

The WEAVE

ACADEMY OF URBANISM PLACE PARTNERING VISIT TO STROUD 3rd & 4th November 2011

Raising the Profile of the Arts and Cultural/Creative Industries in Stroud

Richard Keating, Walking the Land

(supplementing presentation by Lizzi Walton, Stroud International Textiles)

History of the arts and cultural/creative industries in and around Stroud

- Shaping the town and landscape
- Arts and Crafts movement, Laurie Lee,
- brief mention of this legacy - Festivals, poets, glass makers, Stroud Valleys Art Space, Open Studios, Print co-op, Photo-Stroud, choirs, music, furniture makers, Gloucestershire rafts Guild, blacksmiths, architecture, community arts, community play, Pangolin, Damien Hirst, landscape, National trust (Ruskin)



Performance and photo – Walking the Land

Main strengths for local people and visitors

- Vibrancy of town, Cafe culture, street entertainment, posters in empty shops etc.
- employment, apprenticeships, SVA,
- Cotswold Playhouse
- community choirs and street band
- poets, writers: cultural events
- National and regional profile
- arts based workshops
- Made in Stroud Shop and other locally made goods, specialist stalls at market
- National Trust and other cultural/heritage venues and the Commons



Drawing by Lucy Guenot

Main weaknesses for local people and visitors

Little input in some aspects of the place:

- public spaces and countryside
- signage, lighting, street furniture, public art
- new buildings

separation of arts from everyday life



The arts and cultural/creative industries linking town, canal and countryside: opportunities for local people & visitors



Transition Stroud Walk

- Inspiration, sensory engagement, materials,
- open studio tours/leaflets
- local distinctiveness
- sense of place
- community engagement
- Canal as “spine”
- WTL as an example: school projects, health walks, Old Passage Arts Award, first Friday walks, sense of place, the Weave, Folly Wood, Transition Stroud,
- Woodchester Woodworkers, green oak

Ideas for arts and cultural/creative industries

- Community participation, sense of place relating to the Weave and neighbourhood plans
- co-ordination
- public arts, signage
- pop-up exhibitions in shops
- floating studios
- Canal-side workshops and studios



Proposed empty shop window project - mock-up