



Photo courtesy of TammyLynn.co.uk

Sub Rooms belong to our community

Stroud Town Council is committed to ensuring that the Subscription Rooms remains in public ownership.

Stroud District Council, which owns and runs the venue, is reviewing the venue's future. It is considering three options: retain the venue as it is within the District Council; disposing of the freehold or offering a lease; or selling the venue on the open market.

Detailed bids have been submitted to the District Council. A decision is likely to be made in December.

The Town Council is proposing that the District Council transfers over the freehold of the Sub Rooms so that the Town Council can ensure the important cultural asset remains in public ownership.

The Sub Rooms would then be leased to Stroud Trust, which the Town Council has been working with to develop a business plan for the venue.

In support of the Stroud Trust application, the Town Council has agreed to contribute £50,000 from its reserves to help cover set up costs.

The Arts Council has awarded a grant of £14,750 to the Town Council to develop an arts and culture strategy for Stroud.

"We need to be very co-ordinated and strategic in our approach to make sure we support the arts, but also get good value for money," said Town Mayor Kevin Cranston.

"The Council decided to support the Trust, because they are a dynamic and very experienced group with the right skills to take the Subs forward to a secure future.

"The Sub Rooms is an important asset to Stroud. We, as a Town Council, are committed to ensuring that it remains so and to working with all interested groups to ensure that it becomes a thriving community resource."



Trust's expertise will help venue thrive

Stroud Trust aims are to energise the Stroud area's arts, culture and leisure economy, and to ensure it is integrated and protected for everyone's benefit.

The team is made up of Jess McQuail, CEO of an NGO and lead on the Stroud Outdoor Pool/Lido Feasibility Study Project Team; Julie Ellison, a consultant and lecturer in social enterprise; Julie Howe, a brand and design consultant and co-director of Stroud Fringe; John Bloxson, town councillor and company director; Lucy Vincent, a communications consultant; and Andy Woods, who is founding director of the Gloucester Guildhall and Artrix, Bromsgrove.

Their plans would ensure the building remains a public space and also allow for upgrading, including remodelling to create a new bar and café.

The Trust aims to secure a 'dynamic and diverse future' for Stroud. It will work in partnership with Stroud Town Council, Stroud District Council, local people and other stakeholders to secure local assets for continued community benefit.

For information, contact Stroud Trust at: hello@stroudtrust.org



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

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Briefs

Rare bee-fly causes a buzz

Nature spotters are all abuzz about a rare bee-fly spotted in Stroud's wildflower meadow at Wallbridge.

The Downland bee-fly (*Villa cingulata*) belongs to the family Bombyliidae, many of which resemble bees in appearance and behaviour.

It has only been recorded a handful of times in previous decades and was even thought to be extinct.

It's gold for our Bloom efforts

Stroud in Bloom has marked a victorious return to the Heart of England in Bloom awards.

The town has been awarded gold for its efforts with special mention for Stratford Park and the community involvement.

Judges Mark Wiltshire and Jennifer Wharton said in their report: "Community pride was evident throughout the tour and one could not fail to be impressed by the enthusiasm of the volunteers".

Stroud in Bloom took a year out from the awards in 2016 following the loss of some key committee members.

But this win shows that it is business as usual for the town and Doreen Frusher, Stroud in Bloom chair, is thrilled.

"All of us at Stroud in Bloom are delighted with the Gold award given to us," said Mrs Frusher.

Keeping Stroud tidy for 25 years

When Rob Lloyd started keeping Stroud's parks litter-free in 1992, John Major had just been elected Prime Minister, Bill Clinton had moved into the White House and Simply Red was top of the charts.

For 25 years, six days a week come rain or shine, Rob has done his 8am shift clearing up litter in Park Gardens and Bank Gardens.

Now Rob, who is a member of the Town Council's Green Spaces team, has been honoured by the Council for his work.

