



## **eNEWS articles for April 2020 will be published below**

*Email: [pressoffice@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:pressoffice@stroud.gov.uk)*

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### **Environment**

## **Planning (Development Management) - Coronavirus Update**

Covid 19 is now having an impact on the Development Management Service and our ability to consider and determine applications and carry out our other functions, such as pre-application enquiries, appeals and enforcement.

However, we are doing our best to keep the service running in a limited form, and would draw attention to the following important information:

1. All Development Control Committees have been postponed until further notice.
2. Some planning staff are being redeployed to help with essential Council services, thus reducing the capacity of the service.
3. Making contact with the service If you need to contact an officer or team, may we ask that you email us. Please do not telephone. If you have an application or pre-application enquiry with us, you will have the case officer's details. Alternatively, the planning pages on the website will provide you with more generic team emails.
4. Making a planning or other application Please do not submit paper applications or letters if this can be avoided. If you do, there may well be a significant delay in our ability to process them. We strongly advise you to submit planning and other applications electronically either via the planning portal <https://www.planningportal.co.uk/applications> or by email. Comments on planning applications are best submitted via Public Access, which is easily accessible via our website.

PAYMENTS – as the offices are now closed to the public, we request that you make payments online. Please copy the link below into your browser and scroll down:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/pay-council-bills-fines-and-invoices>

#### 5. Site notices for planning and other applications

We will be asking all applicants and/or agents to display site notices on the application site themselves. This is to avoid unnecessary interaction with officers and also to address a possible shortage of officers to carry out this task in the future. Site notices will be emailed to applicants/agents.

#### 6. Site visits for applications and enforcement investigations

Officers are no longer making site visits for any planning function. This is likely to mean that you will be asked to agree to an extension of time for your application until such a time as we can safely make a site visit. When this situation changes, we will let you know. We will still do our best to follow up enforcement investigations where this can be done without visiting the site.

#### 7. Meetings in the office and on site

The offices are now closed and we will not be undertaking site meetings until further notice. This means that all pre-application submissions will be dealt with as a desk-based assessment. If you are the agent or applicant for a planning application and wish to discuss your application, please email the case officer.

If a telephone conversation can be organised, we will do so, but please be aware that officers are being redeployed.

#### 8. Public Access and application notification

Please use the public access system to set up an application search area for your property. This is the best way to ensure that you are notified of a planning or other application in your area of choice. We will continue to send letters to nearest neighbours but this relies on Royal Mail. Public access provides a full-proof mechanism to ensure you are notified.

*Email:*

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[Health and wellbeing](#)

## **Pulse Fitness Classes**

Keep yourselves fit and active with the Pulse. We are offering free online fitness classes to everyone.

Follow the Pulse on Facebook for our Facebook Live workouts:

- [https://www.facebook.com/thepulsedursley\\_](https://www.facebook.com/thepulsedursley_)

Our pre recorded workouts are here:

- [www.youtube.com/channel/UCygX0Gyuq\\_mHH-bu6XjuXSg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCygX0Gyuq_mHH-bu6XjuXSg)

Our instructors are working hard at home to record new classes, keep up to date on all new classes by visiting here: [www.pulsedursley.co.uk/news/online-classes/](http://www.pulsedursley.co.uk/news/online-classes/)

If you have any questions please get in contact.....

Email: [kelly.mackenzie@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:kelly.mackenzie@stroud.gov.uk)

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## Resources

# Youth Voice Update - Youth Voice Star Awards 2020

When two members of Stroud District Youth Council were invited to speak at a British Youth Council regional convention, they didn't know that they would be walking away with the Youth Voice Star Award for South West Youth-Led Organisation of the Year.

SDYC Chair, Helen March and Vice Chair, Lily Haines had been asked to make a presentation about the work carried out by the youth council to members of the British Youth Council in Exeter when the surprise announcement was made.

After being presented with the award, Helen said:

*"As a youth council, we feel so honoured to have been nominated by the British Youth Council and to have won this award. I think it's a testament to the dedication of all our members including those from local youth forum groups, and the work we have collectively put in over the last few years."*

*"It also reflects the commitment of our youth work team, who consistently facilitate our involvement with the BYC at both a regional and national level, as well as support us in every way locally. I think this award also shows that no matter how insignificant young people believe they might be, it is possible to make a difference to issues on a national level that matter in our lives locally – which is what youth voice is all about."*

Stroud District Youth Council represents the views of young people, giving them the opportunity to have a voice, discuss relevant issues, engage with decision makers and contribute to improving the lives of young people within communities.

