

ABOUT TOWN

www.stroudtown.gov.uk

Stroud Town Council Relocation Update: Exciting Progress at Locking Hill



**A NEW HOME FOR
STROUD TOWN
COUNCIL**
Good things are coming...

We are thrilled to share some exciting progress regarding our relocation from Thanet House to Locking Hill. This move represents a significant step forward for our community, and we want to keep you informed every step of the way.

Works begin at Locking Hill

The site may look quiet, but we have been busy sorting out the basics like fire safety and security.

We're pleased to announce that the Green Spaces team have started moving into the lower floor of the Locking Hill site. This is a fantastic development that will place our Green Spaces Rangers, led by Pete Bradshaw, right in the heart of the areas they manage. Their new location will offer great proximity to Park Gardens, a beloved Stroud favourite!

Some external elements may require planning permission, but our aim is for work to start on the main refurbishment project in the new year.

Ongoing Improvements and Future Plans

We're excited to share that we are making good progress on designs which will rationalise the space upstairs and make it as welcoming and useful a public asset as possible. We asked for your input, and you responded that you wanted a place with:

- Accessible toilets
- Information services
- Local partner services' clinics
- A place to collaborate and make an impact on the town
- Rentable meeting and conferencing rooms

We are committed to delivering these facilities as soon

as possible. Keep an eye out for announcements about our grand opening!

Staying Informed

We understand the importance of keeping our residents up-to-date on this project. Here are the best ways to stay informed:

Town Council Website: Visit www.stroudtown.gov.uk/relocation-timeline to view our relocation timeline and find other information about our plans for the site.

Interactive Timeline**: For an easy, interactive viewing experience, check out our timeline on the Preceden platform at www.preceden.com/timelines/1080373-stroud-town-council-relocation-timeline-for-residents/0a8d189b055b1e28.

We are committed to updating these timelines regularly as key milestones are reached, ensuring you have access to real-time information.

Our Vision

Our goal is to purchase the Locking Hill site and transform it into a valuable community asset. We are dedicated to listening to your thoughts and concerns throughout this process.

Get in Touch

We encourage all interested residents to check the timeline regularly. If you have any questions or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out via email at council@stroudtown.gov.uk.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we work together to enhance our community.

Architect's Update

In the early stages of our projects we immerse ourselves in the world of our clients (and their buildings) to help find the opportunities that come with this kind of investment. This isn't just a bunch of new spaces, we're discovering how a new home can transform the work of the council team and local communities.

This gets refined into a set of social and spatial design questions that can be used to test the design options we create. This might mean, for example, sitting in front of sketch views and layouts and asking 'does the building make space for the town?' And then changing things so that it does!

This has led to the need for three key spaces that boost what the council can offer to local communities: a welcoming and accessible entrance space (see sketch view); a flexible (non-stuffy!) community space that doubles as the council chamber; an open plan workspace that brings everyone together.

Alongside this we've been doing all the other bits, like cracking off plaster to see the structure, lifting ceiling tiles, testing paint on scrappy brickwork, meeting engineers to talk about demolitions and sustainability, building 3d models and gathering material samples, refining layouts alongside the cost plan.

We can't wait to share more drawings and ideas as they develop.



Keep in Touch!

Find out the latest news and videos from Stroud Town Council via our Facebook and Instagram
@StroudTownCouncil
www.stroudtown.gov.uk



Stroud Town Council offices are at Thanet House in London Road

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9.30am-12.30pm

email: council@stroudtown.gov.uk web: www.stroudtown.gov.uk

Briefs

Keep Up to Date with Stroud's Roadworks



Do you know the frustration of unexpected road closures in Stroud? Roadworks can turn a quick trip into a drawn-out delay, but staying informed can help you avoid these headaches.

While Gloucestershire Highways is responsible for roadworks, as the local tier of government, we want to guide you to useful tools that keep you in the loop. Follow our town council's Facebook and Instagram pages for regular updates on local road closures and maintenance. These updates help you plan your journeys and avoid getting caught in traffic.

For more detailed information, check the Gloucestershire County Council's Roadworks Map, which shows real-time updates on closures and delays.

And if you notice any issues like potholes or damaged signs, you can report them through FixMyStreet. This helps ensure problems are quickly addressed, keeping our roads safe and smooth for everyone.



