

Evenlode Parish Council Meeting 21st November 2022

Report from GCC Cllr. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

- **Future Local Road Closures Include:**

Footpath closure Moreton FP HHM14, Fosseyway Av to Allotment Gdns, Little

Rissington – Wyck Beacon to Little Rissington – 29th Nov to 6th Dec

- Christmas Holiday activities and food program funded by the Department of Education between 19th & 22nd December – bookings open 1st December. Information on activities is found at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf. Applications for those eligible for free school meals – reception to year 11 – where vouchers of £15 per week per child, for 2 weeks can be found at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/holiday-school-meal-vouchers/.
- Cabinet is due to confirm a spend of £24.9m during 2022/23 on new schools and refurbishment of existing, all part of a £100m commitment. This is on the back of new schools in Leckhampton and Cheltenham to the value of £44.5m already this year.
- A Cost-of-living “Support Hub” is launched by the GCC alongside a county warm bank offer. Following county wide consultation the Hub will focus on five key areas – money, food, energy, warm spaces and protecting health & wellbeing – all of which is available on-line and shortly in printed format.
- “Warm and Welcome” spaces will be located in libraries and offer: Warm places to relax, Hot drinks, Free access to the internet & Wi-Fi, Access to computers, Charging points, Advice for further support, Free activities such as homework support, Knit & Natter and Library Clubs
- Waste Wizard. A new webtool has been launched by the Gloucestershire Resources & Waste Partnership to help households recycle sustainably. By typing in the item, you want to get rid of and your postcode it will tell you how and where it can be collected/ deposited and recycled. This will assist in what goes into what bin and whether it can be recycled or even given to charity. People are asked to crush cans, plastic bottles, cardboard boxes etc to more will be able to fit into the collection vehicles, this reducing the number of journeys.
- Recycle your food to cut waste & carbon. A new initiative between the GCC and the 6 District Councils to show how we can substantially reduce the 55,000 tons of food waste and the 137500 tonnes of CO2 created producing and transporting food. Roughly the same amount of CO2 by taking 12% of Gloucestershire’s cars off the road. For information: www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/food
- Increased support for Ukrainian guests and sponsors in response to cost-of- living increases. From Nov – Jan 2023 a payment £125 towards fuel cost increases. ‘Hosts’ who extend their welcome over and above the initial 6 months will receive a further £100pm on top of the standard £350 monthly payment.

Currently the numbers are:

UK Applications Issued 198,100, with 143,100 people arriving. 1,533 issued in the county and 1,274 having arrived. In the Cotswolds we have 320 issued and 268 people having arrived and staying within 135 family homes. Across the county 367 children have been placed in schools near to their new homes.

- New Electric Vehicle Charge Points. The GCC will install vehicle charge points within council owned land including Quayside car park by Shire Hall and up to 37 sites such as fire stations, libraries & highway depots.
The Edge of Care team will replace their vehicles with Nissan Leaf electric vehicles as part of the councils plan to improve our sustainability to net zero by 2045 and reduce emissions by 80% by 2030.
- Fire & Rescue working closer with the Police. It has been agreed that Newent and Winchcombe fire stations are suitable for the police to establish additional operating bases. It's hoped that this collaboration will greatly help more of a local presence as well as encourage Specials and volunteer Community Support Officers. Other fire stations are being reviewed for the same arrangement.
- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has commenced an 18-month review of the GCC's division boundaries owing to the growth of population. Any changes will take effect as of the May 2025 County Council elections. Full consultation will take place with input from local stakeholders, Parish, District and County Council.
 - The County Council is working on being allowed to establish two Investment Zones. One being Central Gloucestershire City Region (Golden Valley, creating 2,424 homes & 45 hectares of mixed employment. Elm Park for 6,373 new homes & 10 hectare business park, Tewkesbury Garden Town for 10,195 homes & 100 hectares for employment and Gloucester Airport for 650 homes & 21 hectares for employment). The other zone being the Berkeley Alternative Energy Park.
- Gloucestershire's Armed Forces Covenant Partnership is inviting the local Armed Forces community to have their say on a new community hub to provide information and support. The partnership comprises over 50 organisations, including the county council, police, district councils, health service and charities. The partnership is looking to get feedback from those in the community who have personal or family knowledge of the Armed Services.
- The County Council has been able to save many of the cancelled Stagecoach routes saving many of the 300,000 journeys struck from their timetable owing to ongoing staffing shortages. Contracts have been awarded but there remain some routes where an alternative provider is yet to be found. The new Robin, on demand service should well be able to help the North Cotswolds www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/travel/TheRobin. The County Council subsidizes bus operators to the tune of £10m a year. The new service runs north from A40 through to isolated communities with no alternative bus service. It runs Monday – Saturday 7am to 7pm other than Bank Holidays.
- Levelling up Together - £1.5m grant scheme. 10 of the most deprived communities, mainly in and around Gloucester and Cheltenham, and across the county are eligible to apply for grants towards making life better for children and adults by offering opportunities in wellbeing, skills and employability.
- Our Libraries have received a £750k funding award from the Arts Council, payable over 3 years. This is alongside the Innovation Lab rollout across the county where IT sections are being opened within the libraries. The most recent being in Chipping Campden on Tuesday 1st November.
- We are now assured that the 'missing link' on the A417, a £460m project to radically improve the Air Balloon junction is going ahead next year, despite cutbacks in capital programs.
- Do remember my annual Highway Fund that can contribute to minor transport related works in and around our communities.