

Upper Rissington Parish Council
Meeting 9th October 2023
Report from GCC Cllr. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

- **Local Road Closures:**

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

Stow, Union Street collapsed wall 23rd Aug – 28th Nov

Footpath Closure – Hyde Mill HMA3 to HSS12 bridge repairs 30th Aug – 5th Sept

Bledington B4450 Kingham to Lyneham junction 11th Sept – 7th Oct

Stow A424 Evesham Road resurfacing. 25th – 29th Sept 2023

Upper Swell B4077 Waterhead Barn to Flagstone Farm resurfacing. 25th – 29th Sept 2023

Stow A424 to A44 ash dieback 09.30 – 15.30 2nd -6th Oct

Lower Swell B4068 bridge replacement near Abbotswood. 2nd Oct – 3rd Nov 2023

Stow B4068 to Salperton ash dieback 09.30 – 15.30 9th – 13th Oct

Stow, High St, Parsons Corner & The Square resurfacing 09.30 to 15.30 1st – 2nd Nov

Stow, Union Street new pavement 16th Oct – 17th Nov

- 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.
- The continuing delays on Barrington Road at the junction with Mitchel Way are to continue. The official response last week was 'As mentioned before, the water pipe had to be diverted due to services being the ground that were no showing on any plans. There was a delay while these new plans were approved by HDM which has set the work back by a couple of weeks' They were scheduled to be finished by Friday 29th September. I have no actual date for completion of the works and removal of the traffic lights.
- 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 It's estimated that 8,118 properties have sluggish speeds using outdated copper connections.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.
- 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 tree planting project of 1m trees and creating wildlife refuges along highway verges by 2030.
- 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 are to have access to £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. This forms part of an incentive amounting to £1.48m across the county.
- 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 DoT. 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 DoT 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.
- 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.
- Mark Harper MP, Transport Secretary and representative of the Forest of Dean has seen the latest equipment acquired for better and faster road repairs. Since 12th June 3,000 metres of rural roads have been repaired, more than 1,000 potholes have also been fixed during just 28 shifts, that's double the speed of traditional repair working. Since April more than 15,000 potholes have been fixed.
- Rollout of new season Covid booster and flu vaccination started on Monday 11th September. NHS Gloucestershire will be making contact in order of priority, starting with those most at risk, including residential care homes and housebound residents. Carers, pregnant women, people with certain health conditions, health and social care staff will be offered inoculation as will those aged 65 and over.
- 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/ 7th Oct 2023