



Policy for Use of Land in the Ownership of Stroud Town Council by a Third Party

Parks and playgrounds are important community facilities, and are provided for the free enjoyment of residents and visitors. We are very supportive of activities that help promote the health of our residents and build a strong community.

Access to park facilities shouldn't be unduly restricted to members of the public because of organised commercial activities, and we therefore require all such activities to be pre-approved with the Council.

We also believe that those making financial gain from the park facilities should contribute to their upkeep and improvement, so we can provide the best possible facilities for our residents.

1.0 Types of Request

Requests to use Council owned land for a variety of activities and events are regularly received from: members of the public, private organisations, charitable bodies and others. These requests include:

- a) Permission for use of land for supervised sporting events
- b) Permission for use of land for entertainment, fun days and funfairs
- c) Permission for the temporary siting of builder and contractor compounds for cabins and materials
- d) Car parking, car boot or table top sales
- e) Fitness and Personal Trainers

The above list is not exhaustive.

A formal request by a third party may be made by completing an application form and emailing it to: council@stroudtown.gov.uk

2.0 Requests that will not be granted

- 2.1 Requests for permission to use land for bonfires and firework displays will not be granted under any circumstances because of the risk and associated dangers to both the public and the land itself, however fire-bowls and barbecues may be permitted and will be decided on a case by case basis.
- 2.2 Requests from organisations which promote or use any form of hate speech in the undertaking of its activities, events, materials or ethos will not be considered.
- 2.3 Requests for permission to use drones on Council land will not be granted. For further information please refer to the Council's [Drone Policy](#).

3.0 Requests that will be considered

3.1 **Applications for permission** that fall within the categories noted in 1.0 a) - e) above will be considered when supported by the following information:

3.1.1 The hirer shall provide the Council with a copy of their **Public Liability Insurance** which must provide cover for a minimum of **£5m**.

3.1.2 A **Risk Assessment** shall be provided giving the following information:

- Details of the event/activity including the expected number of participants
- contact details of the hirer (both daytime and emergency out of hours)
- First aid provision
- Actions required to ensure the Health & Safety of those in attendance and the general public
- A method statement which should include some or all of the following:
 - Date of commencement, date of completion & start and finish times
 - Plan showing vehicular/pedestrian access and egress, location of facilities (e.g. first aid tent, toilets etc.)
 - Marshalling of parking/ general parking issues
 - Fencing/containment/security
 - Hazardous materials on site/COSHH assessment
 - Access requirements for deliveries
 - Operator licence (e.g. fun fair, plant operator)
 - Control of noise
 - Other anticipated risks
 - Connection to/or temporary use of Gas, Electricity, Water, Telecom, Sewer services.
 - Welfare facilities, e.g. portable toilets etc.
 - Reinstatement & litter picking to return the land to its original condition prior to the event or activity
 - Line of communication between hirer and Stroud Town Council

3.1.3 For other events and regular activities, the Council will determine the need for a Risk Assessment and the information required to be covered therein.

3.2 In producing the information set out above the hirer should be mindful of the following:

3.2.1 Submission of application, insurance and risk assessment information does not constitute permission from Stroud Town Council. The Council will, after assessing the information, provide a written response giving approval or refusing the application. Where approval is given the third party shall sign a written agreement and pay the requested fee before they are allowed in occupation of the land.

3.2.2 Any permission for use of Council land by Fitness and Personal Trainers shall include the following provisions:

- No trainer will be allowed to run sessions totalling more than **six hours** per week on any Council owned site.
- That the trainers undertake responsibility, through their insurance, to pay for the repair or replacement of any Council-owned property damaged during the course of any training sessions

3.2.3 Returning the land to its original condition shall be done to the satisfaction of Stroud Town Council. To this end the land will be jointly inspected by the hirer and Stroud Town Council before and after its occupation.

3.2.4 The permission agreement states that the Council will not be responsible for the death or injury of anyone taking part in the event, nor other injury, loss or damage to property of whatsoever nature, however caused.

3.2.5 The hirer and all other parties taking part in the activity/event are bound not to damage, cause any loss or injury to anything upon the property or land which is the subject of the permission agreement.

3.2.6 Requests to erect marquees, water storage and the like, will be considered and where permitted will be itemised in the permission agreement and included in the indemnity clause, so as not to constitute a risk to the Council.

3.2.7 Where requests are received for purposes other than those outlined above, these will be considered individually on their merits and where considered appropriate will follow the procedures set out in 3.1 & 3.2 above.

4.0 Fee

4.1 The Council reserves the right to set fees for the use of its land. The fee charged will be assessed on the event concerned. (See [Fees and Charges.](#))

4.2 The fees set by the Council are subject to periodic review.

4.3 The Council may waive the fee at its discretion. Waiver is likely only in the case of charitable events.

4.4 Charges are not applicable for professional dog walkers or personal trainers. However, carrying out the activities will be at your own risk. We ask you to respect other park users, and request that you do not monopolise any park facilities or inconvenience other park users.

Fees and charges

Hire of public and green spaces



Type of event	Day Charge	Hourly Charge
Non-commercial community / charity event	*	*
Commercial small event (100 people or fewer)	£155	£20
Commercial large event (between 101-499 people)	£350	N/A
Commercial event for more than 500 people	£500	N/A
Additional fees (litter picking after event, use of water/electricity to be decided on an ad hoc basis)	N/A	N/A

*Charges to be set upon discussion with the CEO

A day charge is for seven hours

In May 2024 the Council suspended charges for use of Council land for Personal Training.

Personal Trainers are required to notify the council of use and submit relevant documentation as per the policy.