

April 2012



ABOUT TOWN

www.stroudtown.gov.uk

Picture: Clint Randall



Keep Wallbridge for walkers and cyclists

Keep Wallbridge closed to through traffic - that's the message from Stroud Town Council.

Last year the council campaigned for further public consultation about the bridge and traffic system at Cheapside to include an option to improve the area for the public.

In February this year, residents had the opportunity to vote for the option that they would prefer. More than 80 people turned out in a show of support for leaving Wallbridge closed to through traffic with the chance of

further improving the area in the future.

Gloucestershire Highways, which is responsible for the traffic system, staged the exhibition and consultation.

It included two options: to make Wallbridge one way to Dr Newton's Way for vehicles and to create a separate cycle/footway on the south side or keep Wallbridge closed to through traffic but open for access to Travis Perkins.

The town council believes the best option is to keep Wallbridge closed.

Battle carries on to save hospital

Stroud Town Council continues to support the campaign to ensure Stroud Hospital stays within NHS control.

In the council's recent survey of residents, 94% of those who responded supported the council's stand, making it the most popular activity of the council.

At the council meeting on February 20, members heard that, following a legal challenge in the High Court, NHS Gloucestershire agreed to reconsider its decision to transfer Stroud Hospital to a social enterprise company.

The action was brought by Michael Lloyd and backed by the campaign

group Stroud Against the Cuts.

Town councillors had objected to the original proposals for the town hospital to be run by a social enterprise company. It organised a public meeting which more than 350 people attended.

As a result of the court challenge NHS Gloucestershire has agreed to reconsider the most appropriate way for NHS services to be run in Stroud.

It also agreed to start a new process to explore the best option for providing community services and to "take reasonable steps to ensure a proper level of staff and public engagement concerning the process".

Among the options, the services

could be integrated with other NHS bodies.

Another option could be to create a new standalone community health trust for Gloucestershire.

There remain concerns that the NHS services will still be transferred to a social enterprise company.

"The town council has been involved with this campaign from the start and will continue to take an active role to ensure our hospital and local health care staff remain in the NHS," said town mayor John Marjoram.

"We must now ensure that our health services and all the associated staff stay within the NHS."



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News in brief

Council backs badger cull ban

Stroud Town Council will not allow a badger cull to take place on any of the land it owns.

In a unanimous vote, councillors supported a proposal by mayor John Marjoram to ban the cull.

The council has backed the Stroud 100 campaign which aims to get 100 land-owners to ban the cull from their property.

Sowing seeds for our bees

The Green Spaces team is planting a Pictorial Meadow on land near Brewery Bridge.

The mix of meadow wildflowers and plants will support butterflies and bees - not to mention that it will be a joy to see as you approach our town.

Trees planted

Stroud Valleys Project planted 50 trees at Uplands Playing Fields, land owned by Stroud Town Council.

The town council's green spaces team also plans to plant trees at The Leazes.

NHS and green spaces are residents' top concerns

The future of the health service and green spaces topped the results of a residents' survey carried out by Stroud Town Council.

The survey is organised every three years and is used to set the priorities for the council's work.

More than 94% of those who completed the survey felt that people should be consulted on any changes to the health service.

Last year Stroud Town Council called a public meeting over proposed changes to Stroud Hospital and will continue to closely monitor the issue.

More than 90% of residents agreed that the town council

Survey results set council priorities

should protect and expand green spaces.

Green spaces are a priority for the town council. Since the last residents' survey in 2008 it has acquired more green spaces and will continue to maintain and enhance them.

More than 88% of people who completed the survey agreed that the town council should work to protect footpaths.

"The results of this survey will shape the council's priorities for the next three years and help us ensure we are doing what residents want," said town mayor John Marjoram.

Your top concerns

The top 10 issues from the residents' survey that people felt were important:

- Health services 94%
- Green Spaces 90%
- Footpaths 88%
- Walkers and cyclists 86%
- Cleanliness 86%
- Canal and gateway 85%
- Youth facilities 84%
- Recycling 83%
- Energy efficiency 82%
- Community groups 81%

Council tax - what we deliver for your money

Stroud Town Council has set its percentage of the council tax.

An average Band D council tax payer will pay £96.98 in town council tax, which represents an increase of just 12p per week per household.

The town council precept makes up around six per cent of the overall council tax bill.

The purchase of The Long Ground is one example of the council's commitment to preserving green spaces for the residents.

It has updated play areas, provided an annual subsidy to keep Slad Road Post Office open and helped fund new play equipment at Summer Crescent, as well as investing resources in preserving Stroud's cemetery as a nature reserve.

Audit will help town protect its footpaths

The town council has commissioned a full audit of the parish's footpaths.

The comprehensive survey will be carried out by the Stroud Community Land Trust.

The audit involves walking every official public right of way and informal path in the parish - more than 170 in total.

Photographic evidence is gathered of any issues with signage, blockage or poor repair so that the town council can then contact the relevant authority to solve the problem.

The last audit was carried out in 2007 and it formed part of the town council's Walking and Transport Strategy.

In the first survey in 2004, around 110 Lost Ways were discovered.

