car.

Social caring. Less dependence on stuff. More caring about ourselves' and others' health and wellbeing.

Cleaner air, particularly   NO bonfires. It has been bliss, over lockdown! Normally, where I live, there is bonfire smoke blowing across my garden every day, taking away the pleasure of gardening and relaxing in my own environment. Bonfires send carbon into the atmosphere. Fewer cars, more walking, cycling and public transport.

The friendliness and helpfulness of neighbours

The power of community enterprise

More cycling – we hadn't realised how accessible town is from our house via cycling – we need a lot more cycle routes to keep this momentum.   To be less dependent on imported food. To be more sustainable.   To have more flexible working hours/the ability to work from home if possible

Community spirit and neighbourliness.

Wordcloud on most frequent words used to describe what people would like to retain from lockdown

Q 3. How important do you think tackling the climate crisis will be as part of the recovery from coronavirus:

What suggestions do you have for doing this locally?

Continuing the 'working from home if you can' rule; securing the re−opening of Bristol Road railway station in Stonehouse with good interconnecting walking, cycling and bus links between this new station and Stroud and surrounding populations.

Prioritising creating better cycle lanes, and actively encouraging cycling (perhaps with financial incentives/ schemes to be able to afford electric bikes etc). Make more efficient (and greener) public transport. −Creating more green spaces from the, currently−abandoned, areas in Stroud. −Creating more 'living walls' in town (such as the wall by Halfords). −More support for local farmers. −Community allotments!!!! Or at least prioritising more space to becoming allotments, which one could sign up for in the usual way.   −Outdoor exercise facilities (such as stationary exercise bikes in parks). −More public fountains (reducing the use of plastic bottles). −Bans on plastic bags!

Improve and inspire active travel and improve public transport, both would hopefully reduce the number of cars on the roads. Obviously plant more trees bushes and plants.

More working from home to limit traffic.

Build up strength of climate action groups and co−ordinate with local authorities/LEP etc. Importance of biodiversity, good, clean public transport and clean air to breathe (please close the incinerator). Importance of green infrastructure, flood protection, secure, clean and affordable utilities, water storage and a clear plan to tackle climate change and protect us from climate shocks. Local food production, more tree planting across district, access by bike and foot and more energy efficient housing that keeps in the warmth in winter, but importantly is cool without air conditioning in the summer

Get Ecotricity, local energy firm, into use of renewable power to make hydrogen, and establish some hydrogen filling points in the area. This will require tie−ups with a vehicle supplier and local and national government, Ecotricity can be a pathfinder for local initiatives

Improved cycling infrastructure. Support for working from home.

Encourage walking, cycling. Awareness campaigns to highlight the dangers of polluting and tips on better habits. Build new houses with means to reduce carbon footprints.

Giving pedestrians & cyclists priority over car users (excluding driving that's essential for business).

In this world all things are connected, the more life, products and energy are sustainable and local, the more secure life for us and the environment around us will be.

Better transport system, including shared taxis and minibuses. But in the meantime, there will be more cars on the road − lots of people cannot drive and will need lifts.

Generate jobs by retro fitting old housing stock. better public transport. more working from home.

Adopting regenerative development principles − especially on council−run building projects − to recognise the systemic impacts of our decision making so that we are not just designing in a way to be less bad to the planet, but imagining ways in which we can do more good. Seeing ourselves as important contributors to natural systems in regenerating damage done to natural and cultural systems, whilst designing and building in the capacity of those local systems to continue to evolve their capacity to ever higher orders of value − or ableness. Reconciling our relationship with the natural world and with ourselves.