Last year, Stroud District Council's Senior Youth Officer Steve Miles was crowned the South West's Youth Worker of the Year at the same event.

Steve added:

*"It's great to see young people rewarded for their efforts and the impact they make. In recent years SDYC have really taken local matters of concern to a national stage for debate. They have proposed changes to national BYC policy alongside large national youth organisations and have really made a huge difference."*

Cllr Mattie Ross, chair of SDC's Community Services and Licensing Committee said:

“This award is a nice reflection on the commitment to young people that Stroud District Council has shown for the last 20 years”. The British Youth Council are the UK’s national youth voice body – as a charity, they work to influence government policy and other national bodies on matters important to young people, whilst also carrying out work overseas.

Email: [steve.miles@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:steve.miles@stroud.gov.uk)



Health and wellbeing

## Youth Voice Update - Youth Friendly GP Surgery Initiative - progress so far!

Stroud District Youth Council (SDYC) have recently completed pilot work regarding their Youth Friendly GP Surgery Initiative - designed and developed by them with input from local GP's and commissioners.

The official launch of the initiative will hopefully be made later in this year. However, before the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus, a dedicated team of district youth councillors put the latest touches to the programme - it now features a bespoke logo and a 60 point assessment of surgeries in the district, designed and carried out by the youth council.

A report will be produced for each surgery, alongside the overall award status that is given. The initiative has been a significant piece of work over the last year for SDYC and is set to continue as a key project in 2020.

Email: [steve.miles@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:steve.miles@stroud.gov.uk)

Health and wellbeing

# 'Meet the Curator' goes digital

Each holiday at the Museum in the Park we run the popular 'Meet the Curator' - a chance to reveal objects not always on display!

From 30th March we are bringing our popular 'Meet the Curator' to our social media channels Twitter, Facebook and Instagram!

Each week our curator will pick five objects within a theme and we'll be posting one each weekday! Search for #meetthecurator

*Email: [museum@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:museum@stroud.gov.uk)*



[Health and wellbeing](#)

## Help us record your messages of hope

This is a momentous time in our history, an unprecedented and frightening time for many of us, and yet we know the people of the district have been spreading hope in the form of hand created rainbows in the windows of your homes.

We would like to collect your rainbow creations – your positive messages of hope and community. Once this crisis is over and the world begins to return to normal we would like to collect as many rainbows from the district as possible.

If you have painted or coloured a rainbow with your children (or if you made one yourself!) and would like to donate it to the Museum please save it for us for now. Write the name of the person who created it, their age and your town or village (or full address if you prefer) on the back.

If you have chalked a rainbow on your driveway, or created a rainbow in another form please send us a photo or send us the rainbow if that's possible – send to e-mail address.

At the appropriate time, we will release further details of how to donate your creations. Please do not bring them to the Museum – remember #stayathome #keepsafe

## **Town and Parish Councils – Covid 19: Responding to planning applications**

Dear Town and Parish Clerks,

In the last week, I have been asked by many clerks how the Development Management Service is functioning during the Covid 19 outbreak and how we are dealing with delayed responses to applications.

The Development Management function is now being carried out remotely, with staff working from home. This has had an impact on the delivery of the service, not least because officers are unable to undertake site visits to application sites since self-isolating was introduced. We are also having to ask applicants/agents to display their own site notices and provide photographs of application sites where appropriate to help process applications, but this is not possible in all cases.

At present, Government advice is that we must do our best to continue to process and determine planning applications in a timely manner, and not introduce any unnecessary delays. We are expecting a further update and advice from the Government on the functioning of planning services, including development management, towards the end of this week.

With regard to the role of Town and Parish Councils in the planning application process, Article 25 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 states that where a Town/Parish Council are given information in relation to a planning application, they must, as soon as practicable, notify the local planning authority whether they propose to make any representations and must submit the same within 21 days of the notification to them of the application.

The local planning authority must not determine the application until:

1. the Parish Council has informed the LPA that they do not propose to make any representations; or
2. the Parish Council has submitted representations; or
3. the 21 day period has elapsed

Therefore, the local planning authority is able to determine an application 21 days after it has notified a Town/Parish Council of an application.

