

# ABOUT TOWN

## Help us shape the *heart of Stroud*

**The draft of an ambitious plan which will shape the development of Stroud for the next 20 years has been unveiled.**

More than 2,500 people have been consulted in the creation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. It has been prepared by an independently chaired Steering Group set up by Stroud Town Council.

Stroud residents, businesses and organisations have until November 14 to comment on the draft plan.

The 96-page draft report focuses on three key themes – making Stroud town centre more welcoming, healthy and thriving.

During the consultation residents have identified several key improvements for the town which the Town Council plans to move ahead with.

These include enhancing the forecourt of Stroud Station so that it is a more welcoming gateway to the town.

The improvements being considered are better signage, increased cycle parking and establishing a pedestrian and cycling priority.

The Town Council will also work with Stroud District Council, Gloucestershire County Council and property owners to improve Wallbridge as a gateway to the town.

*"These were key priorities identified by the thousands of people consulted about the Neighbourhood Development Plan and we, as a council, believe we should start work immediately on them,"* said Stroud Mayor Kevin Cranston.

Following the six-week consultation of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan the Town Council will submit the final plan to Stroud District Council, which will organise an independent examination of the plan to check that it has been prepared properly.

Once that is done residents of Stroud parish on the electoral register will be able to vote on the plan in a referendum next year.

When it is completed and approved by the community, the plan will become a statutory planning document that can be used to support or challenge planning applications.

Councillor Cranston said: *"The Neighbourhood Development Plan, once approved, will become a powerful tool for people to influence future development of our town. The results we believe reflect a vision for a town centre that is attractive, sustainable and vibrant."*

It will cover the town centre including Merrywalks, the Cheapside area and the main gateways into the town.

More information can be found on [www.shapingtheheartstroud.org](http://www.shapingtheheartstroud.org)



Picture: Bruce Wirelade

Picture: Steve Humel

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

**During the consultation period people can find out more by:**

Visiting the 'pop-up' shop 47 High Street, Stroud (at the top of the High Street), Oct 19-24, 10am-4pm daily;

Join a Key Site walking tour from the 'pop-up' shop to discuss the plan's proposals. Oct 21, 10am-11.30am and Oct 24, 2pm-3.30pm;

Read the Plan online and comment at [www.stroudtown.gov.uk](http://www.stroudtown.gov.uk) and [www.shapingtheheartstroud.org](http://www.shapingtheheartstroud.org)

Read the Plan on paper at the Stroud Town Council offices Monday – Friday 10am-12.30pm; Stroud Library Monday to Saturday 9.30am-4pm; The Tourist Information Centre Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm.



**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](mailto:council@stroudtown.gov.uk) web: [www.stroudtown.gov.uk](http://www.stroudtown.gov.uk)

# Have say on town's future

Residents can have a say on what they want for Stroud over the next three years.

The Town Council is carrying out a survey of the town's 12,000 residents.

The answers will help determine what the town council's priorities are in years to come.

The last survey was done in 2011. More than 94% of those who completed that survey felt that people should be consulted on any changes to the health service.

As a result the Town Council held a public meeting over proposed changes to Stroud Hospital and continues to closely monitor the issue.

More than 90% of residents agreed that the town council should protect and expand green spaces.

Green spaces are a priority for the town council. It has just carried out a green spaces survey and is closely involved in a working group to create a public green space at Wallbridge.

The survey will sent to more every household in the parish - about 6,000.

Town mayor Kevin Cranston urges residents to fill out this year's survey which will be delivered to residents' homes with the town council newsletter very soon.

Residents within the Stroud Town boundaries can complete the survey. You can download it from [www.stroudtown.gov.uk](http://www.stroudtown.gov.uk).

# Town comes to refugees' aid

The Town Council backed the call for the UK to take in more refugees.

A number of Stroud residents who felt disturbed about the refugee crisis attended a recent Town Council meeting to express their concern and to offer help.

They were given the opportunity to explain their anxieties on this issue.

The Town Council is concerned about the low numbers of refugees being accepted by the government and has written to Stroud MP Neil Carmichael asking him for his views on how to resolve the crisis.

# We're looking after our green spaces

**Stroud residents have overwhelmingly backed the nature reserve at the town's Old Cemetery as one of their favourite green spaces.**

The finding is one of the results from a recent survey carried out by the Town Council to find out if residents were happy with how it was looking after the town's green spaces.

The Town Council is responsible for a number of green spaces, including Bank Gardens and the old and new cemeteries off Bisley Road.

The old cemetery is one of only a handful in the country that is classified as a nature reserve. Grass is kept long in the summer to allow the wildflowers and grasses to set seed which supports wildlife such as insects, reptiles and birds.

