

# ABOUT TOWN

## Town council is creating a bit of a buzz

Town councillors awarded Stroud Beekeepers' Association a £500 grant. The 90-strong association has been inundated with new members wishing to learn about beekeeping. The grant will be used to buy equipment for a taster day and a beginners' beekeeping course. Peter Lead, association chairman, said: "This grant has given our training programmes a real boost." The association also runs a monthly Buzz Club which encourages children to take an interest in bees. It is held at the association's teaching apiary at South Woodchester.



Picture: Clint Randall

Stroud Town Mayor Amanda Moriarty with members of the Buzz Club

Other organisations to receive small grants were: Five Valleys Sound (£470), PhotoStroud (£500), Top of

Town Community Association (£300) and Stroud Parish Church (£400). The next deadline for

applications for small grants is February 18, 2013. Information and forms on [www.stroudtown.gov.uk](http://www.stroudtown.gov.uk)

# Fight to protect health services

## Stroud Town Council has strongly objected to plans to put Gloucestershire's health services out to tender.

NHS Gloucestershire carried out a consultation on whether Stroud's health services, including Stroud Hospital, should stay within the NHS or be put out to tender.

There are two options: to create a new NHS trust to run Stroud services or seek a new provider via a tender process.

Stroud Town Council objected to any plan to allow other providers take over and has called for the services to remain in the NHS (Option 1).

"If Option 2 is pursued, the public will have no access to information about

providers who apply, and no opportunity to contribute to, or evaluate, impact assessments relating to their proposals," said the town council in its letter.

The town council has taken a leading role in the debate surrounding the future of NHS services in Stroud.

The NHS had planned to turn over the running of the services to a social enterprise company. Following protests and a court challenge by Michael Lloyd, NHS Gloucestershire backed down from the plan and agreed to carry out further extensive consultations.

In a survey carried out by the town council, 94% of respondents agreed

with the town council's support for protecting the NHS and its campaign to ensure residents' views were listened to and acted upon.

The town council argues that Option 1 to transfer the services to a new NHS trust rather than go through a costly tender process would save hundreds of thousands of pounds.

A recent survey concludes that the NHS is the second most cost-effective health system in the developed world in terms of mortality reduction.

"We object to private providers taking profits by means of lowering standards of care for patients and/or reducing pay and conditions of staff," says the town 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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# £75,000 invested in Lansdown Hall and Gallery

**Community venue the Lansdown Hall and Gallery has a new lease of life, thanks to major refurbishment work.**

Its ground floor gallery has been completely revamped in the £75,000 project.

The work includes reopening the hall's original entrance on to Lansdown which has been blocked off for almost 100 years. The new entrance also includes an accessible ramp.

The gallery space has been enlarged and modernised and the toilets refurbished.

It is the second phase of major work since Stroud Town Council

bought the hall and saved it from closure.

The work was paid for by a £45,000 contribution from the town council and a £30,000 grant from the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust with donations from the Cory Landfill Trust.

"We are delighted with the work," said Jeremy Collingwood, chairman of the Lansdown Hall and Gallery trustees. "Now we are accessible to everyone, whether they use a wheelchair or are pushing a pram and that is going



to make the world of difference."

Town councillor Steve Hurrell said that reopening the old entrance on Lansdown would make the hall and gallery more accessible.

"We are delighted these improvements to the gallery are working so well. The gallery has been revitalised and its first users are already very impressed," he said.

"We are now planning the next phases which will revitalise the hall itself, with a wholly new accessible entrance, improved heating and lighting systems, a bar,

and vital backstage facilities.

"Then the town will have a community venue available to hire for any occasion."

The hall Trust has improved the acoustics, thanks to a £6,000 grant from the Somerfield Trust, matched by the town council.

The Hall is used by community groups and is available for private hire.

"We want people to think of us as their community hall and to make use of our facilities," said Mr Collingwood.

[www.lansdownhall.org](http://www.lansdownhall.org)

Picture: Thousand Word Media



## Welcome to our kiosk

Stroud Town Council has come to the rescue of a well-loved red phone box.

Councillors unanimously agreed to go forward with plans to buy the kiosk for the nominal cost of £1.

It will be owned by the council and managed by Summer Street Area Community Association.

Residents launched an appeal to save the box, after BT announced plans in May to decommission the phone and remove the kiosk.

## Rangers look for home

Cotswold Rangers football club want to make Uplands Playing Fields their home.

All local residents were invited to a consultation evening in July.

The town council, which owns the field, will consider the club's proposal to install a small building for changing rooms as well as mark out a pitch.

The club, which was formed two years ago, has four teams including a women's and a youth team. They are keen to involve the local community.

## Clean up after dogs

Dog owners are being urged to pick up after their pets when walking in Stroud parks.

There have been several incidents where Stroud Town Council staff had to be sent home after being in contact with dog fouling in Bank Gardens and Uplands Playing Field.

Jim Mathison, head of the town council's Green Spaces team, said the greatest problem was in the parks where there may be areas of long grass.

## A Quality council

Stroud Town Council is a Quality town council - and that's official.

It has retained its status from the Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme following a tough examination process.

A spokesman for the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils said: "It is a real achievement for a council to retain its Quality status, but by doing so it demonstrates that it is still in touch with its community and is well managed."

## Helping young people get off to a good start

Stroud's young people are getting a helping hand in the kitchen, thanks to Stroud Town Council.

The town council has awarded a £3,000 grant to OPENhouse for its Food for Thought scheme.

It is one of seven organisations to receive grants totalling £10,200 from the town council's Community Support Fund.