Lansdown Hall has clearer future

A historic Stroud community hall has a clear outlook for the future, thanks to a grant from the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust.

The windows in Lansdown Hall, which is owned by the Town Council, have been restored.



Thousand Word Media

Volunteer gets clock ticking again

Stroud's town clock is keeping time again, thanks to the Town Council and a 72-year-old volunteer.

Sims Clock, also known as the Four Clocks, in Russell Street, has not worked properly for a few years.

It is one of the landmarks owned by Stroud District Council that was transferred to the Town Council control in April this year.

Marcus Jelfs approached the Town Council with an offer of voluntary help to get the time-piece ticking again.

The qualified precision engineer, who spent much of his life working in the aircraft and radar industry, couldn't wait to climb the tower and work out what was wrong.

"My wife, Rosemary, and I often come to Stroud to go shopping or have a cup of coffee and we always thought it was a shame it wasn't working," he says.

"Now it's running accurately within one minute a week – that's not about my skill, it's the skill of someone who made it in 1921."

We're here to support community groups

Community groups and charities play a vital role in Stroud and the Town Council is here to support their work.

The Town Council offers three different grant schemes. Artistic projects and cultural events can receive awards ranging from £500 to £3,000 from the Arts and Culture Fund. The Community Support Fund provides grants ranging from £500 to £3,000. A further fund is available for small grants of up to £500.

Now the Council has appointed two part-time fundraisers - Nadja Singh and Helen Wallace.

Helen's role is to explore funding opportunities to help finance Town Council initiatives to improve the town.

Nadja works with community groups and charities, especially smaller organisations which need a helping hand.

She has already visited a large number of organisations since joining the Council.

"I've been really inspired by the hard-working and committed individuals in these organisations," said Nadja.

"They are truly amazing.

"What we at the Town Council want to do is add value to these

volunteer organisations, through collaboration and networking, putting people in touch with each other and sharing knowledge and skills."

Nadja can also advise groups and organisations interested in applying for a Town Council grant.

To find out more, contact Nadja on nadja.singh@stroudtown.gov.uk or 01453 762817.

Anyone interested in applying for a grant should do so before the next deadline of January 8, 2018

Make station area more welcoming

The majority of people want the railway station forecourt area in Stroud to become a more attractive public space.

That is the finding of a survey by the Town Council. Sixty per cent of people who completed the survey said they wanted better access arrangements for pedestrians and cyclists and a more attractive public space.

The findings are in line

with suggestions in the Neighbourhood Development Plan to make a more pedestrian friendly civic space in the centre of town.

Now the Town Council has applied to Great Western Railway's Customer Improvement Fund for a grant to carry out an assessment on what can be done to improve the area.

The survey found that 65 per cent of people wanted to see changes to the internal walkways, pavements and crossing points and designated pick up and drop-off points.

It is one of several projects in the Neighbourhood Development Plan that the Town Council earmarked as a priority.

Briefs

Did you see town on the small screen?



TV production crews moved into Stroud Cemetery as part of the new Mitchell and Webb comedy Back.

As well as the cemetery, which is managed by the Town Council, viewers caught a glimpse of the Black Book Café in Nelson Street, and Union Street.

It was the second time production for the Channel 4 programme has been filmed in Stroud, with the pilot episode being recorded in April 2016.

Team receive quality award

The Town Council has been recognised for its high standard of work serving the local community.

It received the Local Council Award from the National Association of Local Councils.

Give Mother Nature a helping hand

Volunteers are need to help preserve Stroud's unique nature reserve.

The town's old cemetery in Old Bisley Road is one of only a handful in the country that is classified as a nature reserve.

The Town Council has launched a Friends group to give nature a helping hand. Volunteers will help with scrub clearance and grass raking. No experience is necessary.

For more information please email council@strouttown.gov.uk with your contact details.

Springing to life

The town will be awash with spring colour thanks to the Green Spaces team who are planting more than 4,000 spring bulbs.

