

NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SERVICE

The current Neighbourhood Warden (NHW) team has a strength of 5. Recent changes to the team have seen the Senior Neighbourhood Warden leave to be replaced by an Interim Principal Community Services Officer with a line management role for the NHW's. A new NHW started in July 2023 and after an initial four-week training with the other NHW is now responsible for Stroud Town, Paganhill, Cainscross and Cashes Green areas. The new NHW has a background in housing and is very experienced and will be an asset to the warden's service. She will be working with another NHW who has excellent knowledge of their new area.

One of our more long standing experienced NHW who has been in post for over 15 years is retiring at the end of September 2023.

The Senior Neighbourhood Warden role was absorbed by the interim principal community services officer, who oversees the daily activity of the wardens and work allocation.

We have made small changes to the areas that each Warden covers, this allows us to be more closely aligned to Tenant Services NMO areas, we envisage that this will forge even closer links between the services. A new map will be available on the NHW pages on the website and will also be emailed to all Town and Parish Councils.

NHWs have recently completed first aid refresher training including the use of defibrillators, modern slavery awareness, domestic abuse awareness, anti-social behaviour training, managing conflict & aggression training. They will be undertaking negotiation training provided by Gloucestershire Police in September 2023. Further training will be done throughout the remainder of 2023 and beyond.

Stroud Neighbourhood Wardens Core Responsibilities and Functions

1. Installing and maintaining Careline equipment
2. Abandoned Vehicles
3. Fly Tipping
4. Supporting vulnerable people including
5. Low level Anti-social behaviour
6. Stroud District Council Mandatory Training

Tony Dix, Interim Principal Community Services Officer
Email: tony.dix@stroud.gov.uk

The NHWs continue to promote national and local campaigns including the annual 16 days of action campaign (25th November – 10th December 2023) which promotes support available to those people who are at risk or suffering Sexual violence/Domestic Abuse. Hate Crime awareness week (14th – 22nd October 2023.) They have been involved in promoting the ‘Safe Spaces’ scheme which encourages local businesses to take part by providing a safe space for someone who feels vulnerable or in need of a place of safety for whatever reason.

NHWs have been involved in community projects and working with community payback (Probation) to clear overgrown footpaths highlighted by local residents as places where they do not feel safe. To date two locations have been completed, Mill Farm Drive Paganhill & Festival Road Stonehouse, there are other projects around the district. They also attend local hubs and provide assistance, support, and guidance to local communities. They continue support open days across the district to highlight the warden service.

The Holiday Activity & Food (HAF) Project continue to run during the school Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday periods. They also deliver food vouchers to those residents in the district who have been hit hard by the cost-of-living crisis.

The Wardens continue to deliver, collect, and where necessary install and maintain Careline equipment During a careline visit the wardens also give crime prevention, fire safety, hoarding, food voucher, energy, and utility priority scheme advice.

The Wardens continue to have a strong working relationship with the Stroud Local Policing team throughout the whole district and work with them on anti-social behaviour, community engagement and the reduction of the fear of crime. e.g., visible reassurance patrols were undertaken in Chapel Street following a sudden death. They assisted with supporting residents and businesses following the recent floods in June 2023 by going door to door to ask if anyone was in need of assistance. They also provided road safety advice to motorists who were impacted by the road closure outside Ebley Mill after a suspected sink hole after the deluge of rain June 2023.

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