Hub opening times

Trinity Rooms GL5 2HZ Café
Monday 9am-11am, Friday 9am-3pm.

Top of Town Sladewood Academy Grounds
Tuesday 10.30am-12.30pm and 4-6pm,
Saturday 10.30am-12.30pm.

Paganhill Community Group GL5 4BX
Wednesday 1-4.30pm,
Friday 10am-12noon.

Middle of the Hill Community Group GL5 1PX
Tuesday 11am-1pm, Wednesday 5-7pm
Thursday 11am-1pm.

Uplands Community Hub
Grange View GL5 1GR on second
Wednesday of the Month 3.30-5pm.

Marah Trust (adults only)
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12.30-2.30pm,
Saturdays 12.30-2.30pm

Top of Town Community Celebration!

In the Summer holidays, when family activities often come with a high price tag, the Top of Town Community Hub in Stroud showcased the power of community-driven events with their recent Community Fun Day. Held on the playing field of Sladewood Academy, on Bisley Old Road, the event offered an exciting and cost-free day out for all.

The grounds were filled with laughter and energy as World Jungle led sports and circus skills sessions, bringing together residents of all ages. There were giant bubbles, drumming, flower arranging (the flowers for the flower arranging were donated by Saltbox), art workshops and more to enjoy – as well as delicious food to eat together.

Celebrating Volunteer Efforts

Community Development Officer, Laura Beattie, praised the volunteers who made the day possible. "Top of Town volunteers did an incredible job," she said. "Their dedication and passion were evident in every aspect of the event, from organising activities, to greeting attendees. It's their hard work that made this day so special."

Laura highlighted the importance of free community events, especially during challenging times. "With so many activities becoming expensive, having a free event like this makes such a difference," she noted. "It's about creating a space where everyone feels welcome, without the pressure of cost."

"The sense of community at the Fun Day is exactly what we need



more of," she said. "The costs of the event were met by Stroud Town Council and Stroud District Council for the benefit of all residents, but it was the community that made this day happen – their dedication to creating opportunities like this in their area is inspiring."

The Top of Town Community Hub and the newly formed Top of Town Community Network comprised of all the groups working out of the Sladewood site - plans to build on this success, continuing to offer a wide range of services like their food hub, community café, newly formed Forest School, and arts and crafts sessions. Let us know if you would like to get involved.

Laura encourages anyone interested in hosting their own community event to contact the Community Development Team. "We're here to help," she said. "Whether it's



funding, resources, or planning advice, we want to support initiatives that bring people together."

Email: laura.beattie@strouttown.gov.uk

Functions of The Three Tiers of Councils

County Council	District Council	Stroud Town Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Management and Disposal Education Transport Fire and Public Safety Social Care Streets and Roads Trading Standards Libraries Strategic Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste and Recycling Collection Council Tax Council Housing Electoral Registration Health and Wellbeing Leisure and Recreation Facilities Planning Applications Environmental Health Local Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for residents Stroud Cemetery Play areas and play equipment (not Stratford Park) Neighbourhood planning Allotments Community grants Banner Bookings Community development Noticeboards

STROUD TOWN COUNCIL

MAYORS OF STROUD



BARRY PIERCE
1990-1992



JILL INGHAM
1992-1994



PAT COOKE
1994-1996



MAGGIE MILLS
1996-1997



JOHN MARJORAM
1997-2004 2007-2009
2011-2012



KEVIN CRANSTON
2014-2017
2015-2022



ANDY READ
2009-2011



AMANDA MORIARTY
2012-2015



STELLA PARKES
2022-2024



TONY DAVEY
2024-

Do you know your dedicated mayor and what they do?

In the heart of Stroud, a town renowned for its community spirit and picturesque landscapes, there's a figure working tirelessly to keep residents informed and engaged with local affairs. This person is your mayor, and their role goes far beyond ceremonial duties – they're the bridge between the town council and the people it serves.

Stroud's current mayor, Tony, brings a unique blend of experiences to the role. When he's not handling civic duties, you might find him creating whimsical balloon decorations as the Principal Decorator at Party On Up. But don't let this playful side fool you – Tony's background in Information Technology and his position as Chair of the Stroud & District Chamber of Trade & Commerce equip him with the skills to navigate complex local issues.

