

Upper Rissington Parish Council

Meeting 14th August 2023

Report from GCC Cllr. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

- Local Road Closures:
Moreton, Stockwells 3rd June – 29th September
Moreton, Todenham Road to A3400 23rd – 28th August
Bourton A436 to Andoversford A40 14th – 25th August 09.30 – 15.30 weekdays
Stow, Tewkesbury Road B4077 14th – 17th August
- Free Summer Holiday Activities. Families with children eligible for free school meals can register for the Holiday Activities and Food Program (HAF) and Holiday Activities Program (HAP) for a period of 4 weeks during the school holidays. For details www.goucestershire.gov.uk/haf Bookings for activities starts on 5th July so register now.
- Gloucestershire has won £4m government boost for use towards helping fix the significant highway challenges caused by one of the coldest and wettest winters in many years. The additional funding can go towards more resurfacing, not just temporary pothole fixing. This includes the new 'Pothole Buster' machines that's capable of dealing with 100 a day. Additionally new cold & wet weather techniques for the winter period. Lastly 8 new teams for Find& Fix, over and above the 36 teams that respond to reported potholes.
- GCC is standing up against disruption caused by utility companies who cause as much as 80% of the disruption. Government reforms require companies to perform to a consistently high standard and within time. GCC will now step-up their inspections and particularly of those poorly performing companies.
- As the weather improves Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue are urging people to stay safe when spending time around water. Throughout 2021 there were 277 accidental drownings across the UK. Of these 40 percent lost their lives as a result of slips, trips and falls into cold water. Others lost their lives by jumping into unknown water where there were unseen hazards. They are also raising awareness of fires at camp sites and around caravans.
- Do you need new grit bins? Apply to your local Highways Manager for replacements, new ones or resitting existing ones.
- Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service working with the NHS delivered record numbers of Covid vaccines. 327,822 vaccines were given at Cheltenham East Fire Station, all part of the cooperation between services that provided more than 1.8m vaccines.
- 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.

- Help wildlife thrive. The Wild Gloucestershire campaign being run by the GCC Sustainability Team are encouraging people to make changes to their outside spaces so wildlife and biodiversity can thrive. Whether you have a sunny windowsill or garden there are loads of tips to help you. Add wildlife water stations, bug hotels, wild areas, grow fruit & veg. Also make compost simply and beneficially. Link <https://track.vuelio.uk.com/z/z?>
- Build Back Better – Youth Fund. A sum of £159,000 is available to Councillors to support, with up to £3,000, projects specifically targeted towards children and young people. The objective is to support such things as sport, recreation & leisure activities, wellbeing, mental health, building resilience and digital innovation.
- 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. 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>.
- Inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission has issued a report praising GCC, the police, schools and Fire & Rescue services for their collaborative work with children who are deemed to be in need of care in the community.
- A new way of reporting highway issues is shortly to be introduced. Called Fix My Street, a system widely used by authorities across the nation, will be easy to use, removed duplication – the same matter being reported more than once and provides up to date picture of progress. The program covers all matters relating to highways, including signage, grass verges, road markings etc. in addition to potholes.

MM-C/ 13th Aug 2023