

Protecting our heritage of future generations



Sims Clock

Stroud Town Council has agreed to take over the ownership of three important properties to ensure they remain assets to the community.

The three sites - Bank Gardens, Sims Clock and the cemetery - will be transferred from Stroud District Council to town council ownership.

It marks the end of months of negotiations and demonstrates the commitment of the Town Council to protecting the amenities for the town.

The transfer also marks the return of the properties back to the residents of Stroud. Once the property of Stroud Urban District Council, the town's assets were transferred to the district council in 1974.

"Now they will return to the town and belong to the residents which is right and proper," said Town Mayor Kevin Cranston.

"They are all important amenities to our town and we, as town councillors, are committed to caring for them as custodians for future generations."

The Town Council, which manages Stroud cemetery in Bisley Road, has agreed to the transfer of the cemetery subject to satisfactory investigations of a former tip to rule out any risk of pollution or instability.

The old cemetery, one of only a handful in the country that is classified as a nature reserve, is also included in the transfer.



Bank Gardens

Bank Gardens were given to the town in 1930 and provide an important green space in the centre of Stroud.

Sims Clock was built in 1921 as a result of a legacy by WT Sims, a Stroud grocer. The Town Council has agreed to upgrade the clock as part of the transfer agreement.

The district council agreed a total funding package of £130,000 for the Town Council.

"It was important that the Town Council negotiated a package which would not be an excessive burden on our residents. But we also believe that it is important that these properties remain assets for our town and that we, as a council must act as custodian," said Councillor Cranston.



Bisley Road Cemetery

Properties under review:

Subscription Rooms

The district council has set up a task group to look at the options for the future use of the building.

The group will present an initial report to the district council's Strategy and Resources Committee in January 2017 and community services and licensing committee in January 2017.

The Town Council is committed to playing an active role in the consultations and says it is crucial that a comprehensive consultation is carried out before any decision is made.

"The Sub Rooms are much loved and the Town Council wants to secure the best possible outcome for the people of Stroud and the surrounding district," said Town Mayor Kevin Cranston.

The Subscription Rooms has been publicly owned since it was built by public subscription in 1833. It owes its existence to the creation of Stroud as a parliamentary borough in 1832.

Cemetery Chapel

The district council proposes to sell the chapel in Bisley Road on the open market after the current agreement with the Town Council ends in April 2017.

The Town Council will be given first refusal to purchase it at market value and has until June 2017 to make a decision.

Town councillors will explore possible uses for the chapel and seek potential partners. The Town Council believes the chapel, set in the old cemetery nature reserve, is an important part of the town's heritage.

Built in the late 1800s the site was chosen because of its prominent view and the once ornate chapel of rest was a symbol of the town's prosperity.



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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Briefs

Traders spread festive cheer

The Town Council is again providing free Christmas trees and holders to businesses to ensure Stroud has that festive feel.

It is working with the Stroud Chamber of Commerce.

"This is a great opportunity for the town to pull together to ensure that Stroud is looking its best this Christmas and we make the town an attractive place for shoppers to visit," said Fiona Mills-Carlyon of Moonflower and chamber vice chair.

Businesses need to register their interest by October 31. They can contact the town council at council@strouttown.gov.uk or contact Fiona Mills-Carlyon on fiona.moonflower@icloud.com.

Come and play

The Town Council helps fund weekly play sessions run by Play Gloucestershire, a children's charity that specialises in outdoor play.

Sessions run every Tuesday at Mason Road Playing Field from 5-7pm and every Thursday at Archway Gardens Play Space, Paganhill, from 6-8pm. They resume the week of November 7.

For more information, please visit www.playgloucestershire.org.uk

Grants awarded

A total of £1,300 has been awarded to community groups from the Town Council's small grants fund. They are: Friends of Daisy Bank (£500), Top of Town Community Association (£500) and the Christmas Tree Festival at St Laurence Church (£300).

The fund is for small grants of £50 to £500. Deadline for the next applications is January 9, 2017. For details contact the Town Council.