What's been catching the town's attention lately is the mayor's commitment to transparency and regular communication. Through his blog on the Town Council website, social media updates, and columns in the Stroud News and Journal, Tony has been keeping everyone in the loop about pressing local matters.

Take the recent updates on the station upgrades, for instance. When Tony shared detailed information about the planned improvements, including timelines and expected impacts on commuters, the post sparked a lively discussion among residents. People appreciated the clarity and forethought, with many offering suggestions for additional enhancements.

The mayor's updates on tackling litter have also struck a chord with the community. After Tony outlined the council's strategy for increasing bin availability and organising community clean-up events, there was a noticeable uptick in volunteer sign-ups. Residents commented on how refreshing it was to see concrete actions being taken on an issue they care about deeply.

Perhaps most impactful have been the mayor's transparent communications about addressing anti-social behaviour. When Tony detailed the collaborative efforts between the town council, local police, and community groups to create safer public spaces, it reassured many residents.

Residents have been vocal about their appreciation for



the regular updates, with many commenting on social media about how it's changed their perception of local government. One resident recently wrote, "I used to think council affairs were all closed-door meetings. Now, thanks to our mayor's updates, I feel like I'm part of the conversation."

But the mayor's role isn't just about telling – it's about listening too. Tony firmly believes in the power of localism, the idea that those who use the town are best placed to shape its future. That's why he's always eager to hear from Stroud's residents, whether it's during a chance encounter in town or through more formal channels like council meetings or email correspondence.

You can also contact your local ward councillors to share your thoughts on recent council initiatives, voice your concerns, or simply learn more about what's happening in your local government. Their contact details can be found here: <https://www.strouttown.gov.uk/councillors>

After all, in Stroud, we're more than just residents – we're active participants in our town's story, with our mayor and councillors helping to guide the narrative.

Remember, while the mayor is always happy to discuss local matters, official council business should be directed to council@strouttown.gov.uk. In Stroud, local government isn't just about administration – it's about community, connection, and working together to make our town the best it can be.

Chapel Street Community Café

Since opening its doors in winter 2022, the Chapel Street Community Café has become a valued gathering spot for local residents, offering more than just food but also friendship, as well as access to signposting and services. Founded by Stroud Town Council, the café was created to address a need for greater community support and cohesion, and it has been growing ever since.

The café runs weekly on a Wednesday out of the Salvation Army Hall on Acre Street from 10.30am – 12pm, on a pay-as-you-can basis, ensuring that everyone is welcome, regardless of their financial situation.

While the café is supported by Stroud Town Council's Community Development Team, and paid for in collaboration with Stroud District Council, it is driven by the passion and commitment of local volunteers. Beyond its regular offerings, the café has hosted a variety of special events, such as a poetry workshop, a film screening, and even an art installation.

A recent survey of café visitors, revealed just how valued this space has become. Every single respondent was either "Very satisfied" (53%) or "Satisfied" (47%) with the café. The café has been particularly successful in fostering social connections, with 79% of respondents reporting increased social interaction since attending.

Wellbeing has also improved for many attendees, with 84% reporting an uplift in their mood since joining, and 47% feeling "much better."

If you would like to get involved in supporting the café to expand its offering – the survey also highlighted a desire for more diverse activities and more evening and weekend gatherings – please contact: laura.beattie@strouttown.gov.uk

An Apology:

To those who have taken the time to write to us regarding the condition of the cemetery, Stroud Town Council would like to sincerely apologise for the unacceptably long grass. We understand the impact this situation has caused to those who have loved ones laid to rest there, as well as to visitors paying their respects.

We have been regularly chasing our external mowing contractor to fulfil their obligations, but their service has fallen far short of what was expected. As a result, we will be putting the mowing contract out to tender to ensure a more reliable service in the future.

In the interim, our own Green Spaces Team staff have been redirected from other sites to help trim and cut back the grass and vegetation as much as possible with our available resources. Please know that we are treating this matter with the utmost urgency and importance. Restoring the well-kept appearance of the cemetery grounds is a top priority for the Town Council.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to rectify this situation as quickly as possible. Thank you for taking the time to make us aware of your concerns, and we will continue to update you.

