

Statue of MP is to stay in town centre

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by Suzanne Leigh

THE fate of Stroud's sole statue has been secured for the foreseeable future.

Councillors meeting last night heard that the well-known statue of George Holloway was staying put after all.

A spokesman for the town council said: "It was stated at the meeting that the statue is going to remain where it is for the present time."

He added: "As it is understood, there is no chance of it being relocated at the moment."

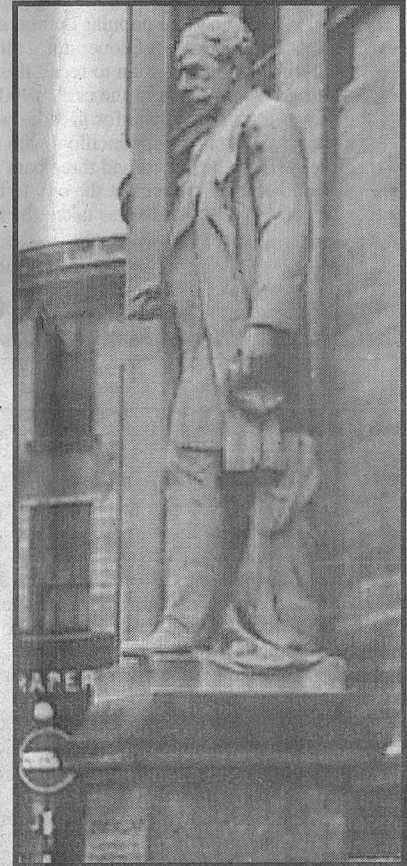
A question-mark hung over the future of the stone statue of Victorian benefactor and local Conservative MP Holloway after it was rumoured it could be taken away during rationalisation by the company that owned it.

But chief executive of the Original Holloway Friendly Society Ian Gardner said the statue was safe in Stroud.

The society still owns the stone figure and the patch of land at Rowcroft where it stands. But since it no longer has a base at Stroud it had approached the town council to see if it could be moved to a more prominent position.

Councillors meeting in September pledged they would fight to keep the statue in Stroud – and the Original Holloway Friendly Society offered to either keep it where it was or pay to have it positioned elsewhere in the town. But there was disagreement among town councillors as to where it should be put.

The statue is Stroud's only public statue. A ram's head at the top of the High Street is the only other public piece of artwork in the town centre. Plans were under way to install a relief mural of late Slad author Laurie Lee at the Painswick Inn Project, but these have stalled due to lack of funding.



■ The statue of former MP George Holloway.