

Stroud District Councillor report - September 2024

Council meetings in August

The Stanleys Ward Councillor feedback

Marisa

I am starting to get to grips with the ways of the working s of the council. I have been really impressed with the officers and their efficiency and knowledge! Generally I have been answering questions from residents over a number of issues, including:-

- The reasons why Pyke Quarry dump has carried on with the booking system and not reinstated 'come when you want' (this is because surveys have been carried out since Covid and they showed that the majority of people and staff prefer booking as it reduces stress and improves safety, and GCC are planning to stay with this model)
- The Stagecoach number 62 bus. I have been in contact with 'The Head of Commercial' asking them to clarify their reasons for the timings of this bus and pointing out the difficulties this poses for local families and their children who attend Archway, Marling and SHS schools (at the moment pupils are unable to access a bus at the end of the school day and are having to wait for an hour. I have been informed that there I may have some update on this in the next couple of weeks.
- I successfully got BT to replace the broken cover on Broad Street near 'The Rest'

As Vice Chair of The Communities and Licensing Committee I attended the VIAWG (Violence & Intimidation Against Women & Girls) event at FGR on 13/09. We had an interesting presentation given by DC Stu Martin about INCEL culture, where he provided us with up to date info about this social phenomenon. Many Gloucestershire organisations attended, including 'Hopehouse' which is an organisation that provides emotional and practical support, as well as medical care, to anyone who has experienced sexual violence or sexual abuse. As I have mentioned previously Jessica Davies , who works at Hopehouse would like to make some presentations to organisations in our community in order to raise awareness of their work and to educate. I am going to be meeting with her in the next couple of weeks and she is going to provide me with some posters that you could put up if you like, just ask me!

Licensing Sub-Committee - 19th August

Licensing Hearing to consider a new premises licence application for sale of alcohol at Juliet, 49 London Road, Stroud Gloucestershire, GL5 2AD – granted.

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/business/licensing-permits/licensing-panel-meetings/>

Other News

New crowdfunding scheme

Community-led projects across the district can now bid for a share of £100,000 to improve their local areas and raise additional funds from within their community. `Stroudfunding – crowdfunding for the Stroud district' is being launched by SDC to help local groups raise funding for community improvement initiatives. The scheme is open to local groups such as schools, sports clubs and community organisations - providing them with the opportunity to access funds for initiatives that will benefit their communities.

Projects that align with the council's priorities - including those which address environment and climate change or help build community resilience and wellbeing - could also receive up to £10,000 of SDC's £100,000 fund, or up to 50% of the crowdfunding campaign target.

Community crowdfunding is an innovative way of raising money for ideas that will improve local areas, such as those which develop skills, promote sustainability, bring people together, provide training, or transform community spaces. People can pledge money towards the cost of projects that appeal to them via an online community fundraising platform called Spacehive. This has worked successfully in other council areas, including Cotswold District Council.

Anyone interested can find out more information about the programme, the funding available and how to get involved, as well as tips and advice on how to launch a crowdfunding campaign by attending a launch event (sign up here:

<https://www.spacehive.com/movement/stroud>):

- Wednesday 11th September, 11am - 1pm, at Dursley Tabernacle or
- Thursday 12th September, 11am - 1pm, at Stroud Brewery
- a short online briefing on Wednesday the 11 September at 6.30pm

Groups will then have until the 30th October 2024 to get their projects ready (i.e. ensure costs and permissions in place) before they start crowdfunding in November.

Businesses and charitable foundations that have funds for community projects are also welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend there is more information about how to register a community project at <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/stroud>

New equipment for removing chewing gum from pavements

A grant of £11k from the Chewing Gum Task Force, administered by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, will help Stroud District Council clean up gum and reduce gum littering.

The council is one of 54 across the country that have successfully applied to the Chewing Gum Task Force, now in its third year, for funds to clean gum off pavements and prevent it from being littered again. SDC will be looking to start work with the new gum-blasting equipment in the autumn.

New canal project wetland being created

A planning application has been submitted for the Fromebridge Biodiversity Project, south of Whitminster, which will extend canal restoration to the west of the “Missing Mile” and includes the creation of two water vole ponds, a wetlands area, lowering of the River Frome flood bank in two locations, creation of two flood bunds, levelling of the canal towpath bank, construction of a multi-user canal towpath and an accessible bird hide. This project will be completed by volunteers from the Cotswold Canals Trust and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust once planning approval has been granted.

This project is the largest biodiversity project being undertaken on the Cotswold Canals Connected Phase 1B project which is part-funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Generous donations from organisations, charitable trusts, private donors and grants will also fund the work.

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/canal-restoration-will-create-new-wetland-to-boost-nature-and-tourism/>

<https://cotswoldcanals.org/about-us/cotswold-canals-connected/>

Stroud town clean up

The streets of Stroud town centre have been revitalised after a two-day clean-up campaign.

Graffiti, stickers and weeds were removed from streets, and businesses were advised on the best way to store waste during the operation carried out by Stroud District Council, Stroud Town Council and Gloucestershire County Council.

Each organisation has different responsibilities for keeping town centres in the district clean.

Stroud District Council’s officers removed weeds and visited businesses to offer advice on trade waste management. Residents were also engaged to ensure their household waste is suitably stored between collections. Stroud Town Council cleared graffiti and stickers from street furniture while Gloucestershire County Council removed weeds from pedestrian areas. Similar events can be organised in other towns if justified by the regular inspections.

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/stroud-sparkles-after-summer-spruce-up/>