

ABOUT TOWN

www.stroudtown.gov.uk

Have you nominated your town heroes?



“We are thrilled to bring the community together at the Cotswold Playhouse to honour those who make Stroud such a wonderful town,” 2022-2024 Mayor Stella Parkes.

Stroud Town Council are once again holding Annual Awards to honour the local community and the amazing efforts of individuals and organisations who work so hard to make Stroud a great place to be. We have begun to receive nominations already and it is so inspiring to hear how people have been helping each other in so many ways connected to biodiversity, food provision, democracy and more.

The evening event on May 22nd will be open to all and we are excited to host the awards in the fabulous location of the Cotswold Playhouse. The awards are also a chance to find out more about the work of the council through the Annual Report and to hear a speech from the Mayor. We would love residents to feel involved and come along to celebrate their community.

Anyone can nominate and the closing date for this year is the 30th of April. Get those votes in early!

We would like to give you a good chance to send in nominations and encourage your community members and colleagues to do the same.

We have paper copies in Thanet House, 58 London Road and will also distribute these into community spaces via our Community Development Team.

The best place to nominate is online via our website at: www.stroudtown.gov.uk/annual-awards

You can nominate as many people as you like. Past award winners have included the Stroud District Youth Council, Dr. John Meadley for environmental work, the Shambles Market for outstanding trading, Stroud Stands with Ukraine, and more. 2024 winners will be chosen by the Town Council, based on nominations from Stroud’s residents. A panel of 5 councillors will make the final selection.

The categories are:

- Young Person of the Year,
- Environment,
- Trader,
- Community,
- Equality and Diversity.

The Town Council welcomes all members of the Stroud community to attend the 2024 celebration at the Cotswold Playhouse. It promises to be an uplifting evening that captures the spirit and future vision of this unique town. Pop the date in your diary!

More information to follow on our website:

www.stroudtown.gov.uk/annual-awards



Briefs

Play Rangers Update

Stroud Town Council have been pleased to offer grant support to the Play Rangers, a registered charity who provide active and creative play in urban and rural communities. Activities are both school and community based, providing adventure, friendship and fun for hundreds of young people each year.

School aged children and their families are the main beneficiaries of the Play Rangers’ work. They particularly support children from disadvantaged and rurally isolated communities and those living in challenging circumstances.

Find out more at:

www.playgloucestershire.org.uk

Email info@playgloucestershire.org.uk

The most recent Play Rangers sessions have been held at Mason Road and Archway Gardens. Children have fun in all weather and the sessions are open-access. This means there is no registration, children are free to come and go as they please.

The core belief is that all children have the right to play, a value that is shared by the Stroud Town Council who are proud to be funding partners.



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

Green Spaces Round up



New railings erected in Bank Gardens Ensuring Safety and Enhancing Ambiance.

For the purposes of safety, Bank Gardens in Stroud town centre recently saw the installation of 50 metres of traditional Victorian-style railings. The initiative aimed to enhance the charm of the area while addressing safety concerns stemming from a significant drop from the gardens to Lansdown below.

The decision to install railings came after concerns were raised by the The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). A yearly inspection, commissioned by the Stroud Town Council, highlighted the absence of barriers as a potential hazard. The inspector's report observed that: "The drop from the top of the wall is unprotected. Adding a fence will prevent falls and will protect users below."

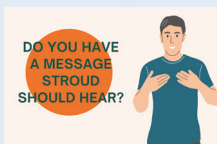
Local business Gloucester Street Forge, situated on Slad Road, undertook the task of sourcing and installing the railings, which have already received positive feedback from the public. Green Spaces Manager Pete Bradshaw commented, "The new railings have already been well-regarded by the public, who have expressed feeling safer, especially parents of young children. It's great that events such as 'Pride Day' in Bank Gardens will no longer require temporary barriers."

The revitalisation of Bank Gardens doesn't stop at railings. Recent enhancements include the installation of two types of lighting. One set illuminates paths for improved visibility, while the other, equipped with CCTV, contributes to better overall safety for garden users.

