

Stroud District Council and its Neighbourhood Warden Service

***‘Working in Partnership for a Safer
Community’***

Chris Acock

Neighbourhood Wardens

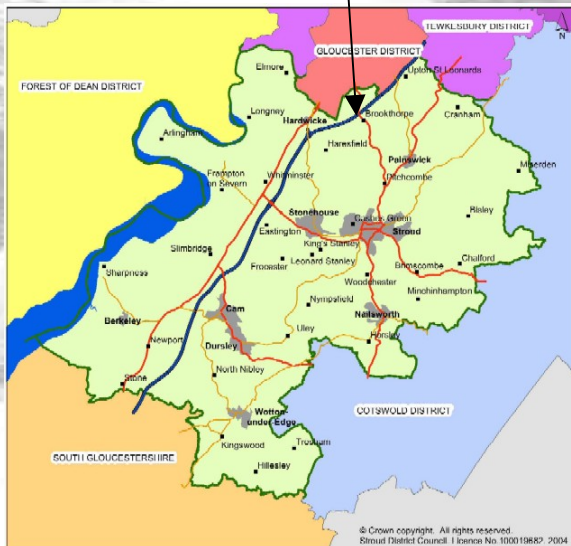
Stroud District Council



Where are we?



- Lying on the 'fringes' of Gloucester and Bristol
- Stroud: 453 sq km/population of 108,000
- Our urban neighbours: Gloucester, Cheltenham & Bristol

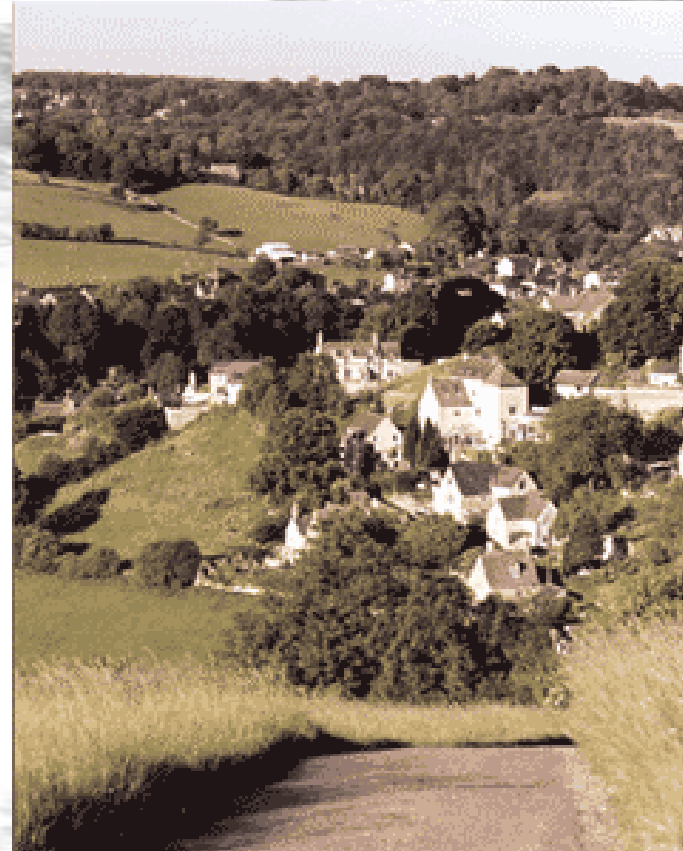


- Mainly a rural district – mainly affluent with areas of deprivation
- Stroud District Council area is nestled within the Cotswolds, sandwiched between the M5 and M4



Challenges in Rural Areas

Poverty
Access to Services
Unemployment
Lack of Transport
Isolation
Sparsity



A Rural Overview

One in four people live in rural areas

■ Public consensus across Britain:

“The countryside is a healthier environment, less crime and has stronger social ties than in urban areas”

■ 14% of housing stock in rural areas is public / social rented housing compared with 23% in urban areas

■ 19% of people who are homeless & in priority need are in rural areas.

