

Temple Guiting Parish Council

Meeting 4th September 2024 Report from GCC Cllr. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

Local Road Closures:

Moreton, A429 Batsford Road to Spitfire development, National Grid revised dates: -
9th to 17th Sept 2024, Corders Lane - closure.

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

12th Feb to 7th March 2025 access to East Street from High Street

Farmcote for GCC wall rebuilding, temporary road. 12th Aug to 29th Sept 2024

Burford Road, A424 from Stow Hill to Westcote, resurfacing 19.00 to 07.00. 28th Aug to 19th Sept

- 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.
- Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Leader of GCC for the last 14 years and 25 years as a Councillor has stepped down and Cllr Stephen Davies has been elected to step up.
- The County Council has been appointed by the Arts Council of England to lead Gloucestershire along with Swindon and Wiltshire Music Hub from September, as part of an ambitious national programme to bring high-quality musical education to children and young people. A grant of £2.35m is being provided by DofE.
- New members have been appointed to the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Board, following the transfer of roles and responsibilities from GFirst LEP to the County Council on 1st April this year. The board will drive economic growth across the county with strong representation from wide independent and diverse local business groups. The board is represented by 13 members.
- Our county libraries are going to launch more choirs to combat loneliness. The first was launched in Longlevens in November 2023 and now will roll out to Coleford and Tuffley libraries with the aid of £16,400 grant. No previous singing experience is needed.
- Highways are trying hard to combat the level of damage caused by last winter by investing in new technology to speed up and make longer lasting repairs before resurfacing. New Find & Fix crews are out and about, we have a Spray Injection Patcher that can deal with 100 potholes a day, new testing

with an inventive material that can be used cold, 2 x JCB Pothole Pros – 13 tonne machines that remove whole sections of road and then resurfaced by the team behind, at the end of May Roadmender machines will start using recycled material to repair damaged areas and finally a Bobcat Planer to cut through layers of road surface, remove and resurface.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- The county council has appointed Rethink Mental Illness to run the Mental Health Support & Advice Service. The charity will enter into a 5 year contract on 1st April working with people suffering mental illness. The investment over the contract period is £4.7m.
- Gloucestershire continues to support people from unstable countries across the world. We currently have 443 asylum seekers living in either hotels or various homes. 262 are living across 56 properties, of which 88% are male and 18% female.
- We continue Afghan Support for those families worked for British forces with 580 currently living at Beachley Barracks near Chepstow. The UK Resettlement Scheme started in 2015 with the last people arriving in October 2023, although it is expected that there may be some new arrivals in Cheltenham shortly. Some 347 people are currently living in the county.
- Homes for Ukraine. Since March 2022 1,728 people have arrived in the county. Of these 586 are living as guests in people's homes, 626 have moved on to independent living. In the Cotswolds 257 people out of 361 arrivals continue to remain in the district. 358 children are in full time schooling.

MM-C/29th Aug 2024