For the past 20 years the old and new cemeteries have been managed by the Town Council in partnership with its owners Stroud District Council.

The majority of the 100 respondents said they appreciated the wildlife and nature at the old cemetery and that it was a popular place for walks.

Visitors to Bank Gardens stated they enjoyed walking through the park, using it as a venue to meet friends and a place to sit for a break.

Councillor Rob Green, chair of the Green Spaces Committee, said: "The survey results have been enormously

helpful to us in understanding how people feel about the sites that we manage. It's great to hear so many positive comments about the work that our Green Spaces team do.

"We have reviewed the initial results and will be following up on some ideas suggested such as providing benches and more dog waste bins and introducing more measures to encourage wildlife such as bird boxes."

To find out more about the survey results visit: [www.stroudtown.gov.uk](http://www.stroudtown.gov.uk)

## Stroud's own Nature Reserve

Five facts you may not know about the old cemetery nature reserve:

1. Rare moths have been found including the little *Batia lunaris*. Only 28 of the species have even been spotted in Gloucestershire in the past 15 years – one in Bisley Road Cemetery.
2. More than 270 different kinds of plants and animals are found here.
3. The cemetery was originally planted by a local nurseryman in the 1850s. He created an elaborate garden with exotic trees and shrubs such as Lawson Cypress, Chinese Thuja and Portugal Laurel.
4. Rufous grasshoppers are one of the more unusual insects found here. They can jump up to 20 times the length of their body.
5. It is home to three rare lichens which thrive on the old gravestones.

# Baxter's Field concerns

**The Town Council has concerns over new plans to build on Baxter's Field in the Slad Valley.**

Gladman Developments have applied for planning permission to build 24 houses in the field after its earlier application to build 150 homes was turned down.

Gladman invited the Town Council to discuss with the application stating it would consider turning over the undeveloped part of the site to local community ownership.

Town councillors rejected the request.

"It was the view of councillors that whilst we would like to see the land

pass into community ownership, we will not negotiate away the fundamental objection to the development of any part of Baxter's Fields," said Councillor Simon Arundel who is also chair of the consultations committee.

"The Planning Inspector's decision, hard won by Stroud District Council and community representatives, rejected the planning appeal by Gladman on the basis that these fields in the Slad Valley are a "valued landscape" within the meaning of the National Planning Policy Framework and that development would have a significant detrimental impact on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty."



# Getting into the *swing* of it

**Children are enjoying new play equipment, thanks to the teamwork of parents and the Town Council.**

The basket swing is already proving a hit and marks the first piece of 'all-inclusive' equipment for the Daisy Bank play area.

Two years ago the Friends of Daisy Bank and the Town Council began consultations about how to improve the play area.

More than 100 children took part and the basket swing was one of their top choices.

Thanks to support from the Town Council and money from a Section 106 agreement from Stroud District Council, the new £4,000 swing was installed.

"It's already proving popular with the children and the Town Council has been really helpful as we look at ways to improve the play area," said Hayley Shortt, chairperson of the Friends of Daisy Bank.

To support the fundraising appeal contact the Friends of Daisy Bank on [www.friendsofdaisybank.org](http://www.friendsofdaisybank.org)

## Lansdown Hall: *your village hall*

**The next stage of major improvements to Lansdown Hall are almost complete as the venue gears up for its first ever panto run.**

Builders are finishing a new £102,000 extension, with generous funding from Biffa Award and the Garfield Weston Foundation.

It will be used as a backstage green room and equipment store freeing up space in the hall, and incorporate much needed extra toilet facilities.

The path behind Lansdown Hall is also being widened and extended to provide service access to the extension.

Other parts of the Biffa Award have already paid for the inner lobby to the Gallery and air-to-water heat exchangers, substantially improving the energy efficiency of the building.

The building has been transformed by

essential renovation to the stonework, and the Lansdown side has been gently cleaned. New guttering and drainage will protect the stonework for the future.

Expert renovation of the windows is also being undertaken in stages. The Town Council, which owns the building, is grateful for contributions towards the cost of these works from the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust, funded by donations from Cory Environmental.

The Town Council bought Lansdown Hall in 2010 to save it from closure. It is run by a charitable trust and provides a community space for the town.

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

You can rent out the hall for as little as £22.50 an hour for events and from £12.50 an hour for rehearsals, classes or workshops.

## Sign up for a free tree

**Residents can have a say on what Stroud traders can light up the town with a free Christmas tree.**

For the second year running, the Town Council is providing free Christmas trees and holders to businesses.

It is working with the Stroud Chamber of Commerce to make sure the town looks festive this year.

The town centre will have a winter wonderland feel this Christmas, thanks to new lights.

The Town Council agreed to buy drop icicle lights to replace its outdated lights which are no longer suitable for use.