As I hope all Town and Parish Councils are aware, the Development Management service has always tried to accommodate responses times, and we will continue to try to do so in these exceptional times. However, having regard to the provisions of Article 25 above, I must make you aware there may be cases where the local planning authority is required

to make a decision before hearing from you. I am hoping that such cases will be few and far between, as we are encouraging applicants to agree to extensions of time which should accommodate this.

If Government advice changes, I will let you know. If you have any queries about a particular application(s), please continue to contact the case officer, who will do their best to assist you.

May I also direct you to the planning pages on the Council's website for further information.

Kind regards,

Geraldine

*Email:*

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## **COVID-19: Find support groups in your area with a new interactive map – you can offer to help too**

*First published 26 March*

We know that lots of volunteer groups and organisations or charities are doing amazing work to help their communities during the Coronavirus pandemic.

To help you easily see what support is available in your area, Stroud District Council has created a community support map.

All the support groups on the map have either registered on the county-wide community help hub or are established charities and organisations within the district that we know are providing community support.

Many vulnerable people have already been identified but the nature of the Coronavirus pandemic means some people may need help and they have never had to ask before and some may not have a local network of family or friends – this is where the map comes into its own.

Click on the area where you live and you will be able to find the contact details of groups, organisations and charities which can help locally.

However, we believe there are more groups providing support and although we are already in touch with many of them, we need your help to find out about any more.

If you represent a community or volunteer group and your details are not on the community support map, please register on the [community help hub](#) and your details can be added to it so residents can access the support you are offering, subject to safeguarding checks.

If you need support, or know of anyone that might need support please register your needs on the same community help hub. We will then connect you with those that are providing support in your area.

- [View the community support map](#)

*“There is so much great work going on in our communities and we want to link it up so no-one misses out – and those who can help can maximise the effect of their good work,” said Stroud District Council Leader Doina Cornell. “The Community Support Map will bring those two elements together really effectively.*

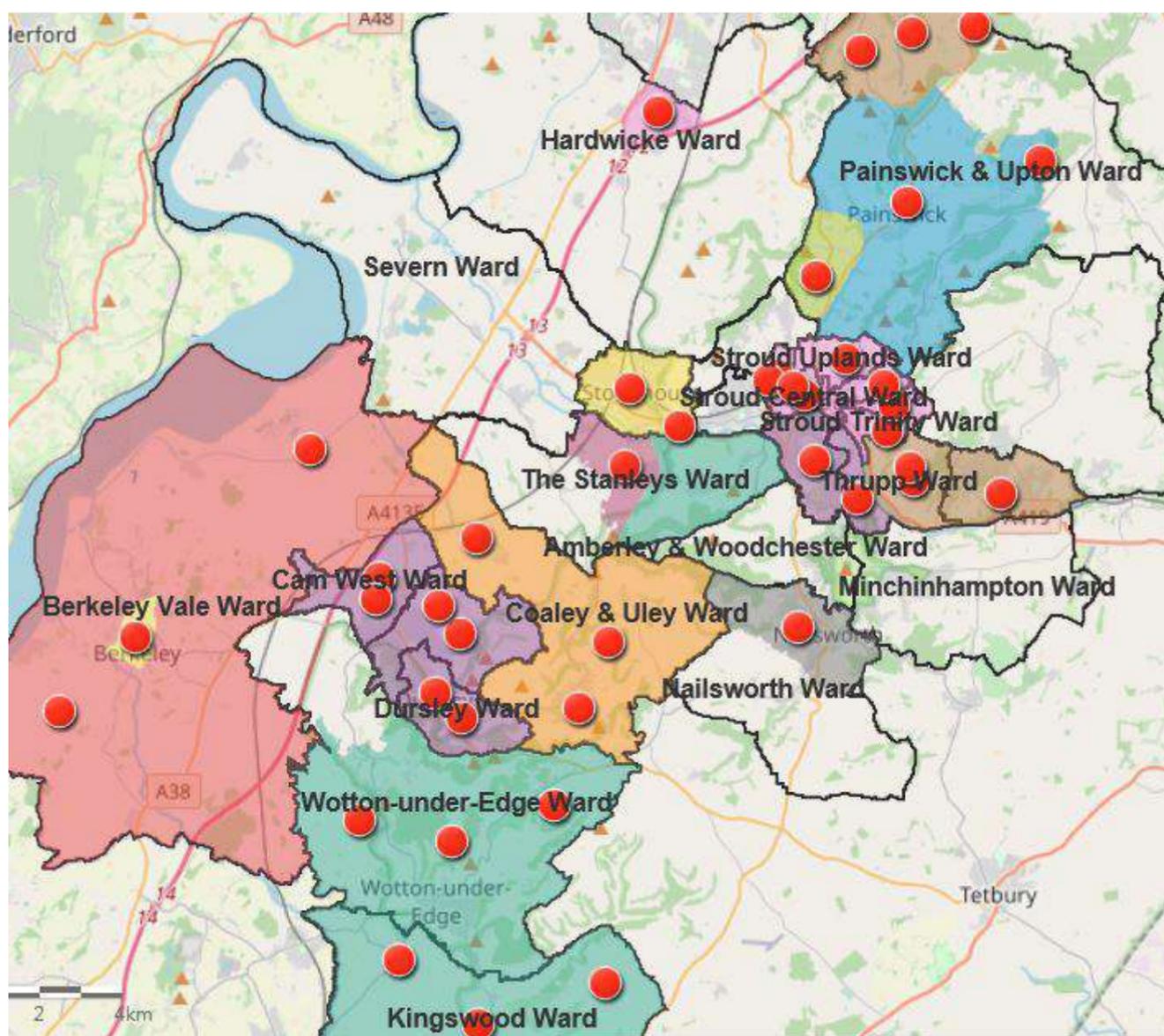
*“It will build a picture across the whole district, ensuring every community is covered.*