1] improving public transport – buses, minibuses, trains and bikes 2] sourcing and buying as locally as possible [eg food for school hospitals & colleges & large employers' canteens] 3] provide courses in schools and FE in needlework & mending, cooking, growing veg, bike maintenance for kids and adults 4] organise mutual aid, bringing volunteers and people who need help together

Focus on local supply and local routes to market.

more and better public transport and possibly making car parking more expensive, supporting small local shops and businesses, thus encouraging people to shop locally rather than driving to shopping centres or buying online

High air quality standards, banning dirty vehicle emissions, low carbon transport system, electric bikes; all houses retrofitted for insulation; Stroud District renewable energy co–op; mothballing incinerator; low food miles, local food security, carbon sequestering regenerative farming; more allotments and whole town going incredible edible with fruit/nut trees etc everywhere; circular economy; basic environmental; education; conservation community service; reuse/repair cafes; community composting; passivhaus co–op cohousing; SDC fund for loans

Promoting cycling and walking more than driving(possibly pedestrianising more areas) Renewable energy in schools and businesses being promoted/giving people incentives to switch to renewable energy Protecting the local wildlife Encouraging more vegetarian and vegan options in cafes, school canteens and restaurants/pubs Educating students about the climate crisis in primary and secondary schools– building a curriculum around it

Better and increased cycling infrastructure. More allotments. Talking to local farmers about moving to local food and maybe community support and labour. Woefuldane Dairy at Minch is an example. SDC and GCC more support of encouragement of parish and town level climate action groups including wind and solar projects. There was a wind power plan for Bisley that never got off the ground which could have provided local development funding e.g. for cycling infrastructure and other facilities.

Buildings: implementing best standards in new build, supporting improvements in existing stock. Transport: reopening Stonehouse Bristol Road station; further improvements to local bus services; more safe cycling lanes/cycle parking/cycle transport for hilly/difficult to access areas. Energy: promotion of local generation. Carbon capture: encouraging tree–planting, etc.

Less cars! It is so "easy" to drive a car to places. We need less parking and less road space for cars. Maybe one way systems so we can have wide cycling boulevards. More shared workspaces distributed around the town so people who continue to work from home can have a place to meet and work. This should be cheap possibly subsidised.

Too many to list here

Encourage cycling and walking and use of public transport. Discourage the private car. Provide jobs through Green initiatives such as insulating houses.

See Q 1! Full financial support for Stroud as an Earth Protector town, appoint SDC officers to help implement it. More recycling facilities.

I'm not local to Stroud – I live in Winchcombe and am completing this form via Kate Cody's Facebook link. I'd love to see many more facilities for cyclists, more thought given to encouraging plant and wildlife diversity – e.g. by not mowing grass – more initiatives to slow down traffic in towns with no–go areas, wider pavements, more trees.

Pedestrianise more of Stroud town centre to remove cars from this beautiful town– surely there is no need for an everyday car park behind Sub Rooms with plentiful parking at Cheapside/Waitrose etc.? Pedestrianising the area could provide a lovely area outside the sub rooms for events bigger outdoor events/gatherings, rather than it being hemmed in by busy roads all the time.   You could go one further and pedestrianised everything from Rowcroft mini roundabout to the London Rd roundabout next to the Brunel Mall, giving much more room for the farmers market or other market stalls to set up. Access still allowed for deliveries or for events at the sub rooms to unload, but ban cars parking here!

Private vehicle free Stroud centre, much more bicycle friendly roads

Not encouraging unnecessary travel. People have been amazed to discover the local walks, scenery and nature around here. Yet the council is bent on encouraging people to be 'tourists', with people from outside coming here and the people here going elsewhere for their leisure. Roads are really, really busy at weekends (prior to lockdown) but they never used to be like that. I suggest that you stop thinking that way about tourism. The economic benefit of it is also hugely overrated by SDC. The jobs are limited, low skilled and low paid. The cafes etc survive mainly because of locals and local cyclists. When we (a couple) visit places on a day trip, we spend between just £0 and £10, usually £0 or about £4. So encouraging tourists to places like the Severn will bring in lots of traffic and not much money. Then because it is no longer nice and quiet, the people here will drive elsewhere more. I have more ideas but will move on for now...

Education, eco Groups and workshops, Travel initiatives (public transport improved, lift shares, trams, electric bikes/cars), working from home, protecting nature and green spaces. Promote home grown and eating/supporting local.

