**Stroud District Councillor Report – January 2025**

**Councillor Sarah Canning**

**District Councillor Activity Report**

Key activities include:

* **Environment Committee – 5th December.** The last meeting of the year had a busy agenda including unanimously voting to add vapes/e-cigarettes and batteries to the list of items that can be recycled from home in the district. These items contain valuable materials that can be salvaged for recycling, but they also present a fire risk when mingled with other materials. In the last year, we’ve had a number of small bin lorry fires, likely to have been caused by discarded electrical items, and we want to minimise the risk for our crews and residents. These will be added to our recycling service this year, and communications will be sent out once everything is ready to accept these new items. We also considered the four bids put forward in our annual Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding process and it was agreed that plans for a doctor’s surgery and a medical hub in Cam should be the primary recipients of the funding. There was also an update on our Walking & Cycling Fund, the latest budgetary information for the committee, and a report back a year on from the “Open Spaces” motion, which looked at how communal green areas and amenities in new residential developments are managed. You can watch the video and view any of the reports here - <https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=1510&Ver=4>
* **Full Council Meeting – 19th December.** Another busy agenda, and this included voting to sign up for the UK100 Charter to power up the national clean energy mission - one of the main ways we create carbon emissions is through the energy we generate, so continued efforts to move to renewables are essential. If you’d like to catch up on the meeting a link to the recording is here [https://www.youtube.com/live/oiqGMElFEyw?feature=shared](https://links.uk.defend.egress.com/Warning?crId=6782b0f85144762ac6a4cd74&Domain=stroud.gov.uk&Lang=en&Base64Url=eNrLKCkpKLbS1y8vL9erzC8tKU1K1UvOz9XPySxL1c_PLHT3dc1xc60st09LTSwpLUq1Lc5ILEpNAQBEoRTP&@OriginalLink=www.youtube.com)

**District Council News**

* One of the latest community funding programmes “Stroud Funding” is coming to the end of it’s Autumn funding window - Stroud District Council has distributed grants either directly or indirectly through other organisations or government initiatives, over many years. Crowdfunding is different as it gives the creativity and decision-making back to the people, encouraging a social movement of change and prosperity within the district, with group led funding initiatives match funded by the District Council.
  + 5 projects have already met their funding target – including the Stroud Library of Things and the Stroud Boxing Club which is based at the Merrets Mill Industrial Centre
  + More information can be found here - <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/stroud/projects?status=0&page=1>
  + We will be launching the Spring 2025 funding window in January 2025, with workshops planned for mid February with a deadline of mid April. Share your idea [**here**](http://spacehive.com/create) and Space Hive (the funding managers) will send you relevant programme updates.
* There have been updates to the FAQs surrounding Tricorn House, the Council have recently been informed that the building will not be used for individuals or families seeking asylum. The Council will continue to push for the building to be brought back into use, preferably for local families and individuals who find themselves homeless, in response to the feedback we have received from the community. More details can be found here - <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/tricorn-house-frequently-asked-questions/>
* 44 new affordable homes on three council-owned brownfield sites across the district have been confirmed with the projects taking place in Wotton-under-Edge, Dursley and Cam. contracts worth £11.75 million to Speller Metcalfe have been awarded the contract worth £11.75 million for the construction of the homes, with construction set to start in Spring 2025 with completion anticipated between March and September 2026. <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/1175million-contracts-awarded-for-affordable-homes-on-council-brownfield-sites/>
* With the recent announcement of the English Devolution White Paper, there are many conversations taking place on the future local government structure for Stroud, Gloucestershire and our neighbours, and there is nothing concrete at this time. More details are due from the Government shortly, including the decision on whether to postpone County Council elections due to take place in May, which will influence the longer-term timetable.