■ 14% of the most income-deprived wards in England are rural

■ 69% of rural people drive to work compared to 59% of people in urban areas



Council Vision, Aims and Key Priorities

- Vision

To make Stroud District a better place to live, work and visit for everyone.

- Corporate Aims

- To prevent and reduce crime and disorder
- To maintain and improve the community's health
- To create and expand recreational and cultural opportunities
- To help those in particular need
- To protect and improve the environment
- To help build economic prosperity



Key Priorities

- **Regeneration**
To promote the economic vitality of towns and villages
- **Environment**
To create a better local environment
- **Affordable Housing**
To provide affordable and decent housing
- **Community Safety**
To create safer and stronger communities
- **Healthy Living**
To promote health and well being



Community Safety Unit Includes

- Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator
- Car Parking Enforcement Officers
- Civil Contingencies (emergency planning)
- Community Safety Officer (older people)
“Care Line”
- Health & Wellbeing Partnership Officer
- Neighbourhood Warden's



Neighbourhood Wardens - Background

- Launched July 2002 with:
 - * 1 Senior Neighbourhood Warden
 - * 1 Neighbourhood Warden
- Mainstreamed funded by the District Council
- 10% 3yr financial commitment by Town & Parish Councils where Neighbourhood Wardens operate
- Now operate with 11 Neighbourhood Wardens all mainstreamed funded

- Costs: £170,000 per year approx
- Managed by the Community Safety Manager Paul Helbrow
- Supervised by two Senior Neighbourhood Wardens Ashley Nicolson and Chris Acock

Easily recognised by the green and beige uniforms and distinctive livery on their vehicles.



Neighbourhood Wardens – Their role



- 80% of time patrolling selected areas of the Stroud District
- Undertake a non-enforcement role
- Act as the 'eyes and ears' of the areas they serve
- Visit new and existing vulnerable people – every day
- Emphasis of reducing ASB and act as a visual deterrent



....their role

- Restorative projects with YOS
- Present on Community Safety initiatives
- Fast track removal of environmental crime
- Build community confidence and act as a vital link between communities and agencies
- ‘Virtual Teams’
- Strong link with Town & Parish Councils
- And lots, lots more



...their role continued





- Abandoned vehicles

- Fly tipping



Challenges

- Criminal damage/ASB

- Fly posting

- Maintaining community reassurance



Fly-posting

*Thinking of
Fly Posting?*



STOP!

*don't get
burnt - use*

'FACTOR 4'

- 4 weeks
- 4 miles
- 4 days

*Respect for people, their point
of view and their property*

For those planning to advertise an event or function by 'Fly Posting', this leaflet outlines how to avoid prosecution or penalties under the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003



- Fly-posting – unsightly and downgrading to the community
- Leads to an appearance that no one cares
- Other environmental crime spreads into the area
- Clearance cost implications to the Council and other agencies
- Possible danger to the safety of the public and road users



Abandoned Vehicles

- The anti-social use of motor vehicles – a major concern
- Creates an eyesore
- Encourages vandalism and arson
- Endangers lives, property and the environment
- Wardens trained to deal with AV's
- County fastrack removal contract now in place



Police Links

- Safer Community Teams (SCT's)
- Public Panels
- Regular daily contact
- Links to the Police extended family –
- PCSO's
- Mobile Police Station
- INA Intelligent Officers
- Specials



What's to come....?

- 12 Wardens covering all of SDC by April 2009
- 4 Wardens based in each of the three INAs, Dursley, Stonehouse and Stroud
- Level 2 City & Guilds NVQ in Community Wardening for all Wardens

Adopted powers: ?

- * Confiscation of alcohol & cigarettes
- Fixed penalty notices
- Littering
- Dog Fouling



Conclusion

- The Stroud Neighbourhood Warden service is focused on community reassurance and betterment for those who live there
- We seek to address public concern over crime and anti-social behaviour
- To work effectively with our partners to bring about positive change and to continually develop the Neighbourhood Warden service



The End

Questions ?

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