



Thousand Word Media

Mike Dando, Dave Kaspar, Helen Brent-Smith and Joe Graham with the new trees

Business duo root for the town centre

When vandals destroyed five young apple trees in Stroud, two local businesspeople decided the town shouldn't miss out.

Helen Brent-Smith and Dave Kaspar donated five trees to the Town Council.

The couple are well known at Stroud Farmers' Market for their Day's Cottage organic apple juice, cider and perry. They also grow fruit trees to sell and have donated saplings to replace the vandalised trees.

The trees are rare single varieties from the county including: Siddington Russet, Gloucester Costard and Hunt's Duke of Gloucester.

"We are replacing the apple trees that were damaged by vandals because we know how much the people of Stroud enjoyed the blossom and then watching the fruit form," said Helen and Dave.

"Stroud has been good to us and we wanted to give something back."

Pledge your support to safeguard the Subs

The Town Council has launched a campaign to raise £100,000 in pledges to carry out improvements to the Sub Rooms and ensure its future as a community-owned venue.

The fundraising initiative is part of the Town Council's proposal to Stroud District Council to take on a lease of the venue.

"For the moment we are simply asking people to make a pledge to demonstrate to the District Council that there is wide-ranging community support to create a viable and vibrant cultural and arts centre," said Town Mayor Kevin Cranston.

"During the past 12 months thousands of people have called for the Subs Rooms to be kept in public ownership.

"If our offer to Stroud District Council is successful we will launch a detailed plan for the future of the Subs at which time we'll be looking for vital early donations as we get up and running."

The money would be used to improve the toilets and provide a new bar and cafe. These improvements were highlighted by people who completed a recent Town Council survey.

"The majority of the more than 600 people

who completed the survey stated that these improvements would make a real difference to the Subs and would thus help us bring in more income," said Councillor Cranston.

Among the first to support the Subs Pledge campaign is Stroud author Katie Fforde.

"The Sub Rooms was one of the first buildings we saw when we came house hunting in Stroud 38 years ago," said Katie.

"I imagined people saving up their pennies and paying to have it built. It is essential that it stays there for the people of Stroud. It is part of all our lives now."

How to pledge your support

Turn to page 4 to complete the form • Online on: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SubsPledge
By mobile: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WDQ7JLL

#subspledge



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



Sally Pickering, Chief Officer of Citizens Advice in Stroud

We're here to help, whatever your problem

Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswold Districts is a local charity that is there to help everyone, whatever their problem.

Based in Brunel Mall, the charity runs drop-in clinics every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 1.45pm with appointments outside of these times.

There is also a free helpline - 0808 800 0510 Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm.

Citizens Advice receives £5,000 a year from the Town Council, money that the charity says is vital for its survival.

"We receive no national funding so regular support, like that of Stroud Town Council, means we can keep the service going," says Sally Pickering, Chief Officer.

Most of the enquiries dealt with by the 12 staff and 80 volunteers are about money and the advice given focuses on enabling

people to maximise their income and minimise their debts.

They also provide independent advice and information on such issues as housing, employment, probate and wills, divorce, benefits and appeals, consumer problems and elderly care planning.

"Everyone has a point in their lives when they are faced with a situation that they've never had to deal with before and they don't know how to navigate their way through it. Citizens Advice is the only place that provides free, impartial, independent and confidential advice on any issue, whatever it is," said Sally.

The charity relies on donations to top up the grants it receives from the local councils. To donate, and to find out more about the service on: www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswolds.org.uk

Briefs

Council tax precept to rise by 24p per week

The Town Council has increased its share of the council tax by 24p per week for the average Band D payer. In 2018-19, an average Band D council tax payer will pay £144.58 an increase of 24p per week.

The increase will help the Town Council with its increased community responsibilities.

The Town Council owns Lansdown Hall. It is responsible for 20 green spaces and play areas in the town and manages five allotment sites, the town clock and floral displays.

The Town Council also provides grants and long-term financial support to community organisations including the Citizens Advice Bureau, Marah Trust, Allsorts and youth activities and play schemes.

Mother Nature needs your support

Volunteers are needed to help preserve the town's old cemetery in Old Bisley Road, which is one of only a handful in the country that is classified as a nature reserve.

People are needed to join the Friends group which helps with scrub clearance and grassland maintenance. For more information please email council@strouttown.gov.uk with your contact details.

Recycling calendars

Printed versions of the recycling calendar for Stroud District are available from the Town Council offices in London Road.

Wanted: Stroud stars

It's time to pay tribute to Stroud's community heroes in the town council's annual awards.

Organised by the Town Council, the awards recognise those people – young and old – who go the extra mile.

There are four categories: community, environment, trader and young person of the year. Groups or individuals can be nominated.

Stroud Mayor Kevin Cranston said anyone can nominate someone and that it just takes a few minutes.

"All you need to do is include the person's name and contact details and a few sentences about why they deserve an award," said Cllr Cranston.

"It's a great chance to say thank

you to the town's amazing people who do so much to make our town such a great place."

The winners will be announced at a special town meeting on May 23 at 7.30pm at Lansdown Hall.

The Annual Town Meeting is open to Stroud residents and is a chance for people to find what has been happening in the town and to discuss town matters.