*“We know that by staying at home wherever possible we are protecting ourselves and others, and the NHS at this difficult time. This map will help stop the spread of the Coronavirus.*

*“I would urge any groups, organisations and charities which can help to register.”*

For more Stroud District Council updates on how we are supporting residents, businesses and the community through the Coronavirus pandemic, please visit [www.stroud.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/coronavirus), our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/strouddistrictcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/strouddistrictcouncil) or Twitter account @StroudDC

Email:



# **Statement: COVID-19 community resilience in Stroud district**

*First published 17 March*

Stroud District Council political group leaders Doina Cornell, Martin Whiteside, Ken Tucker and Stephen Davies, SDC Chief Executive Kathy O'Leary, Stroud MP Siobhan Baillie and The Cotswolds MP Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown have issued a joint statement to address residents' concerns and thank them for their co-operation and offers to help others in their communities.

*“Our communities are facing a challenge which has not been faced before but we are doing everything we can with partners to ensure we are as prepared and resilient as possible.*

*Experienced emergency planners have robust plans in place to help protect everyone who lives and works in the Stroud district. No-one will be left behind and no council tenant will lose their home because they are affected by COVID-19. Essential services are being prioritised to ensure they continue to run.*

*Residents most in need have been identified by Stroud District Council and partners to ensure they get the help that they require. As community leaders, we have also been impressed with the strong response from our communities and volunteer networks already. We have seen residents checking that neighbours are safe by offering support, reassurance or just a chat. Even small actions can have a positive impact. Please share what you are doing by using the hashtag #gloscommunity*

*We are collating information about trusted and resilient groups and organisations who can offer assistance to those at home either because they are self-isolating or unwell - please see our separate article `COVID-19: Find support groups in your area with a new interactive map':*

*To protect the public and staff, the decision had been taken to close the Museum in the Park in Stroud and The Pulse leisure centre in Dursley before the Government ordered all leisure centres and museums to close down.*

*It's important to remember that thousands of people are being tested each day and in most cases, the virus Covid-19 is mild. We should remain vigilant though and carry on with thorough hand washing and related personal hygiene measures. It's also very important to bear in mind guidance around distancing to protect the most vulnerable.*

*Please stay at home if you have a high temperature or you feel hot to touch on your chest or back and stay at home if you have a new, continuous cough. You do not need to contact 111 or to tell them you're staying at home - NHS advice is not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital in these cases.*

*However if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, please use NHS 111 online and only call 111 if you cannot get help online.”*

*Email:*

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**SDC's commitments to residents and businesses - we will do whatever it takes to help you**

*First published 20 March*

The challenges we face as a community from the coronavirus outbreak are unprecedented but we are well prepared to tackle them.

Our response is our top priority for the foreseeable future. We, the four Leaders of the Council's political groups, are committed to our collaborative leadership of Stroud District, ensuring that we care for and look after our most vulnerable residents, our key workers and everyone ready to help us. We are working closely with our partners. We will do this for as long as it takes.