Working together to keep canal accessible

Teamwork is ensuring that the canal towpath at Bowbridge is accessible for all - from cyclists to families with pushchairs to people with disabilities.

During the 1960s when the canal was filled, a concrete bridge was built alongside the original brick bridge to widen Butterow for two-way traffic.

When Gloucestershire County Council took on the bridge project, the concrete proved too costly to remove.

The end result was that the only way people could use the towpath would be via steps to get under the bridge. But that would mean it would not be accessible to cyclists, pushchairs or people with disabilities.

So Stroud District Council came up with a solution - to create a new section of footpath using ramps up along Eagle Mill Close.

Knightstone Housing, which owns Eagle Mill Close, agreed that it could become a public footpath. The County Council agreed to legally adopt it and thus be financially responsible for it in the future.

Stroud Town Council has provided the £4,500 needed to build the ramp and district council volunteers are due to do the construction work before the end of the year.

"This is a wonderful example of local government working together to achieve a great result for the public," said Town Mayor Kevin Cranston.

"It shows imaginative collaboration and proactive negotiation from the District Council, and helpful responses from others. It is a good example of how to make things happen."



Thousand Word Media

Stroud's Green Space Rangers: Joe Graham, Mathew Allen and Pete Bradshaw

Green Rangers on patrol!

A trio of new green rangers are aiming to make Stroud a more attractive - and environmentally-friendly - town.

The Town Council has appointed Joe Graham, Mathew Allen and Pete Bradshaw as Green Spaces Rangers.

Not only will they be responsible for the town's parks and open spaces but they will also be encouraging the community to get involved.

Together they have more than three decades of experience in horticulture and nature conservation.

Joe Graham's specialism is horticulture and he will be looking at what the town council team plants - from begonias to beetroot.

Pete Bradshaw is responsible for maintenance from building new compost bins for the green spaces team to repairing gates.

Mathew Allen is responsible for the town's biodiversity. He has recently launched a Friends group of volunteers to help preserve Stroud's unique nature reserve at the cemetery.

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

Keep in touch!



Find out the latest news and videos from Stroud Town Council on our Facebook page @StroudTownCouncil On Twitter: @TownStroud www.strouttown.gov.uk

Meet Stroud's local heroes



Seren Levay was named Stroud's Young Person of the Year

A 12-year-old girl who conquered her fear of heights to raise money for charity has been named Stroud's Young Person of the Year.

Seren Levay, who has cerebral palsy, raised more than £700 for the Allsorts charity by abseiling down the Ecotricity building.

She joined the other Stroud Town Award winners at a special evening in Lansdown Hall.

Edna Powell and the Stroud Show Committee won the community group award while Lis Parker won the individual community award for organising Stroud's Goodwill Evening and Lantern Procession.

Amanda Godber, who founded

Down to Earth Stroud, received the environment award. She manages a wide range of environmental projects in the town including a gardening assistance scheme funded by the Town Council.

Rodda Thomas, landlord of the Crown and Sceptre pub in Horns Road, won Trader of the Year award. Founding member of Stroud Football Poets and printer Dennis Gould received the Mayor's Award.

The new paving scheme for Stroud High Street was selected by Stroud Civic Society for the Design Award.

The 2018 awards will be held on May 23 and anyone can nominate someone. More details are on the council website.

Help for disabled drivers

Blue badge holders will be in no doubt as to where and how they can park in Stroud thanks to a new leaflet.

The Town Council has designed and produced the pamphlet which details useful information.

It shows where spaces for disabled drivers are in town car parks, how to

park safely and where they can park for free.

Copies of the leaflet can be obtained from the Town Council's offices or downloaded online from <http://stroudtown.gov.uk> – click on 'information' to see it under the drop down menu.

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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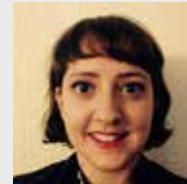


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