

REPORT FROM MARK M-C GLOUCESTERSHIRE CC COUNCILLOR

• Local Road Closures:

Stow, Church Walk walkway repairs 19th Aug – 16th Feb 2024

Cutsdean/ Temple Guiting – Buckle Street by Jackdaw's Castle, 28th & 29th Nov B4068 from A436 Stow Road to Tally Ho Gate outside Naunton 9.30am - 3.30pm Scheduled: 27 Nov 2023 to 1 Dec 2023

Lower Oddington outside Cheyney Cottage 2-way lights. 30th Nov to 6th Dec 2023

• Highways – The Big Community Offer. A new approach to give you a better say in the management of highways in your area. www.goucestershire.gov.uk/extra/highways-yourway Community Action will help with such things as winter issues, Rights of Way, HGVs, street lighting, flood warnings etc.

Community Match – if you feel you badly need some improvements GCC will go 50/50 with your parish and your Councillor may help as well.

Community Top-up – a list of services and equipment can be bought direct from the GCC. For example, traffic surveys etc.

• Have your say on a new political map for GCC. The Local Government Boundary Commission is looking for feedback on their proposals to redraw the Divisions so as to even up the number of electorates in each. Currently there are 53 Divisions and it is proposed that this will increase to 55. Details can be found at: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/goucestershire

• Do you need new grit bins? Apply to your local Highways Manager for replacement ones or resitting existing ones. It's also time to order salt.

• Bids to provide ultra-fast full-fibre broadband are being invited to share in £35m funding. It's estimated that 8,118 properties have sluggish speeds using outdated copper connections. The target areas being the Forest of Dean, Tewkesbury and East Gloucestershire. To date GCC has invested £30m in providing digital infrastructure.

• 26 locations have been identified as part of the initial phase to eventually provide 1,000 electric vehicle charging point across the county. The locations targeted are those where no off-street parking is available. It's estimated that 1/3rd of residents and business will benefit.

• Gloucestershire has been successful in bidding for a further £4.4m funding to expand The Robin bus service, currently operating in The Forest of Dean and north Cotswolds. From 1st December fares will be reduced by 50 pence to £2 for the next 12 months. The expanded service will now include the rural areas around Tewkesbury, Stroud and south Cotswolds, plus an enhanced service in The Forest of Dean. The funding will now make it possible to reintroduce some of the services cancelled by Stagecoach last year.

• UK100 have acknowledged Gloucestershire's efforts to enhance the natural environment with a reduction of emissions by 80% by 2030 and net zero by 2045. Examples being the planting project of 1m trees and creating wildlife refuges along highway verges by 2030.

• As a consequence of shelving the northern section of HS2 the government is passing out additional £2.8m immediately and a similar sum next year towards pothole repairs. This is addition to the £87.9m awarded over the next 10 years alongside the £100m the GCC is investing. Use the new highways reporting site:

www.goucestershire.gov.uk/foxmystreet

• The Holiday Activities & Food Program will be available for eligible children over the Christmas holidays between 2nd and 5th January 2024. There will be a wide range of activities and nourishing food available. Useful link for booking as from 4th December: www.goucestershire.gov.uk/haf

• National fostering film 'Any of us' has launched across the country encouraging people to enter the world of fostering. Gloucestershire has 860 children and young people in the care system and would love to have more families who would like to foster.

• County Councillors have access to a further £10,000 in their Build Back Better funds, aimed at Levelling Up, targeting issues such as digital exclusion, cost of living, online harm and community transport. Additionally, £3,000 Youth Fund, specifically targeting such things as sport, recreation, leisure activities, wellbeing, mental health and digital innovation.

• Record number of care leavers are going to university. Currently 34 care leavers are at university, the highest on record. 12 have recently started and 8 have just graduated. These include those going on to Paramedic Science, Social Work, Psychology, Accountancy and Sports.

• The county has now secured over £8m to go towards Active Travel, awarded by the

DofT. The funds will go a long way to improving both walking and cycling, thereby reducing carbon emissions and creating a healthier lifestyle. Last year the DofT awarded the county £14.1m in a similar round of bidding which will go towards the new 26 mile link between Bishops Cleeve and Stroud via Cheltenham and Gloucester.

- Rollout of new season Covid booster and flu vaccination started on Monday 11th September and runs till 15th December. If you are eligible for the autumn booster and flue jab, contact your local surgery or community pharmacy – at Moreton Hospital for example.
- Gloucestershire continues to support Ukrainians fleeing the war. 238,300 visas have been issued with 1,821 in Gloucestershire of which 1,549 (69%) people have arrived. Currently 180 guests are living with 63 families in the Cotswolds
- Get Composting – Gloucestershire Recycles are encouraging us to compost green waste at home. Composting reduces carbon emissions and reduces the emissions from recycling vehicles. Details and tips can be found at www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/composting
- Ageing with Creativity – Gloucestershire Libraries are launching a 3 year project targeting the over 60s. Working with Gloucestershire NHS Trust they will be able to support people with dementia or memory loss as well as their carers by providing accessible and engaging activities such as music through introducing Library Choirs. Other initiatives include art, photography, performance and film, linking with Gloucestershire Archives. For further details contact Sally Williams, Library Development Officer, at sally.williams3@gloucestershire.gov.uk
- A new target for tree planting has been achieved with 130,006 newly planted this season, on the way to the target of one million by 2023. To date the total has reached 220,396. This season's planting has been across 124 projects by the County Council, it's partners, volunteers and individuals. These include the Woodland Trust, National Farmers Union, community tree packs for schools and 9,000 on the Miserden Estate. Additionally, parish, town and district councils as well as Hartpury University were involved. Anyone interested in knowing more or wanting to become involved in being a Tree Warden email glosclimate@gloucestershire.gov.uk. Additionally Sponsor a Tree to create a Greener Gloucestershire. Working with the charity Trees for Streets communities are being encouraged to nominate locations suitable for urban tree

planting. Link for details <https://sponsor.treesforstreets.org/scheme/sponsor-a-street-in-gloucestershire>.

MM-C/29th Nov2023