

ABOUT TOWN

Picture: Clint Randall



Mayor John Marjoram with Jess Jowers and Carlo Montesanti of the Global Bee Project

All abuzz - we're now a bee town

Stroud is the world's first bee guardian town. You may have noticed the new signs heralding our status. We were mentioned in The Observer newspaper as being the first bee guardian town in the world. The two-year project saw the council lead a variety of initiatives from putting out 350 bee houses, holding workshops and talks and a variety of other events to raise awareness and educate the community about bees.

Public speaks out on NHS changes

Town council hosts meeting for residents

Hundreds of residents turned out to express their fears about proposed changes to NHS services in Stroud. More than 350 people packed the Subscription Rooms to discuss plans for a social enterprise company to take over the running of Stroud General Hospital.

The meeting on August 31 was hosted by Stroud Town Council.

Mayor John Marjoram said the town council had decided to host the meeting because of councillors' concerns that the changes to NHS services were being brought about without our knowledge.

"The town council is wholly behind a full blooded NHS," said Mayor Marjoram.

Plans have been agreed by NHS Gloucestershire for Stroud General to

be run by Gloucestershire Care Services Community Interest Company, with NHS-funded care, from October 1.

Caroline Molloy, of Stroud Against the Cuts, said there had been no consultation with the public about the changes.

Penny Harris, chief executive designate of the social enterprise Gloucestershire Care Services Community Interest Company, said that there had not been a public consultation because there would not be changes in the level of services offered.

The changes, she said, were purely organisational and that the social enterprise company was committed to the former NHS staff.

Speakers included Stroud MP Neil

Carmichael, Tanya Palmer of Unison, Dr Philip Fielding, a GP and vice-

chairman of the county's Local Medical Committee and Linda Prosser of NHS Gloucestershire. The meeting was chaired by Canon John James.

Opposition speakers raised concerns about what would happen to the services.

The audience, in a show of hands, voted against the plans.

The town council will continue to campaign to ensure the community is consulted about the changes.

Town councillors have called on Gloucestershire County Council to scrutinise the social enterprise plan for the county's NHS.



Picture courtesy of Gloucestershire Media

News in brief

We won silver

Stroud scooped a silver gilt award in the Heart of England in Bloom awards.

The town council supports the awards. Our Green Spaces team worked flat out to ensure we were looking our best for the judges. Well done to all involved.

Tree works

Trees in Park Gardens, Uplands Playing Fields, The Long Ground and Daisy Bank have been identified as needing work. The Green Spaces team will investigate further to decide what action is needed.

Mayor on a bench

Have a pressing issue you would like to air?

Then come along to see Mayor John Marjoram during his Mayor on a Bench sessions.

He will be on the bench in Kendrick Street every Wednesday from noon-1pm.

Safe and sound

New fencing is being installed at allotments in Uplands and Summer Street to improve security.

Stroud Brewery Bridge: allow town to have say

Call for more consultation over Cheapside changes

Stroud town councillors have called for further community consultation and improvements for the new bridge and traffic system at Cheapside.

Stroud Brewery Bridge opened in July and town councillors held an extraordinary meeting to consider the completed system and its effects on the community.

They passed a resolution calling for Gloucestershire County Council to carry out further consultation to improve access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

"In order to enhance the open space in front of the Canal Visitors' Centre, Wallbridge would need to be pedestrian and cyclist access only," said Councillor Ben Spencer, a member of Stroud Against the Gyration. The town council called for this option to be



put forward by the county council for consultation.

"Once the traffic has settled down we hope the county council will carry out a full consultation where the long-term potential of the links between the canal and the town centre can be explored," said Councillor Spencer.

Members of the town council welcomed the growing recognition that there was a need to strike a balance between the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.

Wades Farm - council objects to proposal

Stroud Town Council objected to proposals by Barratt Homes to build 48 houses on Wades Farm in the Slad Valley.

The council felt that the application was so important that it contracted a planning consultant to make a report.

The application has been turned down by Stroud District Council. It received more than 800 letters of objection.

The town council supported the campaigners, Save Slad and Uplands from Development, in their battle.

Read the town council's objections in more detail at www.stroudtown.gov.uk. The developers are expected to go to appeal.

Enjoy our free play schemes all year round

Enjoy free outdoor play, thanks to Play Gloucestershire and Stroud Town Council.

Funded by the town council, the Play Rangers offer a variety of activities from building dens and mask making to camp-fire cookery.

"Our aim is to get more young people outdoors and enjoying activities that are not only good fun but also good for you," said Pip Levett, Director of Play.

You can find the Play Rangers at:

Mason Road Playing Fields, Tuesdays, 4pm-6pm.

Archway Gardens Play Area, Thursdays, 4pm-6pm.

www.playgloucestershire.org.uk

Jim heads Stroud's Green Spaces team

Jim Mathison has joined Stroud Town Council as Green Spaces Manager.

A resident of Stroud for 22 years, Jim says this is his dream job.

He formerly worked at South Gloucestershire Council at Yate - a 50-mile round trip to work. Now it takes him five minutes to walk to work - or less if he is on his electric bicycle.

"I hope to leave a lasting legacy of improvements to the open spaces of Stroud," said Jim.



Members of the Green Spaces team: Martin Weeks, Tony Butler, Andrew Knee and Jim Mathison in Park Gardens

Help for community groups



Picture: copyright Gloucestershire Media

Deputy mayor Amanda Moriarty With Stroud Valley Scout Group

How to apply

- Grants between £50-£500 are awarded
- The committee meets three times a year to consider applications
- Deadlines for applications are October 28, and February 24, 2012
- To download a form, log on at www.stroudtown.gov.uk

Community groups in need of support are being urged to apply for a grant from Stroud Town Council.