The Transition Community Action Groups can have a new focus based on our experiences of community self– help, local food purchasing, much less traffic and working from home, recognising that climate change is a symptom of a dysfunctional society that overemphasises monetary wealth and growth of GDP without rewarding properly those who provide essential services.   Opportunities for green growth should be positively encouraged to replace the employment that will be permanently lost.

Promote active travel and public transport.

Public transport in rural areas needs to be completely re–thought. When I was working, I could not commute on public transport and now that I am retired, buses do not go where I want them to at the times I want them. There is a bus stop outside my house and I have never got on a bus there since 1978, although when I want to go somewhere new, I still check the timetable hopefully. Regular services from large buses on so few routes are never going to break even.

the spread of it is broadly a result of an unsustainable world economy. This has also given rise to Climate Change. Whatever is done, it must involve green economics. This could result in more paid local help and technical expertise, from IT to insulation and energy saving. A UBI would greatly help

Improve cycling provision, cultivating a culture of micro localism .. support of businesses within a couple of miles radius of where you live ..

Encouraging exhaust filters on improved public transport, more cycle and people space, increased investment in low impact energy use

Improving transport infrastructures, cycle pathways between communities, supporting local businesses.

Keeping it local – green waste recycling, shopping locally, sharing not buying, cycling more, avoiding big corporates where we can.

None

Economic recovery is the biggest agenda item for the next few years. If the population wants to reduce reliance on, and import of, far east goods, then manufacture and supply has to come back to the UK.

Improved public transport infrastructure. More and improved green spaces Outside 'green' gyms Renewable energy options

Support and investment for greener ways of doing things. More support for residents to grow their own food or source it locally. More bike routes. Recycling single−use plastic (the flimsy stuff). Help people to repair things and share stuff more than 'bin it and buy a new one'.

Forget it.

Incentivise green transport and green domestic heating alternatives

Build safe cycle routes along the valleys and between main residential arrest and schools and the town centre and places that people need to visit eg hospitals, railway station, major work areas. etc.

The Parish Council should seek to proactively engage local residents to develop a climate emergency action plan for the parish

more home working, invest in public transport

Continue to use private transport to ensure healthy social distancing.

It is not important

Continue to encourage people to think about whether they really need to travel or not. Improve public transport. Encourage people to shop locally and buy locally produced goods as much as possible.

Good public transport so that people will use it and stop using cars. Start talking about over−population instead of pretending that increasing numbers of people is inevitable, normal and sustainable.

Paining all roof white to reflect sunlight and create jobs, SDC to agree to buy all electricity and gas from renewable sources generated in the district by a community energy schemes, SDC to abandon canal restoration and use £3m to kickstart insulating all houses to cut energy use by 80%, encourage community group that developed during pandemic to set up EV car and electric bike share schemes for their area along with local peer to peer energy trading, mandatory cycle lanes on all roads, positive planning for poly tunnels, set up horticultural business next to incinerator using spare heat and carbon capture to maximise production, send less than 20kg of waste per household per year to incinerator, generate 50% of the total energy use by all buildings in district (electricity and heat) from within the district. Retrofit all council housing to be carbon zero. Set up training schemes for retrofitting house and installing air source heat pumps.

Interweave the two as inextricable as possible. Build transparency and honesty into the proceedings of authorities.

Look carefully at the local economy strategy − to support shorter supply chains. Focus on job−creation in green transition. Look at supporting streets to reduce reliance on cars, and to increase vehicle sharing schemes, whilst managing concerns about infection risks.

We have to put this at the heart − a Preston model for local council procurement to drastically shrink the footprint of our consumption, car free days and areas, more cycling and th3 use of the canal

Banging on about it at every opportunity. Writing to councillors and MP frequently. Showing films. Working with other green minded groups

Closing down the incinerator and setting up a greener alternative.

Speed up a green revolution

I do not conflate the two. The climate crisis was, is, and will be more critical than this virus or any other pandemic.