We are working to maintain essential services to residents and businesses, while adjusting our working practices in line with Government and public health guidance. During this time some of our services will need to be reduced or postponed. We are working with our partner Ubico to ensure that waste and recycling collections continue as normal so please continue to put out your bins as usual by 6am on collection day. There is more waste guidance for people with confirmed or possible coronavirus infection on our webpage.

We have suspended all meetings for the time being and await new legislation from the Government to remove the need for face-to-face meetings to agree decisions at Council and Committees. The elections scheduled for May 2021 of the election of district, town and parish councillors and the Police & Crime Commissioner have been postponed for 12 months. Those in post will continue in their roles.

**We will:**

## **Support our residents**

You will find the answer to most of your questions on our website. This includes the latest information from the NHS and Public Health England on our coronavirus page together with a new Frequently Asked Questions section [www.stroud.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/coronavirus](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/coronavirus)

If you need to contact us, please email us at [customer.services@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@stroud.gov.uk) and if you can't, please call our Customer Services number, 01453 766321 during our weekday office hours of 8.45am – 5pm (4.30pm on Fridays). Please don't come to Ebley Mill which is now closed. If your enquiry is about benefits or council tax, please use a reference number if you have one. We have an out of hours emergency response service too.

We know that many residents who have been affected by coronavirus are concerned about how they will be able to afford to pay their bills. We will do all we can to help you through this difficult time. If you are experiencing financial hardship due to coronavirus, you may be able to make a claim for Universal Credit and council tax support. Please check our website for guidance then follow the online forms to make a claim. You will need to make a separate claim for council tax support. Our benefits team is working hard to process all claims as quickly as possible.

The Government has announced a new £500m hardship fund so local authorities can to support economically vulnerable people and businesses. We expect details to follow shortly, but it is expected that most of this will be used to provide more support through existing support schemes.

## **Support our businesses**

We are working with the GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership which is developing business support, advice and information – it can be contacted at [info@gfirstlep.com](mailto:info@gfirstlep.com) or Tweet @GFirstLEP

For all queries about business rates relief and hardship funding announced in the Budget, please check the dedicated section <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/coronavirus/businesses-and-employers> on our website in the first instance and email [customer.services@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@stroud.gov.uk) if you can't find the answer you need.

Information is being updated regularly here, so do check back and remember to follow us on Twitter @Strouddc too.

## **Co-ordinate our community response**

Already a lot of great work is being done by many community-spirited individuals and groups but some people don't benefit from being well-connected locally. A countywide Community Help Hub has been launched from the County Council's website. It has four areas:

- 'I can offer help' – for those who are able to support neighbours with tasks such as picking up prescriptions, shopping, dog walking and more
- 'I need help' – can be used by individuals to ask for support
- 'My neighbour needs help' – may be used by people to request help on behalf of a neighbour, relative or friend who cannot access the internet themselves
- 'My business can help' – will allow local businesses who may have skills and resources others could benefit from, to offer their help

All the information collected for Stroud District will be channelled back to us to carry out a matching exercise. We will put individual volunteers in touch with groups they can work with, and link vulnerable people with those best placed to help them.

The Community Help Hub is here [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/helphub](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/helphub)

## **Communicate**

We will use all communication channels to provide regular updates as the situation is fast-changing. We will do everything in our power to delay and later recover from the impact of coronavirus on our communities, and are determined to help you through this.

Cllr Doina Cornell, Leader of the Council (Labour)

Cllr Martin Whiteside, Alliance Group Leader (Green Party)

Cllr Ken Tucker, Alliance Group Leader (Liberal Democrats)

Cllr Stephen Davies (Conservative)

*Email:*

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## **We're changing council services to help fight Coronavirus**

*First published: Tuesday, 24 March, 2020*

Temporary changes are being made to some Stroud District Council's services in response to the Government's new measures to tackle the Coronavirus outbreak.

Our priorities at this time are to support residents and businesses, and co-ordinate our community response so those who need help will get it. That means diverting resources to maintain essential council services.

A number of decisions have been taken which will temporarily change the way services are run. They are:

**Ebley Mill** - The council offices at Ebley Mill are closed to members of the public. This is to protect everyone's health and help prevent spreading the virus. However staff are busy maintaining key services for residents and businesses during this difficult time.