With these upgrades, Bank Gardens not only retains its historical charm, but also ensures a safer and more enjoyable experience for visitors. The efforts reflect a commitment to preserving heritage, while meeting modern safety standards, marking a significant step forward for the town's green spaces.

Seeking a Keynote Speaker

The Town Council is currently seeking an engaging, dynamic keynote speaker to set the tone for the evening at their Annual Awards. We hope they will offer insights into how Stroud can continue to improve and develop as a thriving, sustainable community. Let us know on council@strouttown.gov.uk if you could be the speaker, or if you know someone who would be ideal!



Town Council Office Potential Relocation

Dear Residents of Stroud,

The Council wish me to share that the potential move of Stroud Town Council's offices to the former Locking Hill surgery site is gaining momentum, thanks to an overwhelmingly positive response from our recent consultation. With the majority of the community in favour, it's clear that this move makes good financial sense to many of you.

The next phase is crucial. We are reaching out to community groups and our partnership organisations to ensure the new building meets everyone's needs. Your input is invaluable, so please share your ideas by emailing us at council@strouttown.gov.uk. Keep an eye out for upcoming opportunities for you to have your say and for us to listen. Accessibility, carbon neutrality and community use are going to be key areas of focus.

Before we proceed, rest assured that thorough surveys will ensure the new location is satisfactory. Additionally, any cost implications, including the increase of 13p per



week for a Band D household, will not affect residents until 2025 and we will keep you well informed of the progress of the phases of the move.

We understand your concerns and are committed to making decisions in the best interest of Stroud. Thank you for your continued support as we embark on this exciting new opportunity to be of service to the town.

Helen Bojanowska
CEO (Town Clerk)

Saving Lost Paths

The Town Council is supporting a campaign by local volunteers to ensure all public footpaths are properly recorded on the official map of rights of way.

Natural England has extended the deadline to review the open access Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) maps to 2025.

"There are still lots of paths to tackle and it's important to get these paths registered so that they are accessible to everyone," said Stroud Mayor Stella Parkes.

There are three ways to get paths registered. They can be voluntarily registered by the owner. The Town Council has registered some that are on council land, such as the path between the cemetery and Highfield Road. The other ways to get paths registered are using evidence of long use and evidence from old maps.

Work is being done to register a footpath at Libby's Drive. "We need people to complete evidence forms to show that the path has



been in regular use for at least 20 years without interruption," said Councillor Parkes. "Our offices on London Road can provide paper forms for people to fill in. It takes a little time to fill in by hand, but

it's so important to keep these footpaths open for everyone to use." You can also sign up to the Ramblers campaign to save lost paths. There is more information on the Ramblers Association website.

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





Voter Registration and ID Advice

Members of the public who wish to check they have the correct Voter ID and are registered to vote in the upcoming elections are invited to a drop in to the Town Council for support.

On Thursday 2nd May 2024 elections are being held for all 51 District Councillor seats, all 53 Parish/Town Councils and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire Area.

For more information visit Stroud District Council or call 01453 766321 or email elections@stroud.gov.uk.

Registering to vote will let you have your say in local elections, General Elections and referendums. If you need support with registration or ID, you can also call the electoral commission helpline on 0800 328 0280.

Paper copies of voter registration forms are available in the Town Council offices during opening times 9.30am-12.30pm each weekday. If you have digital access, voter registration can be completed online: Register to vote www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. People



with a learning disability have the same right to vote as everyone else. Please let us know if you would like an easy read guide.

You don't need to provide photo ID to vote by post. The deadline to apply to vote by post at a particular election is 5pm, 11 working days before the date of that election. You will receive your ballot paper in the post. Complete and return your ballot paper, ensuring you leave enough time for it to arrive at Stroud District Council by 10pm by 10pm on the day of the election. If you can't post your postal vote pack in time, you can take it your polling station or polling place, or to the Stroud District Council on polling day.

If your preference is to vote by post the form can be downloaded or pick up a paper copy from the town council offices during opening times 9.30am-12.30pm each week day.

