

Autumn 2013



ABOUT TOWN

www.stroudtown.gov.uk

Picture: Thousand Word Media

Well done town stars

A teenager who grows his own food and is passionate about environmental issues was one of the stars of the Stroud Town Council Annual Awards.

Louis Weston-O'Neill was named Environmental Champion (aged under 25) at a special ceremony held at St Laurence's Hall.

The 13-year-old is the youngest food producer on Stroudco Food Hub and is knowledgeable about renewable energy and recycling.



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Green campaigner Louis Weston-O'Neill with his Stroud Town Council award

Council opposes plans for massive incinerator

Stroud Town Council is stepping up its opposition to a proposed massive incinerator at Javelin Park.

A planning inquiry is due to start on November 19. Developer Ubaser Balfour Beatty is appealing against Gloucestershire County Council's rejection of the scheme for Haresfield.

The town council has filed an official objection to the proposal. It has also awarded £2,000 to anti-incinerator campaign group GlosVAIN to help pay for a planning expert to represent them at the inquiry.

Town council mayor Amanda Moriarty said: "We, as a town council, are concerned about conserving resources, energy efficiency and recycling and the incinerator scheme goes against all that."

The town council objection is based on several factors including the possible effect on people's health as a result of the emissions and the visual impact on the landscape. The town council also states that there is insufficient waste

to justify an incinerator and this will be less in future with the increased use of recycling in the locality.

"This application attracted 4,494 comments and an overwhelming number of them were negative. There has been great emphasis by this government on localism, and this proposal has generated huge public interest and objection which cannot be ignored," said Amanda.

Now the town council is urging people to get in touch with it about their concerns for the proposal.

"People can no longer officially object to the proposal but we are keen to hear from Stroud residents with their concerns so we can ensure that we are speaking on behalf of the town," said Amanda.

Residents who wish to comment on the proposal can either write to the town council at 58 London Road, Stroud GL5 2AD or email council@stroudtown.gov.uk. Please ensure your views reach us in time for the start of the inquiry, currently expected to be on November 19.



Stroud Town Council offices are at Thanet House in London Road

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

Phone: 01453 762817

Fax: 01453 753390

email: council@stroudtown.gov.uk

web: www.stroudtown.gov.uk

Town champions honoured for their amazing efforts

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Amanda Godber, who is secretary of Down to Earth Co-operative, and is involved in the Growing Communities project, was named Environmental Champion (25 years +).

Heather Cunild received the Contribution to the Community award for her work with the charity Home Start.

Jeremy Collingwood received the Contribution to Culture award. For the past three years he has given countless hours of voluntary work as chair of the Lansdown Hall Trust, playing an active role in the Hall and Gallery's transformation into a popular community facility.

Stroud Bookshop in the High Street was named Trader of the Year.

Kelly Pitt of Black Book Cafe in Nelson Street received the Local Enterprise award.

The innovative cafe was praised for its warm welcome and for its efforts to encourage book recycling.

The Mayor's Special Award was shared between GlosVAIN which campaigned against the incinerator at Javelin Park and Stroud Against the Cuts which fought proposals to hand over Gloucestershire's NHS services to a social enterprise company. Stroud Civic Society chose the Queen Vic pub in Gloucester Street for the Design Award, praising landlords Rob and Pam Thom for investing so much of their own time and money into the renovation of the pub.

Environmental Champion

Winners Under 25: Louis Weston-O'Neill
25+: Amanda Godber.

Trader of the Year

Winner: Stroud Book Shop
Highly commended: The Blanket Box

Contribution to the Community

Winner: Heather Cunild, Home Start

Contribution to Culture

Winner: Jeremy Collingwood, chair of Lansdown Hall Trust

Local Enterprise

Winner: Kelly Pitt, manager of Black Book Cafe.

Mayor's Special Award

Joint winners: GlosVAIN and Stroud Against the Cuts NHS campaign

Design Award

(Chosen by the Stroud Civic Society)
Winner: The Queen Vic, Gloucester Street

News in brief

Festival success

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

During the Fringe 5,000 people enjoyed more than 150 acts - and it was all free.

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

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.

High Street paving

Following the success of the new high-quality surfacing of part of the High St, the town council has been working with the district and county councils and the contractor to resurface the area. The town council is committed to ensuring the work is carried out.

Let's put a STOP to plastic carrier bags



Stroud deputy Mayor John Marjoram with Councillor Eva Ward launching the STOP campaign

Town councillors have launched a campaign to rid Stroud of plastic bags.

The first event to mark the campaign was a free showing of the critically-acclaimed film *Trashed* about how plastics and rubbish are affecting the planet.

Councillor Eva Ward is spearheading the town council initiative called STOP: Stroud Town Council Opposed to Plastic (bags and packaging).

The STOP campaign will raise public awareness of the waste of plastic bags and encourage businesses and supermarkets to offer alternatives such as paper bags, which are biodegradable, or long-life bags. Businesses are being encouraged to support the campaign.

"We'd like to challenge our supermarkets to see which one of them will lead this cam-

campaign in encouraging people not to use plastic bags," said Councillor Ward.

Last year, over 17 billion plastic carrier bags were issued in Britain. While they take minutes to use, the bags can take decades to decompose.

"We can't afford to be a throw-away society any longer. We must do something and do it now - not wait until 2015 as the Government suggests," said Councillor John Marjoram.

The launch follows the Government announcement that it will introduce a 5p charge for every plastic bag from 2015.

"While Nick Clegg's announcement is welcome, it is too little, too late. Stroud Town Council wants to do something now and want people to support this campaign," said Councillor Ward.

Play scheme helps our children learn

Children in Stroud can enjoy vital outdoor play thanks to Stroud Town Council.