The answers to most enquiries can be found on our website [www.stroud.gov.uk](http://www.stroud.gov.uk)

If you cannot find the information you need please get in touch with us by email in the first instance. A list of email addresses is here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/coronavirus/council-services>

If you cannot find the answer you are looking for and cannot email us, please call us on 01453 766321 but please bear with us as our capacity to answer telephones is reduced.

**Refuse, waste and recycling collections** - will run as normal for as long as possible. All residual waste must be in your grey wheelie bin; side waste will not be collected. If you have beige bags we will collect up to three bags per fortnight. Please help our crews by making sure your car is not blocking access. No further requests for replacement containers, bins or beige bags will be taken at this time.

**Bulky waste collections** - The bulky waste collection service has stopped taking new bookings for the moment. Existing bookings are still being serviced.

**Recycling centres** - (run by Gloucestershire County Council) are now closed.

**Street cleaning** - Street cleaning has been reduced.

**The Shambles Market and Stroud Farmers' Market** - The Shambles will run on Friday and Saturday with food stalls only.

The farmers' market will be closed, but the organisers have arranged a trial 'food hub' in the Cornhill Square part of the market for pre-order collection on Saturday. For full details please see the Facebook post <https://bit.ly/3dpNhSl>.

**Car parks** - SDC-owned car parks will remain open.

**Public toilets** - All public toilets are closed for the protection of public health.

**Stray dogs service** - Please report all lost and found dogs by phone as above. One of our Animal Welfare Officers will call you back to advise how we can best deliver found dogs to our holding kennels – this may involve a longer wait for collection than usual. Please do not take found dogs to vets as they are treating emergencies only.

**Play areas** - All SDC-run play areas are closed on instruction from the Government to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus.

*“We are diverting as much resource as we can so that we can help everyone in the district get through this very difficult period,” said Stroud District Council Chief Executive Kathy O’Leary. “We are experiencing reduced demand for some services, which can be scaled back for now. This means we can concentrate our efforts on supporting residents and businesses, and co-ordinating the community response to support the most vulnerable.”*

More detailed information about how council services have been affected and the latest information from the NHS is available here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/coronavirus>

As the current situation unfolds more people in our community are likely to need help. If you need help, or can offer help to others please register on our Community Help Hub page: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19/>

*Email:*

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## **Parking charges temporarily suspended**

*First published 25 March*

Enforcement of parking charges is being temporarily suspended in Stroud District Council-owned car parks. This is to help drivers needing to make essential trips.

This measure is being implemented so that the council can reallocate parking enforcement staff to critical services which are supporting residents, businesses and communities through the Coronavirus pandemic, and to help residents and the small number of essential businesses which the Government is allowing to stay open. The Council supports the Government’s view that health workers, social care workers and NHS volunteers should not have to pay for car parking as they go about their critical work.

It means motorists will be able to park free-of-charge in Parliament Street, Church Street, Cheapside, Rowcroft, London Road and Brunel Mall car parks in Stroud town - people can only make essential trips however.

Government measures introduced on Monday only permit travel for shopping for basic necessities such as food and medicine, which must be done as infrequently as possible, and any medical need or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person. Travelling to and from work is also permitted, but only where this is essential work and absolutely cannot be done from home.

All retail stores selling non-essential goods are closed as well as outdoor and indoor markets, excluding food markets. At all times people must observe a two metre gap when they are outside.

*“This will help everyone including key workers like those working in the NHS and our other important services to collect essential food and medicine with one less thing to worry about,” said Stroud District Council Leader Doina Cornell.*

*“These are exceptional times and this frees up more staff resource to help where it’s needed – our number one priority is supporting residents, businesses and communities through this, and taking this step will help.”*

Payment machines are being covered up in the car parks where charges are normally levied. This measure will be reviewed on a regular basis and any changes will be fully communicated in advance.

Motorists with season tickets can have them frozen during this period, so they won’t lose out. To suspend a permit please contact [parking@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:parking@stroud.gov.uk).

For all updates on how Stroud District Council is responding to the Coronavirus pandemic, please visit [www.stroud.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/coronavirus)

*Email:*



## **COVID-19: Council leaders unite to help protect everyone in Stroud District**

*First published: Tuesday, 31 March, 2020*

Stroud District Council's elected leaders are united in their thanks to everyone who is pulling together in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic – and have underlined their commitment to ensure that no-one is left behind.

