



ABOUT TOWN

www.strouttown.gov.uk



Stroud Town Mayor Kevin Cranston with Stroud Insp Sarah Blake

Town proves it has a lot of heart

Five public access defibrillators will soon be installed in town centre locations, thanks to an initiative by Stroud Town Council.

The life-saving device, which can shock a person's heart back into a normal rhythm if they go into cardiac arrest, will be fitted at the HSBC bank in King Street, Midcounties Co-operative Food in Slad Road, The Door Youth Project in the High Street, the Cotswold Playhouse in Parliament Street and the Cotswold Canal Trust visitors' centre.

Resident Jennifer Harding worked with the Town Council on the project which raised almost £10,000.

A sixth defibrillator will be donated to the Street Pastors by the Community Heart Beat Trust which has been supporting the Town Council project.

The defibrillators are being installed and people trained in their use with the aim to launch them in November.

"Thanks to Jennifer and the wider community we have had tremendous support for this campaign and have managed to reach our target in just 10 months," said Town Mayor Kevin Cranston.

Drivers urged to slow down

A Town Council campaign to improve road safety in Stroud is up and running thanks to funding from the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner.

The grant has paid for four vehicle-activated signs and residents were encouraged to nominate town streets.

The Town Council was inundated with responses including two petitions totalling 324 signatures for Stratford Road and Parliament Street.

After consulting with Highways the signs are being installed in Stratford Road and London Road and two signs in Bisley Old Road.

County Councillor Eva Ward and the Town Council launched a Road Safety Group in response to people's concerns. It meets bi-monthly. The next meeting is Tuesday 13th November, starting at 7.30pm in the Town Council offices.

If you would like to attend please contact Kim Cowan at Stroud Town Council on 01453 762817 or email kim.cowan@strouttown.gov.uk

Working together to keep Stroud safe

The Town Council and Gloucestershire Constabulary have launched a joint initiative to tackle anti-social behaviour in Stroud town centre.

The two organisations are calling on people to report all anti-social incidents so that the police can take a pro-active approach.

Stroud Insp Sarah Blake is asking the community for help by reporting incidents to police as one of the challenges they face is that not all incidents are reported.

"Once we have the information then we can see what areas need attention, though please be mindful that investigations and the issuing of warrants take time," said Insp Blake.

"Stroud in general is a safe place and we are committed

to ensuring it stays that way, but we need people to please continue to report incidents to us so that we can take appropriate action.

"If you see something in the area you are concerned by, please report this online through our website or by calling 101."

The police will continue to work together in partnership with the council and non-statutory agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour.

The initiative follows a multi-agency meeting organised by the Town Council to find long-term solutions to anti-social behaviour and how organisations can work together.

Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner Martin Surl has backed the initiative.

"My first beat was Stroud, and it never ceases to amaze me the level of community spirit and can-do attitude," said Mr Surl.

"The town has led the way in bringing people together to try and look at solutions but agencies alone cannot do it, we need local residents to play their part.

"I urge residents to make sure they keep the police informed, through the community alerts system, online through the website or anonymously via Crime Stoppers."

To provide information to police or report a crime online, please visit: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/do-it-online> or call 101.

Always dial 999 in the case of an emergency.



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@strouttown.gov.uk web: www.strouttown.gov.uk

It's a record Nature count

A team of nature experts smashed their target for recording species at Stroud's unique Nature Reserve.

The Town Council's Green Spaces team staged the town's first BioBlitz at the Old Cemetery in Bisley Road, one of only a few cemeteries in the country designated as a Local Nature Reserve.

Along with the support of experts, the Green Spaces team aimed to record upwards of 300 species including birds, mammals, plants, fungi and invertebrates over a 30-

hour period.

They achieved a total of 500 species, including 150 not previously recorded.

A highlight was the discovery of a thriving population of *Villa cingulata* (Downland Bee fly), which had only been recorded a handful of times in previous decades.

The event, part of Stroud Nature Festival, also provided a great opportunity for the public to enjoy the nature reserve.



School children dig in to help with our park

Primary children have been lending a hand to get Stroud's parks looking their best for the Britain in Bloom judges.

Year 1 and Year 2 pupils from Stroud Valley Community School helped plant up Park Gardens with Stroud Town Council Green Spaces Ranger Joe Graham.

The 27 children learned what sort of plants attract insects and bees, how to look after the plants and the importance of picking up their litter.

"We know that if children learn to consider a park or public area as their own then they are unlikely to damage that area when they become teenagers," said Karen Golding, teacher at Stroud Valley.

"Joe was great with the children and they learned such a lot from their time with him. We hope they will take their parents back to Park Gardens and show them what they have done."