Heavens Valley community purchase: almost there but more money needed

Published on behalf of the Heavens Valley Community Benefit Society

The sale of Thrupp Farm, including the Heavens Valley, to the local community is getting close, with solicitors for the Heavens Valley Community Benefit Society (HVCBS) and the current owner discussing details at the time of writing.



£200,000 of the £300,000 needed to clinch the deal has been raised in the past four weeks, with more coming in every day. This will be combined with £550,000 loaned by two generous local supporters to complete the purchase of the land, much of which is situated within the boundaries of Stroud Town parish.

HVCBS spokesperson Martin Whiteside is calling on all those who love the Heavens Valley to donate now so that it can be protected and owned by the local community for ever.

More than 100 residents attended a

public meeting at the Trinity Rooms in late September to find out about the latest in the campaign to buy the land for the community. Already more than 300 people have bought shares in the benefit society and will become part-owners of the land.

Martin added: "Bringing the valley into community ownership and saving it for future generations will be a groundbreaking thing for Stroud to achieve. I believe we must do it, we can do it, we will do it."

To donate, buy shares or offer to help with practical tasks, visit www.heavensvalley.org.uk

A Letter From The Green Spaces Manager

At Stroud Town Council, we are committed to making our green spaces more welcoming, inclusive, and enjoyable for everyone. Recently, we conducted a survey to better understand what our community is looking for in their parks and open spaces. Based on your feedback, it's clear that you value diverse play equipment, safe environments, and spaces that cater to people of all ages.

We heard your suggestions for more climbing equipment, inclusive play areas, natural play structures, and outdoor exercise options. Your feedback is invaluable, and we are taking action!

Upcoming Refresh for Park Gardens

I am pleased to let you know that Park Gardens will be the next green space to receive a refresh, with a focus on updating and expanding the play equipment. Our goal is to create an engaging and safe environment that meets the needs of children, families,

and individuals alike.

Get Involved with Our Green Spaces

We are also looking to strengthen our community involvement, and there are many ways you can help make a difference! Our rangers are always in need of enthusiastic volunteers, and we are especially keen to find horticulture volunteers. Whether you can commit to looking after just one or two pots or want to get more involved with our planting efforts alongside Sam Moppett, our Horticulture Ranger, your contribution can make a big impact on the beauty and vibrancy of Stroud's green spaces.

If you're interested in volunteering or want to learn more about how you can contribute, please reach out to us. Together, we can continue to make our green spaces wonderful places for all to enjoy.

Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement!

Best regards,

Pete Bradshaw
Green Spaces Manager
Stroud Town Council

Please Join Us for the Remembrance Day Service

We warmly invite you to attend this year's Remembrance Day Service, a special occasion to honour the heroic efforts, achievements, and sacrifices made by countless individuals in past wars. This year's service will take place at Park Gardens on Sunday, 10th November, starting at 10:45 am.

Join us as we come together to pay our respects, reflect on the bravery of those who served, and remember those who gave their lives for our freedom. Your presence would be greatly appreciated as we continue this important tradition of remembrance and gratitude.

Your town councillors



There are 18 town councillors representing the six wards of Central, Farmhill and Paganhill, Slade, Trinity, Uplands and Valley.

Councillors are volunteers and receive no payment whatsoever.

See www.stroudtown.gov.uk/councillors or email council@stroudtown.gov.uk to make contact with the representative for your part of Stroud.

Where to Go For Help

The times are challenging and through the work of our Community Development Team we see that the community are often struggling with mental health challenges. The organisations listed below can be helpful, but the best way to get help is often at a local level. We encourage the community to come together in our precious community spaces, volunteer, have a cuppa and let someone else know how you are feeling.



Mind

T: 0300 123 3393
W: Mind.org.uk

Young Minds

Text YM to 85258
24/7 text service
W: Youngminds.org.uk

Shout

Text Shout to 85258
24/7 text service
giveusashout.org

CALM

T: 0800 58 58 58
Helpline for men
W: thecalmzone.net

Samaritans

T: 116 123
24/7 helpline
W: Samaritans.org

Papyrus

T: 0800 068 4141
Under 35s Helpline
W: papyrus-uk.org

Stroud Town Council have taken the promise, will you?

www.whiteribbon.org.uk/promise