We're improving the play area

A permanent surface will be laid around the toddlers' play equipment at the top of the High Street. The site is so popular that the existing grass surface can't cope. The Green Spaces team will also plant a hedge along the back edge.

You have say on what's next for Lansdown Hall



Stroud people have had a say about the future development of Lansdown Hall - their "community" hall.

The Town Council, which owns the hall and gallery, carried out a consultation to find out what would make the venue even better.

Fifty users of the venue responded, including 16 who had hired either the hall or gallery.

There was a great deal of support for the improvement

works that have taken place so far and the responses on the proposals for the next stage will be really helpful as the Council and managing Trust decide on the priorities.

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. Since then more than £398,000 has been invested into the venue.

"When the town council bought the hall practically nothing

was working, we were in debt and the hall was in desperate need of repair," said Jeremy Collingwood, chairman of the Lansdown Hall Trust.

"Now we have a venue that is transformed and has become a hub for the community. We think it is now one of the best venues in the county - and we are not done yet."

The full report on the survey can be downloaded from the Town Council's website.



Supporting town's arts and culture

Artistic projects and cultural events received almost £5,000 in support thanks to the Town Council's Arts and Culture funding programme.

The fund will typically pay out sums of £500 to £3,000 for projects, although this can rise to £5,000.

Since its launch earlier this year the following groups have

received grants: Stroud District Horticultural and Agricultural Show (£1,000), Stroud Festival Ltd (£500), The Music Works (£500), Cotswold Canals Trust (£1,760), Goodwill Evening (£1,000) and Stroud Film Festival (£757).

The Town Council also runs a Community Support Fund which provides grants ranging from £500 to £3,000.

Among the groups which have received grants are: The Nelson Trust (£500), Stroud District Ring and Ride and Volunteer Centre (£3,000) and Stroud Middle of the Hill Residents Association (£1,000).

Deadline for the next applications for both funds is January 9, 2017.

For details contact the Town Council.



Stuart Andrews (left) and Bob Hallam christen the new canal mud boats

Winners launch boats in style

Stroud's new canal mud boats were officially launched by the two men who came up with their names.

Bob Hallam and Stuart Andrews both came up with the names Warp and Weft in the competition run by Stroud Town Council.

The Town Council decided

to run the contest after it awarded a £15,000 grant to the Cotswold Canals Trust to buy the two mud barges. They will be used to remove dredged material from the canal, both now and in the future.

Stuart Andrews, a former trust volunteer, was so thrilled at winning that he made the trip from Spain to launch the boat.

Bob Hallam, from Coaley, has been a volunteer with the trust for almost 10 years.

"I've never had the pleasure of naming a boat before so this has been wonderful," he said.

Town Mayor Kevin Cranston said Warp and Weft were the natural winners as they represent Stroud's rich textile heritage.

New plan will shape our town's future

An ambitious plan which will shape the development of Stroud for the next 20 years is already having a positive effect.

In the August referendum, 91 per cent of Stroud residents voted in support of Stroud's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

It is due to be formally adopted by Stroud District Council at their meeting on October 27.

It will then become a statutory planning document that can be used to support or challenge planning applications concerning the town centre.

Town Mayor Kevin Cranston said: "We are already starting to see a positive effect – a development site at the former canal basin at Wallbridge is being marketed and there have been a couple of applications for conversions of spaces above

shops for residential use."

It is the first plan to be accepted in Stroud district and is the result of two years' community engagement led by Stroud Town Council.

"The community has had its say in how the town centre will evolve and develop over the next 20 years," said Councillor Cranston. "Now the Town Council has a much stronger voice in making these aspirations a reality."

He also sounded a note of caution: "The Town Council cannot just make the Neighbourhood Development Plan happen, it still needs community involvement to move projects on and developers to come forward with proposals that fit in with the plan."

A group of volunteers led the consultation for the

Neighbourhood Development Plan. More than 3,000 people were consulted.

It has been praised by businesses and organisations including Historic England, the Federation of Small Businesses and the County Council.