Nominations can be submitted online at: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/StroudAwards2018 or you can pick up a nomination form from the Town Council office in London Road, which is open Mon-Thurs 10am-1.30pm and Friday from 9.30am-12.30pm or request one by phoning 01453 762817.

The deadline for nominations is noon on May 14.

Award categories

Young Person of the Year: for people under the age of 25 who have contributed to culture and the arts, sports, community life or the environment.

Environmental Awards: for action to enhance the environment or improve awareness of sustainability issues.

Trade Award: for people who work in or run any shop, café, restaurant or other business in the parish of Stroud, not just the town centre.

Community Award: for a group or individuals who have gone that extra mile to improve community life.

Working together to improve rail station

More trees, a link from the station down to the canal and a community piano are just some of the suggestions from people on how to make Stroud's railway station area more welcoming.

About 50 residents and business

owners attended a consultation event to hear about a range of potential improvements across the whole station area, including the forecourt, approach roads and car parks.

The station area was one of the areas highlighted during consultations for the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

As a result, the Town Council is working with Integrated Transport Planning to create

a long-term masterplan for Stroud Station. The proposal has been shaped by research and opinions gathered over several months of consultation.

The Town Council will now move forward with consultations with Network Rail, GWR, Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire County Council Highways. A more in-depth public consultation will be staged later in the year.



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Roundabout puts children in a spin

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

The latest addition to the play area at Daisy Bank include a roundabout and new flat swings. It is the result of a long-term consultation process

between parents, children and the Town Council.

“Everything we have done the Town Council has fully supported us. It’s a great dialogue and the play area is really popular with the children,” said Hayley Shortt, chairperson of the Friends of

Daisy Bank.

Monty Roberts has given the new roundabout his seal of approval. “The roundabout is great and quite a lot of people come here when the weather is good,” said the eight-year-old.

Briefs

Campaign to slow traffic

New vehicle-activated speed signs will be installed in Stroud this Spring.

The Town Council launched the road safety campaign after receiving a grant from the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner for the signs.

The campaign stalled when it was discovered - 12 months later - that the lampposts in the town were not strong enough to hold the signs.

Now Gloucestershire Highways has agreed to fund and install specific posts for the signs.

The Town Council and County Councillor Eva Ward have launched a Road Safety Group. Residents wanting to join the group can contact Kim Cowan at Stroud Town Council on 01453 762817 or email Kim.cowan@stroudtown.gov.uk

Saving lives

The Town Council is working with the Community Heartbeat Trust and the District Council to install four defibrillators in the parish.

It follows an appeal from businesses, the public and street pastors to install the life-saving machines. So far, Stroud Rotary Club and HSBC Bank have pledged towards the cost of the project.

The Council’s Green Spaces team will check the machines weekly and ensure they are in working order.

Keep Stroud in bloom

The Stroud in Bloom group is looking for volunteers to join them.

“Stroud in Bloom is far more than just flowers. It’s about biodiversity, involving the community to improve the local environment and preserving our history,” said Doreen Frusher, from Stroud in Bloom. To find out more contact Doreen on sibdoreen@gmail.com

Here to listen Friday noon to 1pm

Have a burning issue you would like to discuss with a Stroud town councillor?

Then come for a sit and a chat at the Mayor’s Bench. The sessions are every Friday from noon to 1pm in Kendrick Street.

We’re declaring war on plastic

The Town Council and Transition Stroud have joined forces to keep the town topped up with water - and cut the use of plastic.

They are working together to ensure that people in Stroud can easily refill their reusable water bottles for free.

The Town Council has agreed to pay for the licence to enable Stroud to join the national Refill app scheme which lists all the places people can refill for free.

Participating cafes, bars, restaurants, banks, galleries, museums and other businesses simply put a sticker in their

window – alerting passers-by to the fact they’re welcome to come on in and fill up their bottle – for free.

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.

Transition Stroud launched the Stroud Valleys Action on Plastic campaign last year.

When the Town Council, which has also been researching ways to cut plastic usage in Stroud,

learned about the campaign the organisations decided to join forces.

Transition Stroud is appealing for volunteers who can help talk to businesses, cafes and shops about the refill scheme.

“The Stroud Valleys Action on Plastic was formed under the umbrella of Transition Stroud with the aim of helping the town, local businesses and individuals to reduce the use of single-use plastic,” said Claudia Williams from Transition Stroud.

Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact claudi@pfree.co.uk.

Keep in touch!



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

Subscription Rooms Pledge

Please indicate the amount you would consider pledging or donating and we will contact you if our bid to lease the Subscription Rooms is successful.

Completing this form does not commit you to any investment, but is crucial in helping assess the level of support for this project. Do not send any money at this point.

Data protection

Stroud Town Council will hold your personal information securely. Please tick here to confirm that your personal information can be used to provide further information about the Sub Rooms bid and pledges.

I would like to pledge: (suggested minimum £25)

- £25 £500
 £100 £1000
 £250

Other £

Name.....

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode

Phone.....

Email.....

Name of Organisation and registration number (if not an individual)

.....

Other support you can offer: (e.g. volunteering)

.....

Return the pledge form to Stroud Town Council, Thanet House, London Road, Stroud, GL5 2AD

Central Ward



Kevin Cranston (Mayor)
T: 01453 755483
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E: kevin.cranston@strouttown.gov.uk



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Sarah Lunnon
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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*