

Report of activities from Cam District Councillors (October 2024)

Cllrs. Ian Hamilton, Milly Hill, Terri Kinnison and Chris Haynes

Littlecombe section 106 money

At a recent Cam Parish Council meeting Milly Hill was asked about section 106 money arising from the Littlecombe Estate.

We are aware that some of the money (£25k) is going to GL11 but beyond that we are awaiting confirmation of further allocations.

Surgeries

We have so far run two Councillor surgeries, hosted by Milly and Terri and Chris and Milly. Next is due on 7 November and will feature Ian and Terri.

Case work

Case work is dominated by housing issues. Mostly requests for repairs and improvements, especially heating and insulation.

Working closely with Officers to resolve requests in a timely manner.

Home improvements: Community Health & Wellbeing Grants

Milly has been looking from a housing perspective at what we can do to help residents, council, private renters and owner occupiers, to obtain funding for retrofit.

She reports that there are sources available which could be utilised in Cam. She looked at Springfields, Springfields Court and Holywell Road and about 20% of the properties are eligible for free cavity wall insulation which will save about £200 per property on heating. This would, if fully rolled out, save about £350k per year in Cam. That would also deliver social value of about £900k.

The challenge is how we go about getting people to take the action. She suggests that an initiative by the GL11 Community Hub, the NHS (GPs probably), local councillors, SDC and the CAB could get the ball rolling and then social contagion could get others to do so.

Residents Associations

During case work we have been encouraging leaseholder in small blocks to form residents' associations. There are several sources of help including:

Age UK

Offers advice on setting up a residents' association and suitable constitutions

Federation of Private Residents' Associations (FPRA)

A not-for-profit organization that offers legal, insurance, management, and building guidance to residents' associations, tenants, and leaseholders. The FPRA can help with issues such as service charges, major works, and changing managing agents.

Committee Work

Development Control Committee

Chris Haynes has been looking into the Box Road planning conditions that have not been met. He will report on this separately in due course.

Community Services and Licensing

Participated in task and Finish Group for Taxi Licensing. To consider review of Stroud District Council's taxi and private hire policy - vehicle age on first licensing and driver medicals. Resolved to:

- a. amend Stroud District Council's Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Policy to change the age criteria on first licensing a vehicle from the current policy of 5 years old or less, to 7 years old or less. The current exemptions for electric vehicles, low emission vehicles and wheelchair accessible vehicles to continue.
- b. The change in policy to be implemented from 1st November 2024.

Sat on a licensing hearing for new restaurant on London Road, Stroud. Plus a second hearing for another new licensed premises on Lansdown, Stroud.

Supported a resolution to provide information to allow Council to adopt a final revised Statement of Principles as recommended by Community Services and Licensing Committee. The Statement outlines the principles Stroud District Council will apply when exercising its functions under the Gambling Act 2005. The current Statement expires on 30th January 2025.

Supported a resolution to adopt a Cultural Strategy for Stroud district and approved Approve the allocation of £250,000 to support the delivery of an Action Plan. Public report provides context, recommendations and the action plan with resource implications for the adoption and implementation of the Strategy later in the year.

As an additional action I am supporting a request from Creative Community (led by Abi Nichols and Deb Brooks) for funds to support participation in the National Gallery's workshop programme for students and community members.

Strategy and Resources

Attended meetings and supported resolutions on:

1. To seek approval to the Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit Partnership Collaboration Agreement between Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Borough and Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Stroud and West Oxfordshire District Councils.
2. Considered and supported a resolution to request approval for an additional capital budget to deliver the scheme following recommendation from Housing Committee. Following successful delivery of 20 properties to be held in the HRA for people fleeing conflict with funding from the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) rounds 1 and 2, a further opportunity has arisen for LAHF round 3.
3. Reviewed Budget Monitoring report and a report on the foundations of the SDC budget setting process.

Outside Bodies

1. Appointed to liaise with Kingshill House Creative Arts trust. Currently attending Board meetings and helping to plan for the new FY.

Other activity

Cam Health Hub

Working on a concept for a Cam Health Hub in conjunction with fellow councillors and Cam Parish Council. So far have consulted with Community Services and Licensing in regard to inclusion of an annex to the Pulse, and SDC Head of Strategic Planning; Cam & Uley Family Practice of GPs, Chapel Street Dentist (which is 100% NHS), the Integrated Care Bureau and NHS Gloucestershire. Also consulted Simon Opher.

Currently planning stakeholder meetings to develop requirements for a feasibility study to site the Health Hub on the economic development site in Draycott. This is in development with CPC and would potentially be funded with CIL money.

Free bike racks

Free bike racks will be installed at The Quarry Chapel and Kingshill house. This is a SDC project - search for cycling on the council website. 'Stroud District Council has partnered with Lifecycle UK to provide free bike stands for businesses and organisation across the district.

Funded by SDC through our Walking and Cycling project, your organisation can apply for up to 4 free "Sheffield" cycle stand hoops to help create greener, healthier and more accessible communities.'

Terri will be looking for more places to help, do contact her or any of the Councillors.

Veterans Breakfast

Milly and Ian attended a breakfast for veterans at the Railway that is organised by Frankie and Rockie. Lots of interesting conversations, mostly about winter fuel allowance and local environment.