

## **SDC Report – for June 2025**

### **Council meetings**

*Link to meeting agenda and documents in the committee title.*

#### **Development Control Committee - 20 May**

- Hunts Grove Phase 4, Hunts Grove Drive, Hardwicke, Gloucester, S.20/0103/REM
  - Reserved matters application for a community building, grass playing pitches, an artificial pitch, tennis courts, a local equipped area of play (leap), car parking and associated infrastructure.
  - Changes to the 2024 scheme. Issues around S106 cost cap which takes precedence, design of building and pitches, Sports England unhappy and Highways had drainage concerns, ecology too; bat roosts and newts. Now more community hub than sports hub.
  - Officers confident a good compromise has been reached but councillors are very unhappy.
  - Parish council unhappy about reduced scale and cost cap and want management transferred to them
  - Crest, the developer, accept it's their responsibility for the delay, but have worked with parish council to deliver
  - Lots of discussion on failure to deliver on a S106 and consequences thereof
- Permitted - despite all the Councillor reservations etc.
- **Video recording**

#### **Full Council - 22 May**

- Chair, Vice-Chair, Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council were appointed.
  - Cllr Kate Kay, Cllr Matthew Sargeant, Cllr Chloe Turner & Cllr Catherine Braun respectively.
- New Chair of Environment committee appointed, Cllr Martin Pearcy.
- Wonderful and moving tributes for former Cllr John Marjoram, Cllr Richard Maisey & Richard Bloodworth.
- Appointments to SDC committees, chairs and vice-chairs and other council appointments
- Appointment of a new Monitoring Officer

- [Video recording](#)

## Other news

- The Council is running a [short survey](#) on how it consults and engages with its communities and stakeholders to ensure that they are listened to and can influence decisions that are made.
- Stroud District Council has [won a national award](#) in recognition of its outstanding work to protect the safety of its tenants.
- Councillor Chloe Turner has been elected the new [Leader of the Council](#) for the 2025/26 civic year.
- SDC's website is easier to use with the Recite Me features. [Further feedback is needed](#) on what other improvements could be made.
- [Hope for Tomorrow](#), a Stonehouse-based charity, has been selected by Stroud District Council's staff and councillors as their charity of the year for 2025-26.
- Look out for SDC News: bringing council updates to your doorstep. An online version can be viewed [here](#).
- The tennis courts at Active Lifestyles Stroud, in Stratford Park, have been named Park Venue of the Year at the LTA - Tennis For Britain county awards!
- Two Stroud residents have been [sentenced for animal welfare offences](#) after dogs were found in poor, filthy and cramped conditions.
- [Businesses and community organisations in rural parts of the district can now apply for a share of £120,000 for capital projects](#). SDC also has £40,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) grants available for capital projects located anywhere in Stroud district.
- StroudFunding (SDC's crowdfunding platform, where eligible projects are topped up with SDC funding) - the next round will be launched in late June 2025. Workshops will be planned for mid-July, with a deadline to have your project ready by the end of September.
- SDC's Apprenticeship programme has reopened, with five apprenticeships now open for applications, to start in September 2025. All the [details are on the website](#), alongside other job vacancies at the Council, and Apprenticeship Open Evenings are being held in the SDC Restaurant at Ebley Mill on 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June, 4-7pm.
- Work on local government reorganisation has now restarted in earnest following the county elections and towards the November 28<sup>th</sup> deadline by which final proposals will be submitted. Officers from all levels are working together on a variety of workstreams to begin to set out the detail for both the

proposed single and two-unitary models. There is limited clarity how the new structures will work but the minister did state in his recent letter to local authorities that:

“Local Government Reorganisation should facilitate better and sustained community engagement, and I welcome the steps areas are taking to consider how to maintain strong community voice. A simplified and standardised system of local area-working and governance is needed, and neighbourhood Area Committees, led by frontline ward councillors, are the best route to achieve this. Neighbourhood Area Committees support local authorities to deliver their commitments to community partnership-working at a neighbourhood level. There are also opportunities to bring in other service providers into broader membership of neighbourhood Area Committees, for instance town or parish councillors where they exist, and co-opted members from other local community organisations. This allows for the benefit of structural efficiencies from Local Governance Reorganisation while deepening localism and engagement across every community.”

As we go forward with local government reorganisation, please let us know if there is anything you would find helpful in the way of engagement and consultation, or if you would like us to feed anything else into the wider process.