The free tree offer is open to businesses in suitable areas and is subject to availability. There will also be free tree iron holders on a first come first serve basis.

Businesses need to register their interest by November 2.

They can contact the town council at [council@stroudtown.gov.uk](mailto:council@stroudtown.gov.uk) or contact Fiona Mills-Carlyon on [fiona.moonflower@icloud.com](mailto:fiona.moonflower@icloud.com).

## Festivals put town on the map

**More than 12,000 people attended Stroud's Fringe Festival, which is supported by the Town Council.**

The festival involved 400 performers at venues throughout the town and was supported by more than 70 volunteers.

The Town Council awarded a £5,000 grant to the Fringe. It is just one of four festivals and shows the Town Council has supported this year.

Councillors also awarded £1,000 to the Sacred Music Festival being hosted by Holy Trinity Church, and Hawkwood College's Seed festival will receive £300 and £1,000 for Stroud Show.

Councillor Steve Hurrell, chair of the

council's Finance, Community and Policy Committee, said the grants reflect the Town Council's continued commitment to the arts and culture of the town.

"We want to encourage events for local people to enjoy and also attract more visitors to Stroud, which has a growing reputation for arts and cultural activities," he said.

The council awards small grants to local groups of between £50 and £500 and community support grants of between £500 and £3,000.

The next deadline for grant applications is January 8, 2016.

## Enjoy free play days

**Stroud youngsters can enjoy free play sessions over the summer holidays**

Stroud Town Council helps fund weekly play sessions at Archway Gardens play area and Mason Road.

The sessions are run by Play Gloucestershire, a children's charity that specialises in outdoor play.

They will run at Mason Road on October 27 and at Archway Gardens on October 29. Both sessions run from 10am-4pm and are open to young people aged 7-14.

## Stroud scoops gold

Stroud has won its fourth gold award in the the Heart of England Britain in Bloom competition.

It is a huge achievement for the Stroud in Bloom committee who, due to ill health, saw its seven-strong membership down to just three. The volunteers were supported by the Town Council's Green Spaces team.

Doreen Frusher, chair of Stroud in Bloom, paid tribute to Stroud District Council, Stroud Town Council, Stratford Park Landscape Group, Stroud Valley Project, 3rd Stroud Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, Leyhill Prisoners, the Stroud in Bloom committee members and a small band of volunteers.

## Farm supported

Town councillors supported a plan to buy farmland and turn it into a community farm.

It agreed to spend £500 for a share in Hammonds Farm near Stroud.

The Biodynamic Land Trust led the purchase of the 41 acres of land near Hawkwood College. It will be farmed by Stroud Community Agriculture and include a starter farm and various farm enterprises.

## Pocket park plans

Plans will soon be revealed for the Trinity Pocket Park project off Field Road. The Town Council is working closely with residents to help turn the area into a community garden.

## History mystery

A Dutch man who arrived in Stroud on a quest to thank its generous people has unlocked the curious case of how a theatre in the Netherlands came to be named after the town.

Carl Mooijman hoped to track down people who helped Putten's ancestors after the town and its people were violated by the Nazis in the Second World War.

The story got back to Stroud and a collection was made to help the

widows and orphans of Putten. In recognition of the kind-hearted donation, Putten created the Theater Stroud.

## Walk on wild side

Stroud Valleys Project ran two learning about wildlife courses at Bisley Road nature reserve. One focused on moths and the other on butterflies, with support from Gloucestershire Butterfly Group.

An autumn volunteer day saw seven people help with raking cut grass off the meadows which helps maintain the unique grassland flora.

## We're mucking in

The Town Council is mucking in to keep the Cotswold Canals in top condition.

It awarded a £15,000 grant to the Cotswold Canals Trust. The money will go towards buying a work boat or a mud hopper. It will be used for maintenance of the canal and to prevent the channel from being blocked by silt from the feeder streams.

# Meet your town councillors

## Central Ward



Kevin Cranston  
01453 755483



Rachel Lyons  
07840 549127



Alice Campbell  
01453 840245

## Trinity Ward



Steve Hurrell  
01453 767127



John Marjoram  
01453 750962



Amanda Moriarty  
01453 759102

## Uplands Ward



Chas Townley  
01453 756547



Simon Arundel  
01453 766825



Paul Flinn  
07534 967425

## Valley Ward



Steve Naumann  
07810 860672



Susie Roberts  
01453 763675



Margaret Poulton  
07989 361457

## Farmhill & Paganhill Ward



Haydn Sutton  
01453 763255



Geoffrey Andrews  
07899 632307



Vanessa Price  
07739 718913

## Slade Ward



Val Lock  
01453 757475



Mike Lovell  
01453 753951



Rob Green  
01453 764438

# RESIDENTS' SURVEY 2015

Dear resident,

Your town councillors are keen to know what matters to you. Before the end of December, we will be setting our budget for next year. This means making choices about our priorities and so we're asking for your views before we make any decisions.