Stop bonfires, restrictions on wood–burners and barbecues so that only smokeless/ well–seasoned fuel is used. Improve recycling so that more garden waste can be composted and shredded and so re–used. Electric fuel public transport run more frequently and to a wider area. Improve roads for cyclists and encourage people to cycle on roads, not pavements, thereby improving people's walking experience.
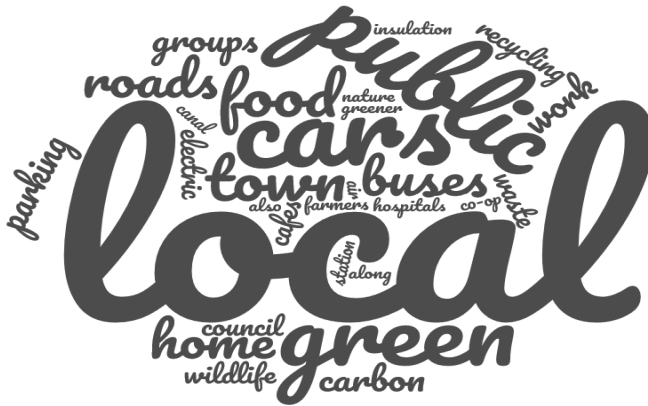
less use of cars, more on–line meetings etc

Enable food to be grown and locally sold. Do a survey on the resilience of the environment – water, working landscape and natural habitat resources – the district can replenish itself with.

I think the problems we are facing are all part of the same package.   Local action: More cycle routes as mentioned, more people being able to work from home to reduce commuting

Encouraging people to do more locally, to reduce traffic on the roads and look to secure the gains made by wildlife in the time of our relative absence.

Wordcloud on tackling climate change during pandemic recovery

Q 4. What do you think should be the priorities of the local council during the recovery from coronavirus?

Housing and rehabilitation schemes for homeless. More cycle paths.

Concentrate on keeping decisions & actions local

Helping facilitate support groups. Reduce mowing of verges.

Climate change, support of ecocide campaign, physical and mental health for all, access to physical activity and promotion and support for low carbon jobs. Equality for all no matter what background you come from.

Get people back to work, generating new carbon−saving jobs wherever required, even at some cost to council tax

Ensuring that local shops and services are put on a sound, sustainable footing — with a strong emphasis on local, independent concerns, rather than faceless national or multinational chains.

Making sure that the disadvantaged do not suffer further.

Systemic thinking and reimagine public and local engagement. Community consultations that are genuinely co−creative rather than workshops that create long laundry lists of opinions that are often hard to integrate. Regenerative thinking that creates a shift in culture rather than greenwashing the current system.

High Street, High Street, High Street.

To remove all the lockdowns their end. To remove all the restrictions and social distancing and to keep all their facilities a lot cleaner like toilets, parks and removing dogs fouling and litter quicker and bring in tougher penalties for this. And to keep all their public toilets open all year round and up together. And to allow community events on their land and travelling fun fairs and circuses, this would give them some revenue. And open all their libraries and leisure centres now to get some revenue in with no restrictions but open it all seven days.

Supporting local shops and businesses building more affordable housing (and making sure this is in central areas rather than far from towns, so that people are not forced to drive everywhere) providing financial incentives for energy−saving measures housing the homeless

Holistic Public Health plan and Frome model; convivial, co−op community led eco−social housing; local healthy food policy e.g. more allotments and community farms; integrated low carbon, smart transport system including Stonehouse /Bristol rail connection; bike system with subsidised electric bikes; flexible deliberative democratic process to engage citizens in key decisions that affect them; participative budgeting; conservation/environmental volunteer service (e.g. building on Stroud Valleys Projects work); setting up a Stroud Mutual Bank; supporting community food initiatives like the Long Table with district wide planning and enabling; working WITH the community and NGO's on developing shared priorities and plans

Incentives for people to cycle and walk more. A focus on the mental health of the community. Making sure people realise that going back to "normal" isn't what we need to do! We need to create a better way of life that ensures our earth is treated well and communities are closer than before.

Social support − seeking out the hardship. Cycling infrastructure. Support of what I've already suggested.

See above. Support for local, sustainable business.