Scores of youngsters turn out for weekly Play Ranger sessions at Mason Road and Archway Gardens.

The project is joint funded by the town and district councils.

During the summer holidays, more than 100 children enjoyed 84 hours of free play in more than 500 visits.

Pip Levett, Director of Play Gloucestershire, said: "Our play gatherings are like an outdoor youth club. Most of the young people are aged between 10 to 15 and it is a lively, noisy, playful and boisterous social gathering.

"Those attending love to talk to the Rangers about issues going on in their lives and during the summer there was a lot of talk and support around making the transition from primary to secondary school.

"Outdoor play is a great way to support young people.

Kayleigh, aged 10, was sitting on the swings during a session and said 'It's great when you're here. It makes me feel safe'.

"The play sessions help children of all ages to get to know each other, and develop new friendships that continue to thrive in the local community."

Play Gloucestershire is undertaking a research project with the University of Gloucestershire.

"The results of our residents' survey shows that youth facilities are very important to



Caitlin Davis and Leon Gaston in Archway Gardens

people in the town and that is why we support Play Gloucestershire," said Stroud town mayor Amanda Moriarty.

There will be a day session at Mason Road on October 29 from 10am to 4pm. Then weekly sessions every Tuesday from 4pm to 6pm until the Christmas holidays. A holiday session will be held at Archway Gardens on October 31, from 10am to 4pm and then weekly sessions every Thursday from 4pm to 6pm until the Christmas holidays.

Come and enjoy new arts market

Find something original at the Lansdown Hall Arts Market on Saturday November 30th.

Organised by the town council the market will feature locally-made, Fairtrade and vintage items.

Entrance is free to the event at Lansdown Hall from 10am-4pm.

The town council bought Lansdown Hall in 2011 to save it from closure. It is run by a charitable trust and provides a community space for the town.

If you would like to find out more information or book a stand please contact Amanda Moriarty 01453 759102 email amanda.moriarty@btinternet.com

Meadow planting

Stroud Valleys Project volunteers planted a seasonal meadow at Stroud Old Cemetery. It is one of only three cemeteries in the country that is classified as a nature reserve.

Baxter's Field inquiry delayed

An appeal over plans to build 140 homes in Baxter's Field has been put on hold.

Developer Gladman is appealing against Stroud District Council's refusal for planning permission.

The planning inspector was due to hear the appeal this month but has suspended the start of the inquiry in light of complaints about changes to the plans.

The town council is objecting to the application and has pledged to fund the consultation fees of a planning consultant to act as advisor to the Slad Valley Action Group.

The inspector has agreed to delay the inquiry so residents can be consulted about the new plans, in which the number of homes has been reduced to 112.

Supermarket benefits questioned

Town councillors have questioned the benefits a new Asda would bring to Stroud.

Asda wants to build a 36,665 sq ft supermarket at Dudbridge. Its representatives made a presentation to council.

Councillor Kevin Cranston, chair of Stroud Town Council's consultation committee, said he felt the development would detract from the town.

"We don't know how many of the 250 predicted jobs will be full-time or part-

time, or how many jobs will be lost in the town as a result as of this store," said Councillor Cranston. "Asda would create 344 free car parking spaces, that's what our town centre is up against.

"We don't feel that the development would bring anything of benefit to the town. We would prefer to see the site used for housing if it can't be used for employment purposes."

Asda is expected to submit a planning application to Stroud District Council.

How the town council operates

A town council is the first tier of government. We have the national government, the County Council and the District Council. The responsibilities of each level of government are broadly as follows:

National: defence, taxation, health, law and order.

Gloucestershire County: education, social services and highways.

Stroud District: planning, environmental health (street cleaning, rubbish collection, etc), housing and regeneration.

Stroud Town: recreation areas, allotments, Stroud Cemetery and arts and entertainment.

Towns have limited direct powers but are able in partnership to influence other authorities and contribute to achieve better standards for their parishes.

To find out more about what we do please go to www.stroudtown.gov.uk



We won gold!

Stroud has scooped gold for its stunning flowers.

The town, headed by volunteers of Stroud in Bloom, and supported by the town council's Green Spaces team, received the top honour in the Heart of England regional awards for the second year running.

The Britain in Bloom judges praised the Green Spaces team's many wildflower borders. They also highlighted the floral displays on railings in Dr Newton's Way and the flower containers at the town council offices.

Grants support our community

The Door Youth Project received a £3,000 town council grant to support its summer holiday programme.

The Summer Street Allotment Association received a £500 grant for the renovation of the communal shed.

Spaniel in the Works Theatre received £500 to support the Stroud Theatre Festival initiative.

The next deadline for grant applications is January 6, 2014. Applications forms are available from the town council offices or from www.stroudtown.gov.uk

Meet your town councillors

Central Ward



Kevin Cranston
01453 755483



Rachel Lyons
01453 750268



Ben Spencer
01453 753355

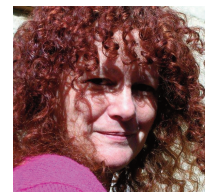
Trinity Ward



Steve Hurrell
01453 767127



John Marjoram
01453 750962



Amanda Moriarty
01453 759102

Uplands Ward



Julian Carlyon
01453 767120



Lucas Schoemaker
01453 840039



Simon Arundel
01453 766825

Valley Ward



Steven Naumann
01453 767977



Paul Shevlin
01453 299248



Margaret Poulton
07989 361457

Farmhill & Paganhill Ward



Haydn Sutton
01453 763255



Paul Mapplebeck
01453 757747



Eva Ward
01453 756900

Slade Ward



Gillian Winstone
01453 753639



Malene Mose
07986 555806



Rob Green
01453 764438