

Stroud District Councillor report - September 2024

Local updates

Dryleaze – Independent Living scheme - SDC will be undertaking modernisation works to the communal lounge and kitchen in Dryleaze House, starting at the end of September. A consultation meeting was held in July with residents and a meeting is scheduled for residents to meet with and ask questions to the appointed site manager, on Tuesday 10th September between 10:00 and 11:00.

Council meetings in August

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

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 with 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. For the moment, SDC officers note that the other market towns, including Wotton, have a good level of cleanliness.

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