Teenagers ready to dance like the wind

A group of Stroud teenagers will take part in the Olympic celebrations, with the support of Stroud Town Council.

The Flies On the Wall Youth Theatre will perform in the Battle For The Winds cultural Olympiad project at Weymouth, which is hosting the sailing events.

The troupe of 45 young people were awarded a £445 grant to pay for their costumes.

The town council awards grants from £50 to £500 to a wide variety of youth and community activities.



Faye Castelein (left), Ben Moos-Golding and Ellie Woodrow from Flies on the Wall

Picture: Clint Randall

Families dig in to create orchards for the future



Town councillor Ben Spencer plants an apple tree at The Ground

Children and adults dug in to plant a community apple orchard in Stroud. More than 20 people turned out at The Long Ground, green space land owned by Stroud Town Council between Cainscross Road near Homebase and the back of Tesco.

The event was organised by town councillor Ben Spencer (Central ward), Jim Mathison, the town council green spaces manager, and supported by Stroud Valleys Project.

"We planted 10 trees, all dessert apples and all but one variety originate from Gloucestershire," said Ben.

Among the varieties planted was Lodge-more Nonpariel, an endangered variety first developed in the early 1800s a quarter of a mile away at Lodgemore, just off Cainscross Road.



The Stroud Apple Town project is a collaboration between Stroud Town Council, Stroud Valleys Project, Stroud District Council, Down to Earth Cooperative, Stroud Farmers Market and the Gloucestershire Orchard Group. To find out more about the Stroud Apple Town project, contact Ben Spencer on 07960 712609.

Young people explore future sustainability

Local teenagers will explore sustainability and what it will mean to them, with help from Stroud Town Council.

The council has given a £1,500 grant to Youth Exploring Sustainability, an initiative by Stroud District Youth Council, Stroud District Schools' Partnership and Transition Stroud.

The project allows the district's 8,000 secondary school students to consider what it means to be sustainable and what steps they need to take to make their lives and those of their families and schools more sustainable.

"In our latest residents' survey there was a high emphasis on the environment and supporting our youth initiatives. This project will address both of these," said town councillor Gillian Winstone.

Olympic Torch will be carried through Stroud

The Olympic Torch will come through Stroud on May 23 as part of its route through Gloucestershire.

As part of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay, it will enter the town at around 4.15pm and be carried along London Road, through the town centre, past the Four Clocks and along Rowcroft before passing the new canal bridge and then being carried along Merywalks.

On its way out of Stroud, it will be carried along Beeches Green and then make its journey towards Painswick.

Daphne Edwards, secretary of the Stroud Valleys Cycling Club, has been chosen as one of the Torchbearers. Daphne, who is in her 70s, started cycling when she retired at the age of 60. She is also a member of the Stonehouse Wheelers Cycling Club.

News in brief

Groups receive grants from town council

The Maypole Hall Youth Group received £500 to help fund a pantomime.

The Summer Street Area Community Association received £450 to help pay for a family fun day in August in its Summer Crescent green space. Stroud Community TV received a £300 grant to be used for its website.

Work space at Lansdown Hall

More improvement work has been done at Lansdown Hall, which is owned by the town council.

A new fire alarm system has been fitted, the power supply to the hall has been upgraded and future work on improving public access is planned.

Find out about using the hall at www.lansdown-hall.org

Traders, please welcome walkers

Did you know Stroud is an official Walkers are Welcome town?

It is a special status received only by towns which meet stringent criteria.

Businesses are encouraged to display the Walkers are Welcome stickers, which are available from the town council office.

Stroud in Bloom

Plans are well under way for this year's Stroud in Bloom. The theme is Celebration. More details will soon be released.



Mayor John Marjoram at Stroud Cemetery

Show some respect at cemetery

Dog owners are being asked to keep their pets on leads at Stroud Cemetery.

The town council manages the cemetery and mayor John Marjoram says dogs are being allowed to run over the graves. "The cemetery should be a place of quiet where one can honour and remember the

dead, not a place for your dogs to run around," he said.

The town council has asked Stroud District Council for a Dog Control Order to be put in place to cover the cemetery.

Then on-the-spot fines can be issued to anyone breaching the requirement to keep their dog on a lead or allowing it to foul.

Protect green fields from more housing

Stroud Town Council is involved in helping shape the parish for the future.

A 15-year plan, called the Core Strategy, is being put together by Stroud District Council. It will identify key locations for jobs and housing. The town council is happy to accept 300-800 new homes, as the plan suggests.

However, it does not want them built on important greenfield sites around the edge of Stroud, such as Callowell Farm, Grange Fields, Slad Valley, Wades Farm and Rodborough Fields.

The town council thinks development would be better on brownfield sites and encourage re-use of land in the valley bottoms with building in places like Wallbridge, Cheapside, Lodgemore, Fromehall, Dudbridge, Ham Mills and Brimscombe Port.

The Core Strategy looks at how best to distribute 3,200 new homes across the district and encourage up to 6,400 jobs in the district. The district council will now consider all comments before finalising the strategy.

Meet your town councillors

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