

Evenlode Parish Council

12th November 2024

Report from GCC Cllr. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

Local Road Closures:

Moreton, A429 National Grid revised dates: -

6th Jan to 4th Feb 2025, Stratford Road – traffic lights

6th Jan to 21st Jan 2025 Batsford Road - closure

12th Feb to 7th March 2025 access to East Street from High Street – closure

A40 west bound between Cheltenham & Gloucester closed for nighttime resurfacing 1st to 19th Nov 2024

Lower Oddington, bollard installation near The Fox pub, 18th to 26th Nov Evenlode to Adlestrop Road, Thames Water 18th to 20th Dec

Farmcote for GCC wall rebuilding, temporary road. 4th Nov to 13th Jan 2025

o NHS will be rolling out a new vaccine program from 1st September to protect those vulnerable to respiratory syncytial virus – RSV. Adults aged 75 and over as well as pregnant women (28 – 36 weeks) can apply to their local GP Surgery or midwife.

Former Winchcombe Old Boys School in Gretton Street has been empty, for some considerable time. The GCC wants to hear views from the community as to what should happen to it. A drop-in event will take place on 13th Nov between 3pm & 5pm, for interested parties. The school, which needs refurbishment shares the site with the popular sports centre.

o Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) program is back for the Christmas holidays, providing fun activities and nutritious food between 21st December and 5th January. Families eligible for benefit-related free school meals can register from 2nd December, viewing the options from 18th November. www.glooucestershire.gov.uk/haf Through additional GCC funding of Holiday Activities Program (HAF) the many options are open to all school age children. To date 170,000 activities have been enjoyed by children across the county.

O Responsibilities of Riparian Owners – landowners of ditches and watercourses. 1. Maintain watercourses and to clear obstructions.
2. Maintain the banks & bed of watercourses (including trees and shrubs on the banks) and any flood defences.
3. To accept the natural flow from upstream neighbours and transfer downstream without obstruction, pollution or diversion
4. Maintain any approved structures on your stretch of watercourse, including culverts, weirs & mill gates.

o Highways resurfacing program runs from April 2024 to March 2025 and is funded by a £100m provision over the 4 year council. An additional £2.8m was added by central government from funds diverted from HS2. Expect to see resurfacing between now and the end of March in:

Lower Street - Blockley

Overhill Road – Stratton

Northcott Lane – Draycott Blockley

Todenham Road – Stow Road – Bledington

Main Road – Broadwell

Rissington Road – Little Rissington

The Crocodile – Compton Abdale

Collin Lane – Willersey

Locombe Hill - Fifield

High Street – Kempsford

Silver Street – South Cerney

Pike House to Whiteway – Withington

o The DoT has awarded the county £2.2m towards our new Bus Service Improvement Plan 2024. The proposals are to deliver faster and more reliable services, attractive fares and ticketing, better vehicles and a more comprehensive network, throughout the day, evenings and weekends. A fleet of 58 electric buses will be ordered by the end of the year at a cost of circa £6m, much enhancing our Net Zero targets. We have also been awarded £611k towards upgrading traffic lights across the county.

o 65 community projects have shared in £400,000 awards through the Thriving Communities Grant 2024. Organisations and groups are assisted in helping people to stay well and support them to live independently as long as possible. Since 2018 over 310 projects have received £2.4m of investment. Individual awards have ranged between £627 and £7,500.

o The County Council is tightening rules for utility company works. For example, footpath surfaces must be reinstated with materials matching the original, such as York stone paving slabs. Consent will not be given if the contractor does not have the correct surfacing in their depot at the start of works. Cheltenham has suffered prolonged unsuitable temporary surfacing. SkillZONE at Gloucestershire fire station in Tuffley has won a national award in the Public Sector Driver Safety Awards 2024, held in Leeds on 3rd October. The interactive safety education centre, realistically, walks you through a vast array of scenarios of what people might encounter in day-to-day life. The centre is visited by many thousands of children every year. MM-C/8th Nov 2024