Keeping in place the changes that have had a positive impact on climate crisis ie fewer journeys and more creative family time

Find a way to take back control of the roads so we can make our own decisions about what is best for Stroud! Can we leave the shackles of the GCC? A referendum? Just joking!

Too many to list here

Which Council? GCC needs to change its priorities and get away from the predict and provide approach to road traffic and improve cycle and walking provision.

Helping small businesses recover, and encouraging them to adopt climate−friendly practices/sustainability/home working etc. Ensuring adequate funding for social carers

Make sure people's basic needs are met; then prioritise making places better for people by encouraging local initiatives, encouraging ecological diversity, discouraging traffic.

Pedestrianise Stroud town centre, or at least look at making it a 1 way system and pedestrianise some of the roads?

Reducing private vehicle use in all settlements and enforcing speed limits

Not losing sight of the fact that bad as the virus might be, the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation are going to be far, far worse. And the council needs to somehow get people's heads out of the sand over that.

Bike lanes, working with the police on speed enforcement and improving driver awareness, educating residents about garden bonfires and the deleterious impact they have on others.

Help the community. Give key and factual information. Support local.

Top Priorities: Strengthening of health and social services. Integration of NHS and Social Care. Support for the unemployed including green job opportunities. Education including catch−up where children have lost out. Improvement of the energy efficiency of all homes and relevant buildings in the area. Safe cycling lanes and improved public transport. Waste management and clamp down on fly tipping. Bottom Priority: Major new road improvement schemes.

Protected cycle infrastructure.

Making sure care workers get paid a decent wage and can spend more time with their clients; recruiting and training more care workers; providing more places in care homes – and I know this will all cost in taxes; personally, I am very relaxed about that. Food poverty in not a local council responsibility, although it is at the top of my personal list.

More facilities to enable safe walking and cycling. A register of people that need technical IT and energy expertise, and people that can supply that.

Getting kids back to school safely

Trail of universal basic income models. Increased taxes to pay for higher, realistic wages for essential workers. End to zero hour contracts Care for carers Less waste in all sectors Increased support for disadvantaged people

Health and wellbeing of people, the environment & nature

To carry on as you are – you're incredible and very hands–on.

Maintaining existing, and looking to increase public space and footpaths.

Nurture business growth to provide worthwhile jobs, ensure we get 5G to maintain our ability to keep up with the world of business and home workers can work quickly and productively.

Improved social care for vulnerable people. Public transport

Supporting people who are struggling – financially, mentally, etc.

Dealing with REAL problems, not so–called climate change

Green energy, electric car charging points in towns and villages, better bus services

Support local business and the self–resilience of communities

That the positives are not lost. That support for the marginalised, the lonely and least privileged continues. Support for community resilience including local business's (over multis) continues. That H&S and environmental standards are not eroded at the altar of economic recovery. The vital role of migrant key workers is defended at local level. Tell the truth about the thinks that didn't go so well at council, county and nation level.

Community–wealth building – see the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (see 'Rescue, recover, reform' and 'Owning the Future'). Combined with working to achieve carbon neutrality and building local community resilience

public transport

Reduce council taxes by halting all virtue signalling relating to 'green' projects.

Ensuring life returns to normal.

Reducing carbon emissions – if we don't do it now, we never will

Good public transport. Stop allowing building on ANY green spaces. Encouraging members of communities to care for each other. Developing health services so that people do not need to travel for appointments, but specialists come to local health centres.

Preparing to adapt to climate change

protecting vulnerable and less advantaged people and households

Supporting the local economy through transition to more remote working and addressing housing policy. Making sure those with lower incomes can access safe, clean and green housing with appropriate space, and looking at pressures on the market from moves to more remote working – which may increase post– Pandemic as Stroud becomes could become an even more attractive location.

Supporting local businesses through procurement

Better public transport   More cycle lanes to encourage cycling   Local food hubs promoting local food Reducing waste

Growing jobs in the green and eco industries. Providing young people with support to navigate yet another potential recession and focus on affordable housing and opportunities for people to learn and have access to growing thier own crops.

Sustainable development and energy

Fighting the Conservatives.

