

# ABOUT TOWN

Picture: Clint Randall



Mayor John Marjoram with Anna Gillespie and Bern Wakefield-Heath

## 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 local people 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.**

# Public speaks out on hospital move

## Hundreds turn out as council hosts meeting

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 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. "We urge people to get involved. With people power we can stop these changes."

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 and that there were fears it was simply a cost-cutting exercise.

There were also concerns raised that staff were not properly consulted.

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.



Other 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.

Speakers explained the plans for moving the health services to a social enterprise company.

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

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

**Working together to make us bloom**  
 Stroud's Green Spaces team hopes to find gold at the end of the rainbow - Britain in Bloom gold.

The team worked flat out in preparation for judging day. They are responsible for the 24 green and open spaces throughout Stroud and countless tubs and beds. Their crowning glory is the large floral display in Park Gardens.

"Stroud in Bloom is a team effort by everyone in the community," said Green Spaces manager Jim Mathison.

Picture: copyright Thousand Word Media



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

## News in brief

### All aboard the Stroud Special

September sees the launch of The Stroud Special train service, bringing visitors to see what makes Stroud so special.

The four-week project will encourage people from the London area to catch off-peak trains to Stroud to enjoy the festivals.

Businesses, the district and town councils, and the Chamber of Commerce are some of the groups working together to make this happen.

### Dog surgery

We will be hosting a dog surgery with Stroud District Council's dog wardens on Tuesday October 11 from 11.30am-1.30pm.

Please feel free to drop into our office in London Road.

### Our new look

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

## Cemetery plans

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.

We made a final appeal giving families until June to make changes.

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.

## Catch festival fever

### Stroud Walking Festival September 2-18

Many of the walks are free. Some you need to turn up on the day and others you may have to book.

### Stroud Food & Drink Festival September 2-18

Enjoy themed evenings of fantastic food, cookery courses and so much more.

### Stroud Festival of Nature Saturday September 10, 10am-6pm

Activities for all ages from browsing the stalls at Stratford Park to enjoying live music from 6.15pm to 9pm

### Eco-renovation Open Homes September 10-11

Visit 20 homes and learn about renewable energy, and how to reduce energy costs.

## Meet your town councillors



### Uplands Ward

Julian Carlyon  
01453 767120

**Tim Seager**  
01453 755359

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

**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