

Temple Guiting Parish Council

6th November 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

A40 west bound between Cheltenham & Gloucester closed for nighttime resurfacing 1st to 19th Nov 2024

Lower Oddington, bollard installation near The Fox pub, 18th to 26th Nov

Farmcote for GCC wall rebuilding, temporary road. 4th Nov to 13th Jan 2025

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.

Former Winchcombe Old Boys School in Gretton Street has been empty, for some considerable time. The GCC wants to hear views from the community as to what should happen to it. A drop-in event will take place on 13th Nov between 3pm & 5pm, for interested parties. The school, which needs refurbishment shares the site with the popular sports centre.

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 holding public engagement events regarding the M5 J9 & A46 Ashchurch Transport Scheme. The next one being at the Northway Community Hub (Main Hall) on Wednesday 23rd October between 11am & 4pm. The proposals include a new M5 J9a near Tewkesbury and the rerouting the A46 around Ashchurch to Teddington Hands roundabout. The completed plans will then allow for strategic development plans to proceed, including the Tewkesbury Gardens Communities program, creating much needed housing and employment.

Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service is asking the public for their views on risks to the county. The feed-back will be combined with GFRS's own data. The consultation is between 21st Oct & 1st Dec. Go to www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/glosfire-crp

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
Northcott 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 – Fifield
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 DofT 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 3rd 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/25th Oct 2024