

## Traders and council *light up our town*



**The town council worked with the Chamber of Commerce to provide 75 free Christmas trees and holders to businesses.**

Mayor Amanda Moriarty said: "The independent traders have really supported this initiative and the trees look lovely. We hope we can build on this partnership working for next year and further develop the lights."

Last year the company which put up the town's outdated lights went out of business. The council then spent the next five months seeking tenders but all of them were beyond the council's £9,000 budget.

So it decided to try something different and work with traders. The town council wants to hear people's comments about the lights and suggestions for next year.

People can email their comments to [clerk@stroudtown.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stroudtown.gov.uk) or write to the council at 58 London Road, Stroud, GL5 2AD.

## Make Wallbridge an open space

**People have strongly supported Stroud Town Council's view that Wallbridge be a public open space.**

A consultation on the main gateway to the town was carried out during a Neighbourhood Development Plan meeting.

Of the 107 questionnaires completed 75 per cent of people strongly agreed that Wallbridge should be landscaped and preserved as public open space.

"Visitors to Stroud should be welcomed by a green oasis rather than more concrete," one resident wrote on the survey.

"The current green area with benches makes a welcoming entrance to Stroud and should be kept," was another comment.

At least 65 per cent disagreed that the area should be a mix of commercial development and public open space.

The town council has strongly supported the idea that Wallbridge should be a public open space and be as green as possible.

Town councillor Kevin Cranston said: "It was pleasing to see how so many people were so passionate about the future of Stroud and Wallbridge in particular."

Stroud District Council is acquiring two parcels of land at Wallbridge as part of the county council's agreement to contribute land which would benefit the Council's canal project.

The district council's strategy and resources committee considered the options for the future use of this land. The two options are to keep it as an open space or a mixed use development which would be commercial and public open space.

The town council will consider the findings before responding to the district council.



**Stroud Town Council offices are at Thanet House in London Road**

Opening hours: **Mon-Thurs 10am-1.30pm, Fri 9.30am-12.30pm**

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# Bank Gardens is now accessible to everyone

**Work to make Bank Gardens more accessible to everyone has been completed.**

Stroud Town Council has been overseeing the work to improve the main gateway into the gardens from the High Street.

It was essential to ensure that the garden was fully accessible for everyone. This meant that the surface of the pathway had to be made even.

It was also important to widen the entrance to allow entry for the maintenance equipment used by the town council's Green Spaces team.

Town councillor Steve Hurrell said the opportunity was taken to repair the badly eroded original Cotswold stone pillars and the unique iron gates with the agreement of the Gardens' owners, Stroud District Council and the conservation officer.

Local builder John Cooper carried out the works and local master stonemason Jonny Anderson built the new gateway using as much of the original stonework as possible, with newly quarried and carved stone where necessary.

The original iron gates have been sand blasted clean, and repainted. In order to make the repairs and improvements possible the conservation officers agreed to the gates being fixed in the open position.

The garden is owned by Stroud District Council. Most of the work (£14,426) was funded by Section 106



Stonemason Jonny Anderson working on the gates at Bank Gardens

Agreement money (contributions from developers). The district council paid £4,300 and the town council £4,434.

Mr Hurrell said the renovations to the garden are part of a long-term scheme to make Lansdown Hall accessible for all.

*"The long-term aim is to create a completely new and accessible entrance into the Hall from Bank Gardens and this new gateway will eliminate any steps and provide an even route from the town centre."*

## In brief

### Festival launched

The town council is supporting Stroud's first film festival. It has awarded £2,000 to Stroud Film Festival which will take place on March 13-29. The money, from the council's community support fund, will be used to underwrite the costs of the event.

The Volunteer and Community Action Group received £3,000 to develop and support local community groups. The Top of Town Community Association receive £400 for a Christmas event and StroudSong £500.

The council awards small grants of between £50 and £500 and community support grants of between £500 and £3,000.

The next deadline for grant applications is January 5. Application forms and further information are available from the town council offices or from [www.stroudtown.gov.uk](http://www.stroudtown.gov.uk)

### Date for The Fringe

Stroud's Fringe Festival will be held next year on August 28-30.

A new team have taken over the event. The Fringe has been supported with an annual grant from the town council.

### New limit for roads

Plans to make Stroud a 20mph town have been delayed until early 2015.

## Meet your town councillors



### Farmhill & Paganhill Ward

Haydn Sutton 01453 763255  
Paul Mapplebeck 01453 757747  
Eva Ward 01453 756900

### Uplands Ward

Julian Carlyon 01453 767120  
Simon Arundel 01453 766825  
Lucas Schoemaker 01453 840039

### Central Ward

Kevin Cranston 01453 755483  
Rachel Lyons 01453 750268  
Ben Spencer 01453 753355

### Trinity Ward

Steve Hurrell 01453 767127  
John Marjoram 01453 750962  
Amanda Moriarty 01453 759102

### Valley Ward

Steve Naumann 07810 860672  
Paul Shevlin 01453 299248  
Margaret Poulton 07989 361457

### Slade Ward

Gillian Winstone 01453 753639  
Malene Mose 07887 703309  
Rob Green 01453 764438