For instance, in the last survey in 2011, you made it clear that your top priorities were: continuing to have a broad NHS health provision, protecting and expanding the town's green spaces, and providing facilities for older children so the Town Council, together with its partners at the District and County Councils, have campaigned on and addressed these issues.

We've listed the projects and priorities that are already underway or being considered so that you can tell us how important they are to you. In previous surveys, local residents have often come up with additional ideas and insights that we have been able to take forward, so do add your own comments.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please return your completed survey by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November**. Thank you for your help.

Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk)



5 = strongly agree    4 = agree    3 = neither agree nor disagree    2 = disagree    1 = strongly disagree

## THINGS THE TOWN COUNCIL CURRENTLY DOES:

(please circle your choice)

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>1. Green Spaces:</b> we believe that one of Stroud's greatest assets is its network of urban green spaces. We take every opportunity to protect and expand such spaces for people and wildlife.                                     | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| <b>2. Communications:</b> we believe it is vital that councils communicate with local residents. We maintain a website, produce six annual newsletters, issue regular media releases and our town centre office is open every weekday. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| <b>3. Support for Community Groups:</b> we provide annual funding to help cover the basic running costs of a wide range of community and voluntary groups.   | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| <b>4. Community venue:</b> we have purchased and are renovating Lansdown Hall and Gallery to make it a first class space for community use in the heart of the town.   | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| <b>5. Culture:</b> we provide financial support for cultural events in the town.   | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| <b>6. Neighbourhood Development Plan:</b> we are producing a plan for the heart of Stroud to shape future development and make Stroud a welcoming, healthy, thriving place.  | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| <b>7. Town Centre:</b> we fund and organise floral displays and Christmas lights to enhance the town centre.   | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| <b>8. Play schemes:</b> we fund the award winning Play Gloucestershire Play Rangers at two locations in the parish to provide creative, social outdoor play throughout the year.   | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

**THINGS THE TOWN COUNCIL CAN SEEK TO INFLUENCE:**

- 9. Planning:** our Consultations Committee consider planning applications and make comments to the Planning Authority (Stroud District Council). 5 4 3 2 1
- 10. Footpaths:** we work to ensure all the town's public rights of way are fully open and signposted. 5 4 3 2 1
- 11. Canal & Gateway to Stroud:** we feel it is essential that the area around the new Stroud Brewery Bridge becomes part of a well-designed and accessible gateway into the town centre. 5 4 3 2 1
- 12. Community Safety:** we work in partnership with the police and other agencies to promote safety in our community and on our roads. 5 4 3 2 1

**THINGS THE TOWN COUNCIL IS CONSIDERING DOING:**

- 13. Play Areas:** one of our top priorities in recent years has been the improvement of the town's play areas for younger children. We'd like to continue to expand such provision on our sites. 5 4 3 2 1
- 14. Older Children:** we would like to explore ways to provide more facilities for teenagers in the town. 5 4 3 2 1
- 15. Trees and orchards:** we would like to enhance Stroud's green spaces by planting more trees, and support the development of community orchards around the town. 5 4 3 2 1
- 16. Cemetery:** we are developing plans for the creation of a new cemetery to come into use when the current cemetery runs out of space for new burials. 5 4 3 2 1
- 17. Community Speedwatch:** We are considering setting up a community speedwatch group where members of the community work with the support of the Police to monitor vehicles speeds using speed detection devices. 5 4 3 2 1
- 18. Friends groups:** we would like to set up more Friends groups to take an active role in the management of the green spaces that we manage. 5 4 3 2 1
- 19. Allotments:** with an increasing interest in home-grown food, our five allotment sites are all full. We would like to create new sites in the town. 5 4 3 2 1
- 20. Public realm:** we are investigating projects to make improvements to the streets in the town centre to improve their appearance and make them more welcoming and safer for pedestrians and cyclists. 5 4 3 2 1

**Please use this space to give any other comments or suggestions – thank you**

**Your age:** under 11  11-17  18-25  26-34  35-54  55-69  70+

**The street in which you live** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postcode** \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female

**Please post your survey to:**

Stroud Town Council, FREEPOST RLZY-TEAB-STUJ, 58 London Road, Stroud GL5 2AD  
or you can drop it into our office if you are passing

We would love it if other members of your household (especially young people and children) would like to offer their views.  
Download another form from our website [www.stroudtown.gov.uk](http://www.stroudtown.gov.uk), or call into the office on a weekday morning.