They appreciate how life for residents and businesses has changed hugely in just a few weeks. The Council is responding by putting in to place emergency plans to prioritise services which matter most.

That means upping its customer contact and community response services and targeting help to support the most vulnerable, and changing the way many services including Council Tax payment, parking charges, business rates, waste and recycling collections, environmental health and licensing are administered.

*“This is an unprecedented situation and firstly I want to thank everyone in our district who is doing their bit – workers in the NHS, public sector, emergency services, and those working to ensure essential food and supplies reach us,” said Council Leader Doina Cornell (Labour).*

*“As a Council we support those of our staff in isolation or who fall ill, and all bar a handful of our fit and well staff are already working from home. At the same time our staff are focusing on the most important services that our residents, businesses and community groups need.”*

While recognising that many community groups are mobilising help and assistance across neighbourhoods in the district, SDC has set up an online interactive map to show where help can be offered by resilient, trusted groups across the whole district so no-one is missed. SDC Neighbourhood Wardens are communicating with Town and Parish Councils, to ensure everyone gets the service they need.

*“Community response is key to getting the district through this incredibly tough time,” said Green Group Leader, Councillor Martin Whiteside. “This district is a really special place with many people who care about their neighbours. We want to make sure that the effect of all that good work is maximised.”*

Another key area where the council is experiencing extra demand is customer contact, so we have moved officers across to that service to help give residents the answers they need.

*“There is a lot of information on a dedicated Frequently Asked Questions section of the council website, and a live blog running of all the major updates every day,” said Councillor Ken Tucker, Liberal Democrat Group Leader. “That information is being updated and shared all the time too but if you need more information, you can email [customer.services@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@stroud.gov.uk) or call 01453 766321.”*

Last week the council temporarily suspended charging for off-street parking to help key workers and essential businesses. We are working on how council tax relief can be managed through a £500million Government hardship fund, offering 100% business rate relief to many who usually pay, and will soon be issuing grants from Government of £10,000 and £25,000 to qualifying businesses.

There is also advice on the council website for taxi and private hire operators, and for pubs, cafes and restaurants which have had to close to the public but want to run temporarily as takeaways. Currently waste and recycling collections are operating as normal but residents are asked not to put additional pressure on the service by presenting higher volumes of waste than normal.

*“This is an ever-changing situation which the council has planned for and is responding to,” said Conservative Group Leader Stephen Davies. “It is important that we all stand together at a very difficult time like this and unite to work for the benefit of everyone in the district.”*

For more Stroud District Council updates on how we are supporting residents, businesses and the community through the Coronavirus pandemic, please visit [www.stroud.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/coronavirus) our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/strouddistrictcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/strouddistrictcouncil) or Twitter account @StroudDC

*Email:*

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#### Resources

## Scantastic news! Our new e-post service

Democratic Services' Nick Hutchinson took on mailroom duties just over a week ago and has now set up his 'e-post room'. Although he has been working fulltime to get the hang of it he will be moving to three days a week next week as long as we continue to take the post at Ebley Mill.

He's working with regular mail room assistant Shaun Teemul who collects the post, sorts into service areas and gives to Nick, Nick scans and emails the documents to the relevant service and sorts which documents need to go back to the sender, and Shaun franks all the outgoing mail.

Nick says:

*"Tell me, was it something I said? I only ask because within a couple of weeks of starting a temporary post in Democratic Services & Elections the May elections have been cancelled and Ebley Mill has all but emptied. I've also noticed that people seem to be deliberately distancing themselves from me. I'll try not to take it personally.*

*"I know we're all adapting to new workloads and work/life patterns as the Coronavirus lockdown continues. For me that means in addition to my Elections duties I've now become your intrepid e-Postman, selflessly slaving over a hot scanner all day so that the Council's army of homeworkers can still access the hundreds of hard copy documents received in the post. As a relative newcomer it's impressive to see the breadth of issues you deal with – you have my respect.*

*"In truth I'm happy to be able to help in any way. 30 years in the MOD taught me that whatever your individual role there's great satisfaction to be gained by being part of a team supporting a major coordinated effort. I also suppose being your e-Posty is a great way to quickly learn who works where and what you all do. Bear with me though if I occasionally foul up - it can be surprisingly tricky to operate the scanners' touch screen when your hands are covered in sanitising gel."*

*Email:*





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