"This will provide the young people with the cookery skills they need to live independently," said Dr Claire Mould, chief executive of OPENhouse.

The Community Support Fund is a £50,000 pot. Groups can apply for grants of between £500 and £3,000.

Other groups to receive grants were: Maypole Youth Group (£1,700), Home-Start Stroud & Dursley (£813.80), Stroud Valleys Project (£250), Stroud Beresford (£2,750), The Uplands Care Service (£3,000) and The Door (£1,500).

The next deadline for applications is February 18, 2013.

Picture: Thousand Word Media



Stroud Town Mayor Amanda Moriarty with the staff and students of OPENhouse

## News in brief

### Festival success

It was another year of success for Stroud's festivals, supported by Stroud Town Council.

The Fringe Festival celebrated record numbers of people attending.

Other festivals supported by the town council include: the Walking Festival, the Festival of Nature, the Food Festival and Stroud Eco Homes.

### Talk to a town councillor

Have a burning issue you would like to discuss with a Stroud town councillor?

Then come for a chat at the Mayor's Bench. Sessions are held most weeks on Wednesdays from 11.30am-12.30pm in Kendrick Street.

## Here's to Stroud's stars

Picture: Clint Randall

The stars of the community were honoured at the Stroud Town Council Annual Awards. More than 100 people attended the special ceremony and annual town meeting at the Subscription Rooms. Stroud deputy mayor John Marjoram praised all those who were nominated and thanked them for making Stroud unique.

Carole Garfield, chair of Stroud Chamber of Commerce, and Tim Mars, vice chair of Stroud Civic Society, were guest speakers.



Trader of the year: Wendy Townsend

**Welcome Paul**  
Paul Shelvin has been co-opted on to the town council to represent the Valley Ward. Paul, who moved to the town two years ago, said: "I am keen to play my part in supporting the development of Stroud town as a great place to live and work in and to visit."

### High Street to be repaved

Stroud High Street will be repaved in the spring following a campaign by the town council and traders about the unsatisfactory paving.

### Trees planted

Volunteers from Stroud Valleys Project planted trees at Uplands Playing Fields during the Big Tree Plant Project.

#### Environmental Champion

Winners Under 25: Canal Trust Volunteer Team  
25+: Canal Trust Volunteer Team.

Other nominations: Trish Dickinson, ecological campaigner and activist

#### Trader of the Year

Winner: Wendy Townsend, Lockkeeper's Cafe

Other nominations: Jeannette Bond, Bond Secretarial; Ray Hill, Sunshine Health Foods; Charles Tongue and his team at Stroud Bookshop; Lesley Lewis, Yards Ahead

#### Sports and Culture

Winner 25+: Chris and Sally Brown, Stroud Junior Athletics Club

Under 25 winner: Abbi Furley, Cotswold Rangers

#### Community Awards

Winner: Sue Sutton, Maypole Village Hall fundraiser

Nominations: Sabrina Pace-Humphreys, Vice Chair of Chamber of Commerce; Deborah Hewitt, Wood U Waste and fundraiser for Uplands Care Centre

#### Mayor's Special Award

Cotswolds Green Bus Drivers

#### Design Award

(Chosen by the Stroud Civic Society)

Winners: Stroud Brewery Bridge

#### Local Enterprise

Winner: Ron Cree, R&R Books and Stroud Chamber of Commerce

Other nominations: Stroud Valleys Project Eco-Shop; Imperial Hotel

## Welcome to Stroud meadow

It looks like a meadow - but it's really at Brewery Bridge in Stroud. Stroud Town Council's Green Spaces team wanted to brighten up some of the unused land around the bridge and the canal development. So Jim Mathison, Green Spaces manager, and his team, planted a pictorial meadow seed mix. Not only does it add colour to the gateway into the town but it is also designed to attract bees and insects.



Jim Mathison at Brewery Bridge

## Help us protect our haven for wildlife

Stroud Town Council cares about the environment. That's why its Green Spaces team are working hard to create a nature reserve at Stroud Old Cemetery in Horns Road. Wildflowers, such as oxeye daisies, Scabious and valerian, are allowed to grow and bloom to encourage insects and bees. Grass is kept long in the summer to encourage wildlife such as insects, reptiles and birds. Graves are treated respectfully as the team works to create an important habitat for wildlife.

## Stroud wins a bloom gold

Stroud won a gold award in the Heart of England in Bloom awards. The town last won a gold in the contest five years ago. The town council's Green Spaces team work hard to make sure public spaces and Bank Gardens are looking their best.

## 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** **Vacancy**  
01453 840039

### Valley Ward



**Steven Naumann**  
01453 767977



**Paul Shevlin**  
01453 299248



**Margaret Poulton**  
07989 361457

### Farmhill & Paganhill Ward



**Haydn Sutton**  
01453 763255



**Doug Janke**  
01453 840307



**Kevin Ellis**  
01453 751880

### Slade Ward



**Gillian Winstone**  
01453 753639



**Malene Mose**  
07986 555806



**Rob Green**  
01453 764438

**STOP PRESS:**

***Stroud's health services to stay in NHS***

On 15<sup>th</sup> October, after About Town went to press, NHS Gloucestershire's board voted unanimously to set up a new NHS trust to run nine community hospitals, including Stroud Hospital.

This follows a consultation process which saw more than 2,500 people respond - 96% of those calling for the services to remain part of the NHS and not be put out to tender.

More than 33% of the 2,500 votes came from Stroud District.

Stroud deputy mayor John Marjoram said: "We are pleased with the huge response from the public in the consultation and that the NHS Gloucestershire board has listened to the people.