

PRESS RELEASE from Gloucestershire's Trade Local Campaign

Business week events planned in Dursley, Stroud, Stonehouse, Nailsworth, Painswick and Wotton-under-Edge

Putting businesses in touch across Stroud district

Plans for a week of activities to put businesses from across the Stroud District in touch with each other, increasing trade and strengthening connections, have received a £2,000 boost from the Gloucestershire Trade Local Campaign.

The B2B Week from July 9 – 16, is being organised by the Vale and Valleys Business Partnership of business groups from across the district.

Dave Middlemiss, chair of Stroud District Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) and co-ordinator of the event said: "The grant from the Trade Local Campaign is essential to the organisation of the week and is most welcome.

"There are around 5,500 registered businesses in the Stroud District which all have the potential to do more business with each other. However, many are unaware of the diversity and nature of other local businesses and of the potential for developing significant local supply chains, productivity and new market opportunities.

"The week will be all about putting businesses in touch with other local businesses and developing more opportunities to map and facilitate new networks and generate a variety of profitable trading opportunities at a local level.

"The aim is to help businesses to pro-actively reduce costs and become more sustainable – both environmentally and economically - through increased local trading activities, generating higher margins and more business growth and local employment," added Dave.

The Trade Local Campaign is funded by Gloucestershire County Council. Cllr Chas Fellows, cabinet member for environment and economy, said: "This is an excellent way of bringing businesses together which can only serve to create better links, increase local trade and in turn boost the Gloucestershire economy.

"We are living in tough times and the County Council is pleased to support innovative events like this, that help local businesses help themselves."

The Business to Business Week will showcase the market towns of Dursley and Stroud including being part of both towns' annual shows, with other events in Wotton-under-Edge, Stonehouse and Painswick.

Stroud District Business Week July 9 – 19 2011

- Sat July 9: Dursley Show – networking and advice marquee – VVBP supported event
- Sun July 10: Churches Together in Stroud supporting local businesses
- Mon July 11: Painswick business event (details TBC)
- Tue July 12: Stonehouse area business day at the business parks, the High Street
- Wed July 13: Business to Business Fair – Forest Green Rovers, stands, seminars, business briefings
- Thu July 14: Renishaw business breakfast and Wotton-under-Edge business day
- Fri July 15: Stroud Life Business Awards – Celebrating the success of businesses in the District
- Sat July 16: Stroud Show – networking and advice marquee – VVBP supported event

The Gloucestershire Trade Local Campaign is funded by Gloucestershire County Council through GFirst the Local Enterprise Partnership. It is managed by Gloucestershire Market

Towns Forum and supported by Gloucestershire First and the Federation of Small Businesses. For more information about the Campaign, visit <http://www.glosmtf.org.uk/funding.aspx>

Ends

For more information about the business week, contact Dave Middlemiss on 07970487918 or see <http://valeandvalleys.org/business-week-2011-is-announced/>

Notes:

The Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum www.glosmtf.org.uk is a membership organisation of the county's rural towns and large parishes, offering its members networking, support and funding through its Development Fund and Technical Assistance schemes, to help regenerate their rural communities. Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum chair, Pearl Stokes on 01452 712058 or pearl.stokes@ukgateway.net