Hundreds enjoy Pride picnic

Hundreds of people came together to celebrate Stroud's first Pride picnic staged in Bank Gardens. The Town Council, which is responsible for Bank Gardens, helped organisers with the event which was a celebration of the town's diversity and inclusive attitude.

If your organisation would like to use Bank Gardens for a community event please contact the council to see how it can support you.

Email: council@strouttown.gov.uk

Have your say on town's culture

More than 2,000 people have been consulted about the art and cultural future of Stroud.

The Town Council received Arts Council funding to research and create a cultural strategy for the town.

The proposed plan, which will be for 10 years, has three aims: to diversify cultural opportunities and engagement; to enhance the town's environment and its enjoyment and to ensure culture makes a sustainable difference.

The extensive feedback will enable the Council to create a framework for investment in cultural activities and establish how to play a supporting and facilitating role to benefit the variety of cultural organisations in Stroud.

Stroud is one of only three town councils in England which have commissioned a cultural strategy, we are marking a real mark.

The draft strategy is due to be completed in the coming months.

Make our rail station accessible for all



The Town Council is bidding for a share of £300 million from the Department for Transport (DfT) to improve access at the town's railway station.

It needs people to back its campaign in order to secure a nomination for the money.

During the consultation for the town's Neighbourhood Development Plan, over 2,500 people prioritised a step-free crossing at the station.

The Town Council asked Disability Auditor Christian Drewitt to review Stroud station.

"My experience from start to finish was very poor," said Christian in his report.

During his train journey from Cheltenham to Stroud, GWR staff put Christian, who uses a wheelchair, in a carriage that did not stop by the platform at Stroud. So he had to travel to Swindon and back again - adding two hours to his journey.

His return journey was not much better and his

assistant had to remonstrate with train staff to get help boarding the train.

The only way wheelchair users can get to one platform is via Rowcroft - a 10-15 minute detour. Christian said the route is not clearly sign-posted. He also recommends that lifts be installed to enable disabled passengers to use the footbridge.

Stroud Town Mayor Kevin Cranston said Christian's experience shows that Stroud needs a slice of the funding to make the station more accessible for all.

"We knew the station did not work for people in wheelchairs, but Christian's report shows that the current arrangements are completely inadequate. The failure of assistance just adds insult to injury," said Stroud Town Mayor Kevin Cranston.

He added: "Lifts would also help anyone with a toddler in a buggy, or heavy luggage or who is just can't manage steps."

For more information please e-mail kim.cowan@strouttown.gov.uk.



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

Sign the petition

In order to ensure Stroud is nominated for funding, please sign a petition on <https://bit.ly/2RryqM9>



Watch a video about the railway station and the access issues:

<https://bit.ly/2C1KU7V>



Welcome to our very special pocket park

A tiny green space in Stroud has been transformed into a pocket park - all in time for the first day of the new school year.

The Town Council's Green Spaces team revamped Trinity Pocket Park next to the Trinity Rooms in Field Road into a public space.

It has already won the seal of approval from the children of Bumblebees Playgroup who opened the pocket park.

"It's a wonderful resource for us and we spend as much time as we can here with the children," said Donna Jones, Playgroup Leader. "Some of our children do not have gardens at home, so this is an important area for them."

The Green Spaces team moved five tonnes of soil, which became part of the two new raised beds, installed a wheelchair accessible path, a new seat around the tree and a new safer gate.

The Town Council took over the green space in 2009. Once used as allotments, the park was derelict for many years before volunteers converted it into an open space in 2014.



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Exciting future for the Subscription Rooms

The future is looking bright for the Subscription Rooms as plans are unveiled to revitalise the building and turn it into a cultural hub for the town and the county.

The Town Council and Stroud District Council are negotiating a contract which will see the building be transferred to the town council, therefore ensuring it remains in public ownership.

The Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust, currently working with the Charities Commission on its registration, will be responsible for running the Subscription Rooms. Meanwhile the Town

Council has unveiled architect plans to revamp and upgrade the Sub Rooms.

The proposals include: replace the tourist information office with a new box office, bar and cafe; convert the Mr Twitchetts cafe into a meeting space event kitchen, build an improved access ramp and renovate the George Room to become a multi-use venue with retractable cinema seating.

The second phase would include: convert the kitchen and interim space to form larger female toilets; create a fully accessible disabled toilet with adult

changing table; relocate the kitchen to the new cafe; convert the male toilets to a cellar and create a circular access around the staircase.

The phase would also include redesigning the Kendrick bar on the first floor so that it can serve more people at any one time and to provide retractable seating in the Ballroom.

