

Upper Rissington Parish Council

Meeting 11th December 2023

Report from GCC Cllr. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

- **Local Road Closures:**

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

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.gloucestershire.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.
- Let's have your views on the 2024/25 budget for Gloucestershire. Details have just been released of a budget of £609m, an uplift of £42m on the current fiscal year.
Notably the county is receiving £15m from Javelin Park, the incinerator just off the M5 south of Gloucester, by generating power back into the National Grid.
We continue investing £100m into our roads by resurfacing a repairing 50,000 potholes.
£37.4m is being invested into the new J10, M5 and the significant 'park & ride' at Arle Court, on the west side of Cheltenham, near GCHQ.
£19.8m is going into new and improved schools.
£8.3m to the Disabled Facilities Grant fund to improve and adapt disabled people's homes.
£7.8m is specifically earmarked for the most vulnerable adults in our county.
Savings of £23m have been identified through more efficient working practices.
The average Band D Council Tax will rise by £6.34 per month.
For full details: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/budgetr2024-25
- 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/gloucestershire
- 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. 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. The cost of fares has been reduced for the next 12 months from £2.50 to £2.
- 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.gloucestershire.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.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf

- 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.
- Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service have proudly teamed up with Stagecoach, GWR & Co-Operative Food to develop a ground-breaking educational approach for children with Special Educational Needs. They will be using their SkillZONE at Gloucester to teach them all about looking after themselves, whether within the home or out and about.
- Time is running out to get the new season Covid booster and flu vaccination which 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

MM-C/8th Dec 2023