"We know times are hard for community groups, that's why the town council is keen to support local groups in need of that little bit of help," said Amanda Moriarty, deputy mayor.

Grants vary in sums from £50 to £500 and are awarded three times a year to a variety of youth and community activities.

One of the latest to receive £500 is Stroud Valley Scout Group. The money is being used for vital repairs to their hut in Chapel Street.

"It's not easy to get funding so we are grateful that the town council is able to help us," said Anne-Marie Delrosa, Scout Group treasurer.

Council awards grants to five good causes

More than 80 Scouts, Beavers and Cubs use the hut. It is also used by the 3rd Stroud Brownies, Rainbows and Guides, the Explorers and Stroud Morris Dancers.

The grant will help pay for paint and repairs. The Scouts are also getting help from the Community Payback scheme with offenders clearing the area around the hut and painting.

"We want to sort out the hut and make it a more attractive space that we can rent out for a small fee," said Anne-Marie.

"We want it used as much as possible.

"This project is enhancing the lives of so many young people and deserves our support," said Amanda, who chairs the community grants committee.

Other groups to receive grants were:

Stroud Photo Ages, £500, to support a community photographic exhibition in Stroud;

Stroud Sea Cadets, £150, to hire a sound system for the Remembrance Day Parade;

Embroiderers' Guild, £200, to help fund exhibitions of the guild's work;

Transition Town Stroud, £500, to support the Eco-Renovation Open Homes and Edible Open Gardens.

The next grants committee meetings are November 14 and March 12, 2012.

News in brief

Stroud Festivals: a great success

The Stroud Valleys festivals proved a great success attracting hundreds of residents and visitors.

The festivals, held in September, are supported by the town council.

They included the Walking Festival, the Festival of Nature, the Fringe Festival, the Food and Drink Festival and the Eco Open Homes event.

Play areas get a spruce-up

The Green Spaces team are busy upgrading the play areas in Park Gardens, Uplands, Daisy Bank and Leazes.

The work includes sorting out general wear and tear and some of the play surfaces.

Our new look

About Town has a new look - including the masthead. It is an artist's interpretation of the skyline of Stroud with several views incorporated into the finished look.

What do you think of the new look? We would love to hear from you. Email us at council@stroudtown.gov.uk

Get-together

Stroud Town Council, with the Allotment Sites Associations, arranged an annual social event for allotment holders in the town.

It was such a great success that plans are under way to hold a similar event. Watch this space. . .

Working to enhance Stroud Cemetery

Work has begun to enhance Stroud's New Cemetery.

Our Green Spaces team is making the cemetery more accessible by removing some kerbstones laid without permission.

Last year we wrote to 137 plot holders asking them to help improve access for other users. More than 65 of these plots were modified.

Now we have started work to modify the remaining plots to ensure everyone has safe access to all the cemetery.

It will be finished in the autumn. Once complete the cemetery will have enhanced open space. Please contact our office if you have any concerns about the alterations.

Lansdown Hall - we're making a difference

Lansdown Hall - formerly known as The Space - has been going from strength to strength since the town council bought it a year ago, saving it from certain closure.

In just a year great strides have been made to improve the hall, thanks to the council, Stroud Arts Trust, local businesses and hard-working volunteers

The outdated electrics have been improved and vital work carried out on the drains to prevent further damage.

The boiler has been replaced and a planning application submitted to improve public access and make the hall and gallery a more viable public space.

This is just the beginning. Find out more about what is happening at Lansdown Hall at www.stroudtown.gov.uk

Picture: Clint Randall



Mayor John Marjoram with Anna Gillespie and Bernard Wakefield-Heath

Residents' survey: tell us your views

Stroud Town Council is organising a residents' survey to find out what your priorities are for your town for the next three years.

The last survey was carried out in 2008 and your responses had an impact on what the town council did.

In the 2008 survey the majority of people called for improved public toilets. The town council contributed £10,000 towards the refurbishment of the Bedford Street toilets.

Residents said green spaces were a high priority and street entertainment a low one. As a result the town council dropped funding on street entertainment and acquired more green spaces.

We are also adopting another play area and in the process of revamping others.

The survey is central to helping councillors determine what you want. Get involved and tell us what is important to you. Further copies of the survey can be collected from the council office in London Road or download it at www.stroudtown.gov.uk

We know how to welcome walkers

It's official - walkers are welcome in Stroud.

The town council supported an application to become a national Walkers are Welcome town. The status helps to ensure that footpaths and facilities for walkers are maintained in good

condition, benefiting residents as well as visitors.

The council set aside funding through the footpath budget to support walking in the town and helped collect 250 signatures needed to demonstrate community backing to the idea.

Meet your town councillors

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

Uplands Ward



Julian Carlyon
01453 767120



Lucas Schoemaker
01453 840039



Tim Seager
01453 755359

Valley Ward



Steven Naumann
01453 767977



Cathy Beeching
01453 763544



Margaret Poulton
07989 361457

Farmhill & Paganhill Ward



Haydn Sutton
01453 673255



Doug Janke
01453 840307



Kevin Ellis
01453 751880

Slade Ward



Gillian Winstone
01453 753639



Malene Mose
07986 555806



Rob Green
01453 764438