The NDP focuses on three key themes – making Stroud town centre more welcoming, healthier and thriving.

Following the consultations, it found that people want to improve the range of shops in the town centre, have better parking provision and less congestion with safer and more convenient pedestrian and cyclist access.

There was also a call for improved green spaces, the regeneration of the canal and more diversified housing in the town centre.

Briefs

Six new members join the council

Six new councillors joined the Town Council following the local elections.

The Greens continue to hold the majority with 11 seats. Labour have five and there is one Conservative and one independent.

Lucas Schoemaker (Green) and James Thomson (Labour) were elected in Trinity ward.

Laurie Davies (Labour) was elected to the Slade ward and John Bloxson (Labour) won a seat in Central ward.

Two seats were uncontested: Alan Sage (Green) in Farmhill & Paganhill and Camilla Hale (Independent) in Valley ward.

Councillor Kevin Cranston was unanimously elected Mayor for the second year. Deputy Mayor is Margaret Poulton.

Waiting for spring

The Green Spaces team are planting 2,775 spring bulbs in the apple planters and beds around the town centre. They are also adding some native woodland bulbs around the small hazel area in Park Gardens, where the team will coppice the hazel, which helps prolong its life and allows flowers to flourish whilst it regrows.

Tea-riffic

A coffee morning at the Town Council offices in London Road raised £262.22 for MacMillan.

Keep in touch!



Find out the latest news and videos from Stroud Town Council on its Facebook page

@StroudTownCouncil



On Twitter: @TownStroud

Our website has been redesigned. Have a look at www.strouttown.gov.uk

Festival-goers are helping our meadow grow



They came, they partied and they 'trampled' – next year Stroud could well have a wonderful show of wildflower meadow thanks to Stroud Fringe festival goers.

When the Fringe organisers asked to set up the Ecotricity stage at Wallbridge, Mike Dando, who manages the Town Council's Green Spaces Team saw the opportunity.

"Our team looks after a 'pocket park' near Brewery Bridge and for the past few years we have planted 'pictorial' meadow flowers," said Mike.

A pictorial meadow is a mixture of particularly colourful annual flowers, although mostly non-native species.

Before the Fringe, the team cut and raked the tall grass then scarified the patch. Then they sowed a

native meadow seed mix and let the festival goers do the rest.

"The trampling gives a good contact between the seeds and the soil. They do not need to be covered with soil, but contact is needed for germination," says Mike.

There will be two sorts of meadow displays at Wallbridge. There will be the "pictorial meadow" which is more flower based and has poppies, cornflowers, toadflax and clasping coneflower amongst others.

Then the larger trampled area will be a wildflower meadow and will have a variety of grasses, such as slender-creeping red-fescue, common bent, crested dogs-tail, quaking grass, sweet vernal-grass and smaller cats-tail.

"The Town Council is a sponsor of the Fringe so it is a nice ending to the event to know that next spring we will have a wonderful, and I hope perennial, wild meadow in the centre of the town as a reminder of a great festival," said Mike.



Useful numbers

Stroud District Council www.stroud.gov.uk T: 01453 766321

Bins, rubbish and recycling • Bulky waste collection • Fly tipping
Street cleaning • Abandoned vehicle • Council tax • Housing
Benefits • Dog warden • Pest control • Planning and building control
Car parks • Licensing

Gloucestershire County Council www.gloucestershire.gov.uk
T: 01452 425000

Libraries and archives • Schools • Births, marriages and deaths
Health and social care

Gloucestershire County Council Highways
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk T: 08000 514514

Public rights of way (PROW) • Roads and pavements • Overgrown
vegetation • Street lighting • Flooding

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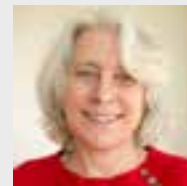


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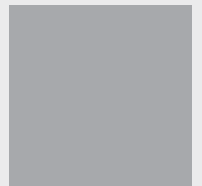
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Councillor vacancy