We look forward to welcoming Stroud residents, to ensure they use their vote as their voice.

More information:
www.stroudtown.gov.uk/voter-id-support-2024

Who are the Stroud Town Council staff team and what do they do?



The Council staff work in two teams headed by the CEO. The office team includes a Deputy CEO, Project Officer, Senior Finance Administrator, Assistant Community Development Officer, Communications and Engagement Officer, Assistant Clerk, Administration Officer, Projects and Administration Assistant, Finance Assistant, Community Development Support Officer and a cleaner. The Green Spaces team includes three full-time Rangers and a part-time Assistant led by the Green Spaces Manager.

The Green Spaces team are responsible for the day-to-day management of the green and open spaces around the town. These include two town centre gardens, two cemeteries (one active and one closed), five play areas, two closed churchyards and a number of amenity spaces.

The Council owns five allotment sites providing just under 200 plots. Each site is managed on our behalf by a plot-holder association.

Stroud Town Council is a larger town council that is committed to improving the quality of life of all members of its community. The council provides core support to a range of partner organisations involved in regeneration and meeting key social needs of its residents, as well as supporting arts development in the town.

We have shown long term commitment to improving the environment, for example, by taking on the management of parks and green spaces in the town, increasing the number of open spaces with public access and improving the quality of children's play areas. We have an established reputation for taking a leading role in community development. We sustain four community grants programmes and a number of service level agreements with voluntary and community sector organisations.

We are a Quality council and have adopted the General Power of Competence. We have an annual expenditure budget of about £1 million of which the precept makes up around 80%. The balance largely comes from cemetery income, grants and rent.

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

Warm Spaces and Coat Drive Thanks



We would like to extend our sincere thanks for your collective efforts in making the Winter Coat Drive a successful initiative. Your generosity has been overwhelming.

All these small gestures provided warmth and assistance to those in our community in need of decent clothing. Special thanks to the Subscription Rooms for allowing the use of the forecourt.

NoSH gave practical support that ensured that the coats found suitable homes, and we acknowledge Annie Page (Food

Coordinator for NoSH) for her efforts in circulating coats into the community. Middle of the Hill Community Group and Trinity Rooms played a key role in distributing coats.

The Coat Stop was used by GPs, PCSOs, Social Workers, Housing Officers, the Town Council's Community Development Team and The Night Angels to ensure people's safety in cold weather. Thank you to each contributor for your role in making a difference in the lives of our fellow residents.

Your town councillors



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

Councillors are elected every 4 years. All 18 councillor seats will be up for election on May 2nd 2024, we hope you use your vote as your voice to choose your representative for your most local tier of government. We thank the departing councillors for their service to Stroud.

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: Papyrun-uk.org

Half-term Street Art Workshop

Young people had the opportunity to brighten up Stroud, thanks to a half-term street art workshop run by Stroud Town Council in partnership with Paganhill PCSO Amy Webb and the Neighbourhood Wardens.

Artist Lee Kirby, known as The Art of 3rdEye, and a group of nine young people, aged 11-15, took part in the project which was supported by The National Lottery Community Fund.

"We're thankful to The National Lottery Community Fund for its support for this great project," said Stroud Mayor Stella Parkes. "The permanent mural has brightened up an area that is well used by school and college students."

The free workshops provide young people an opportunity to practice street art with an established artist.

"These workshops are providing the opportunity to receive mentoring from a professional artist and to see authority figures in a fresh light," said Councillor Parkes.

"It also allows them to feel connected to the community and to be valued. The more we do to ensure young people



feel part of the community the more we can tackle anti-social behaviour."

One parent, whose son took part, said: "Thank you for giving my son the opportunity to put his passion and skills into action. He struggles with his confidence at times, but he's come home really proud of himself and his creativity, having been really engaged and learning throughout and can't wait to show his family what he's created. It sometimes seems as though there isn't enough for teens to get involved with locally but this made our half term."

Stroud Town Council have taken the promise, will you?

www.whiteribbon.org.uk/promise

