

Forum supports town's sports plans

A £1,500 grant from Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum is helping Nailsworth in its battle to save vital sports facilities from local authority cutbacks.

Stroud District Council stopped funding and staffing the Nailsworth Recreation Centre, based at Nailsworth Primary School, from April 1. The centre has two large halls and an outdoor soccer pitch and is used by a range of local sports clubs.

Norman Kay, chairman of the town council's Recreation and Amenities Committee, said the partnership has so far raised more than half the funding needed.

"We are really grateful to Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum for its support to protect and enhance recreation facilities in Nailsworth," he said. "This centre offers the biggest sports facilities available to local clubs, and it would be a severe detriment to the town if we lost them."

Nailsworth Town Council, in partnership with the school and local clubs, has been negotiating with the district council to take over the use of the recreation centre through a new body, the Nailsworth Sports Partnership.

The partnership needs to raise £10,300 to adapt the centre to provide security for the school, so it can be used by sports clubs without staff on site.

The work includes a new corridor, security doors and an access key control. Only registered clubs will be able to book, and the centre aims to become financially self-sufficient through booking fees.

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The Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum (GMTF) www.glosmtf.org.uk is a membership organisation of the county's rural towns and large parishes, offering its members networking, support and funding through its Development Fund and Technical Assistance schemes, to help regenerate their rural communities.

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