Beth Alden, Chair of Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust said: "The Trustees are looking forward to delivering a bright new future for the Subscription Rooms."

Briefs

New lease of life for Sims Clock

Essential stonework repairs to Sims Clock in Russell Street, and walls in Bank Gardens, Daisy Bank and Spider Lane and Bisley Old Road allotments are due to commence this year. The Town Council are seeking public support for a Public Works Loan of £140,000 to spread the cost of carrying out these repairs over 10 years. The loan repayments will result in an annual increase in the precept of 1.76% or £10,918.20 (equivalent to a council tax increase of £2.54 per band D household), subject to confirmation of the loan rate applicable. Without a loan the cost would all fall in one year which would increase the precept by 22.5% (equivalent to a council tax increase £32.55 per band D household). To support the loan application please vote at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/STCloan.

Think twice as you park up

Stroud's Road Safety Group are calling on drivers to be more courteous when parking on the town centre streets.

There have been a number of complaints to the Town Council about anti-social parking where vehicles are parked on pavements or blocking dropped curbs.

Such parking is particularly problematic for people in mobility vehicles, wheelchairs or with prams.

Training offered

Gloucestershire Constabulary, in conjunction with the Town Council, will run a Community Speedwatch training session on Saturday December 1 at Stroud Police Station.

There will be training on how to use speed cameras and the opportunity to get support to set up a local community partnership to combat speeding.

To find out more or book a place, email kim.cowan@strouttown.gov.uk

Honour your pledges

In March Stroud Town Council launched a campaign to raise £100,000 in pledges to carry out improvements to the Sub Rooms.

Nearly £50,000 was pledged. People are now being asked to honour those pledges.

Donations can be made electronically via the website <https://strouttown.gov>.

[uk/subscribe](https://strouttown.gov.uk/subscribe), or by cheque (made payable to Stroud Town Council) or cash dropped off at the Town Council offices or sent via post with a completed donation form, which can also be downloaded from the website.



Don't miss out

Keep up to date with the latest news about the Subscriptions Rooms. Sign up to the mailing list at: <https://strouttown.gov.uk/subscribe>

Thanks for making Stroud a great place to live

Restaurateur Martyn Edwards who provided free meals to homeless people during the cold weather was one of the people honoured at the Stroud Town Awards.

He won the Special Award for Social Inclusion. Runners-up were Socialite Cafe and Sue Tomlinson from the Independence Trust.

Alfie Stephens, who runs the Access Bike Project, was named Young Person of the year for his contributions to local youth social, health and wellbeing.

Runners-up were three Guides from the Stroud Valley Guide group, Ellie Tripp and the Stroud High delegation to the United Nations.

Pamela Tawse won the Community Award for her long service to Uplands Care Service. Runners-up were the Street Pastors, Sue Griffiths and Sabrina Pace-Humphreys.

Mary Shiner was named Trader of the year in the awards. Runners-up were David and Sandra Ireland and Simon Vincent.

Erik Wilkinson, who helped launched the Repair Cafe as part of his work with Transition Stroud won the Environment award. Runners-up were Gail Bailbrook and Marling School Eco-Committee.

The Mayor's award was presented to the Cotswold Canals Trust and Stroud District Council.

Briefs

Top up your water bottle

People can stop at the Town Council offices in London Road for a free tap water refill. Simply knock on the door and ask.

The Town Council is supporting Transition Stroud's #RefillStroud scheme. People can download the Refill app to their mobile phone. It features a map of all the refill stations in Stroud and all over the UK.

Stroud Refill is part of an initiative to gain plastic-free community status, an accreditation awarded by Surfers Against Sewage. The Town Council paid for the licence to enable Stroud to join the national Refill app scheme.

The Town Council is funding the installation of a drinking-water fountain for Bank Gardens. The project is in the planning stages and the Council has earmarked £3,500 for the purchase and installation of the fountain and for the refill project.

A splash of colour

New branded metal planters will add a bit of year-round colour at Park Gardens in Slad Road. The Green Spaces team have included a range of perennial plants with a few annuals added in to create an environmentally-friendly display year round. The planters are designed to incorporate a bench, as people often use the park entrance as a meeting place.

Stroud strikes gold again

Stroud has won its fifth gold award in the RHS Britain in Bloom competition. Doreen Frusher, chair of Stroud in Bloom, said: "It's the culmination of several months' hard work involving our band of hard-working willing volunteers."

Among the places the judges from the Heart of England in Bloom visited were Bank Gardens and Park Gardens in Slad Road which are maintained by the Town Council's Green Spaces team.

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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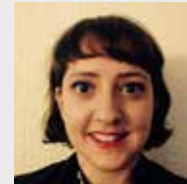


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