

# Upper Rissington Parish Council

## 14th October 2024

### Report from GCC Cllr. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

Local Road Closures:

Moreton, A429 National Grid revised dates: -

16th Sept to 15th Oct 2024, High Street - closure

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

Lower Oddington, bollard installation near The Fox pub, 18<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Nov

Farmcote for GCC wall rebuilding, temporary road. 14th Oct to 12th Nov

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.

o Around 7,000 children enjoyed the sports-themed Library Challenge between 14th July & 14th September. There were nine exciting sports-themed tasks with special awards on achieving each level. Over 2,000 children obtained 'gold' level and were entered into a special prize draw. Sports England hosted two days with over 700 children trying out their skills in cricket, rugby, football & martial arts.

o The County Council is encouraging people to reduce the amount of clothing going to waste, with a campaign called 'Wear Not Waste'. It is estimated that in the UK 711,000 tonnes of clothing and textiles are discarded, rather than being reused, donated to recycled. On average everyone discards 35 items of clothing a year. To encourage participation, Gloucestershire Recycles is offering two £50 vouchers to lucky participants who complete an online survey [www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/fashion](http://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/fashion)

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

Northcot Lane – Draycott Blockley

Todenham Road – Todenham

Stow Road – Bledington

Main Road – Broadwell

Rissington Road – Little Rissington  
The Crocodile – Compton Abdale  
Collin Lane – Willersey  
Locombe Hill – Fyfield  
High Street – Kempsford  
Silver Street – South Cerney  
Pike House to Whiteway – Withington

o Veterans will have a free renewable bus pass for up to 50 journeys each, while seeking employment and claiming Universal Credit or receiving DWP benefits. It was the result of a motion by the Green Party at the February council meeting.

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.

o SkillZONE at Gloucestershire fire station in Tuffley has won a national award in the Public Sector Driver Safety Awards 2024, held in Leeds on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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/10th Oct 2024