Clean air

Getting PPE to all those who need it. Facemasks for the general public

Recognise enterprise that serves the local vicinity. Not by number of jobs, but by building local assets.

More cycle paths along the routes leading into town!   Stop strimming! To let green amenity space grow wild – we've *loved* the roadside verges in Cashes Green that haven't been strimmed. They are not causing any visual obstruction to motorists and look lovely/are a boost for biodiversity – as well as saving money for the council of course.

Directing the recovery of town centres to support local businesses, and community spaces – protecting our shared outside spaces.

Wordcloud on the role of Councils in recovery

Q 5. Is there anything else you would like to say or ask?

Thank you for helping to make Stroud a fairer, greener, more community—minded town :)

Do you agree that green hydrogen is a major route to the solution for zero—carbon energy? What do you see are the major hurdles to progress?

Public toilets should remain open in all towns & villages now that they're not going to be available in shops & cafes etc.

I think that politics comes into everything, but I wish party politics didn't, some things are just the right thing to do for the common good (and money isn't everything.)

Get hold of Tricorn House and use it for social purposes e.g. housing the homeless

Thank you for including me.

Is there anything you lot could do to get us out of this mess now?

Yes— how can SDC engage with local businesses and civil society to enable the development of green jobs, social businesses and a circular economy as well as a re—imagined future for town centres.

Having this survey is a great idea and it's making me feel already that i have a voice and it's being heard

In Rockness Hill, we have a very successful and effective WhatsApp group for sharing and supporting on a very local level.

How can Greens make this process something that is non—partisan and attracts input from people who do not support Green politics?

Everything boils down to people changing their habits and not reverting to business as usual!

Just to repeat I do not live near Stroud so I'm not sure how useful my comments are to you – but good luck anyway.

I would like to offer to take some of the councillors who do not really know the area well on a walking tour of the Severn Estuary in Stroud District,

I am normally a Conservative voter, but I am impressed with the local council, so am strongly thinking about switching in the next local elections.

A wider survey of public opinion in our area could show that people do not want to return to the old normal but are looking for something better.

The environment is important, but so are other issues. I have not heard Green councillors talk about poverty and inequality which are at the top of my priority list; other respondents will be concerned about other things. The Green Party needs to communicate a more comprehensive set of policies if I am to vote for them.

Thank you for what you do, keep on looking for improvements in our community. Improvements in local food networks and land usage

Don't hold Stroud back with romantic ideals.

It's very hard to avoid using cars where I live, in my household we have 2 cars because of lack of public transport to go to work, and cycling on narrow roads without cycle lanes does not feel safe. Before moving here 9 yrs ago we didn't own a car, only bicycles. Previously living in a Swedish city where there was a network of off road cycle lanes.

This a golden opportunity to reconfigure how society works. It could emerge greener, cleaner and fairer. But only if you can persuade the non–greens to buy into this better future, Don't lecture them – tempt them with the benefits.

Strive to work collaboratively with other progressive political parties and independents

Thanks for all your hard work

More power to your elbow. This is a golden opportunity to forge a new normal. Let's avoid the temptation to go back to the old one!

Thankyou. Well done SDGP

Shut down the incinerator

Good luck with a fight for a greener Stroud

What autonomy do Stroud District Council have on local decisions

we have just celebrated VE day. in 1945 we were looking to a better future, and we got the welfare state. we need that kind of imaginative thinking now.

Think global climate change, act local

Where respondents came from

Community		Community	
Stroud Town	11	Wotton−under−Edge	8
Stonehouse	7	Stroud District	7
Brimscombe and Thrupp	6	Rodborough	5
Paganhill	3	Bisley	3
Cam	2	Dursley	2
Horsley	1	Chalford	1
Randwick	1	Winchcombe	1
Whiteshill	2	Nailsworth and Horsley	2
Berkeley	1	Cainscross	1
Cam and Dursley	1	Cashes Green	1
Eastcombe and Chalford	1	North Nibley	1
Dursley RURAL District	1	Tetbury	1
Uplands	1	Cheltenham	1
USA	1		