

Temple Guiting Parish Council May 3rd 2017 Report by Gloucestershire County Councillor Nigel Moor

It is four years since the last county council election. I am seeking re-election and in this report I want to explain the budget that we have agreed for the forthcoming financial year. During the last 4 years both the Children's Activity Budget and my Local Highways Budget have helped me deal with priorities in the parish. This has included grant to the school and road repairs in and around the village.

Setting a budget for a county as diverse as Gloucestershire is a difficult balancing act. Political parties have different priorities and different parts of the county have different needs and expectations. The budget for adult care, public health and children and families which takes up nearly two thirds of the total revenue budget of £497.682 million is always under pressure from rising demand but these priorities need to be balanced in areas like the Cotswolds with the need of highways and flood prevention. I believe that the budget whilst protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities also provides a good basis for continuing improvements to the county's infrastructure. The revenue budget for communities and infrastructure is £83 million and to that should be added a forward capital budget of over £200 million. I set out below some of the highlights:

- Although the Police and Crime Commissioner has withdrawn from the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership, the county council values this service and has allocated an additional £390,000 to ensure that its valuable work continues.
- Additional specialists to work alongside extra social workers to improve practice including a focus on mental health and adoption - £500,000
- Money to improve the process for traffic regulation orders to help keep our county moving - £100,000
- An additional £10,000 for every county councillor (from £20k to £30k) in the highways local scheme - £530,000
- Extra investment in highways - £9 million. This will continue our programme of resurfacing rather than just filling pot holes.
- An additional £500,000 for the lengthsman's scheme . This scheme which provides dedicated crews to work with town and parish councils to clear verges, clean out grips and gulleys and clean signage for example have proved very popular and there will now be a dedicated team for each of the six district areas in the county.
- Extra support for people with disabilities including tackling disability hate crime - £400,000
- Investment to improve adults' physical and mental health whilst reducing social isolation and loneliness including social prescribing - £600,000.
- As a result of the Fastershire project, over 107,000 homes and businesses can now access faster broadband. Phase 2 of the project looks to extend this further to over 35,00 additional premises across the county. Cabinet has approved further contracts to cover the rest of the county worth £12.7m.

Gloucestershire currently charges £41 per year less than the average county council, including the adult care levy, and £157 per year less than the highest charging. For an average band D household the proposed total increase would be £45.25 per year, or £3.77 per month. The extra investment mainly comes from additional central government grants and also an increase to the council tax rate.

Going forward the Conservative Group have pledged to spend £150m over the next 5 years – a doubling of spending- on roads repairs and resurfacing.

The second draft of the Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire (2018-2032) will be published for consultation this autumn. From the initial list of sites put forward in the first draft published in the summer of 2014 as regards Temple Guiting only the proposed extension of Huntsman`s Quarry to a total area of 39Ha is maintained. The capacity of the quarry including the preferred areas should be maintained at the permitted maximum overall output level of 500,000 tpa. The plan includes an extensive range of environmental criteria that a planning application must comply with. However I have an important reservation about the plan which is that it should seek more strongly s106 contributions form the quarry operators in respect of highway repair and improvements necessitated by their operations.

- The wheel wash has been installed at Oathill Quarry and the requirement to install one is a pre-commencement condition for the bringing in of inert material at Cotswold Quarry.
- The Children`s Activity Grant continues for another year. I have helped the school previously and can consider a further grant application for this year 2016/17.
- During my canvass I visited the new café and shop and was bowled over by how good it is.