

February Report to Parishes in Blakeney and Bream Division

As ever you can contact me at beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk or on 07815660013. I hope this information is useful, some of it is for disseminating out into the community and would be great if it can be on noticeboards and websites so that it is accessible to all.

Roads and transport

There are plenty of roadworks going on but no road closures that I can see in the next couple of weeks.

Here is a link to where to find out about road works <https://one.network/public> or <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/>

the way to report problems on our road network has changed.

<https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

At the Road Safety Liaison Group where county, district and parish councillors get together with Highways, fire, police and FE to work together to address and share concerns and areas that need some focus we were given a presentation by the OlderDrivers Forum - **Driving safely, for longer**

<https://olderdriversforum.com> it was a useful piece of information about an active group that are supporting older drivers to be aware of their driving skills and safety and support for families of older drivers. They run regular free webinars.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Launch of Family Hubs

This investment in the council's network of children and family centres in communities across the county will play a key role in the introduction of the family hub model to Gloucestershire, offering a wide range of family support services, or signposting to other services as needed.

The concept of family hubs was developed by the Centre for Social Justice (2014) and aims to provide support for all families with children and young people aged 0 to 19, or up to age 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The county council has appointed Family Action to run its centres in Stroud and Cotswold, with Aspire Foundation Trust managing Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. The new contracts will begin on 1 April 2024. Work is ongoing to confirm a partnership for Gloucester and the Forest of Dean.

The centres will co-ordinate and facilitate family support activity locally, making it easier for families to find out about the services and support available where they live. The aim of the family hub model is to ensure all families have access to the right support, at the right time, in the right place.

The new arrangements will offer opportunities for council services to co-locate with health partners and work more closely with local community and voluntary services in the locality making it easier for families to access support when they need it.

The children and family centres will become part of a wider network of physical and virtual family support points across the county. Families can find out more by visiting [Children & Family Centres - First steps to Family Hubs | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

I asked at the last children's meeting that the fact that Gloucester and the Forest have not yet had an organisation appointed to run the Family hubs in our area that we make sure we do not get left behind the rest of the county. The existing contract has been extended to make sure current services are maintained. I will keep asking this question at every opportunity.

School attendance: school attendance has dropped in Gloucestershire as in the rest of the country, going from 3.7% pre pandemic to 7.2% in 22/23. this is a concern as children missing school sessions are vulnerable from a safeguarding point of view as well as missing steps in the build up of academic knowledge.

Making sure that there is support for all families is crucial if we are to build a safe and positive future. I will continue to bring this view to the children's meetings that I attend.

Adult Social Care Survey Over the coming weeks a random survey of adult social care service users in the county will take place. This will give essential information to help plan future services. The survey will go out to a sample of around 1,400 adults who have received care and support services in the community and in care homes paid for or arranged by Gloucestershire adult social care. The results of the survey will help the council, Department for Health and Social Care and the Government better understand how services affect people's lives. The surveys will be posted to people in the week commencing 22 January and should be returned by 8 March. This is an annual national survey carried out under the guidance of NHS Digital. Responses will be treated in confidence and service users will not be personally identified in the results, which are shared with the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS Digital.

Full Council on 21st February.

This was a budget meeting and as you will have seen in the press like all other councils the council tax was set at the maximum allowable, 2.99% and an additional 2% through the Adult Social Care Precept to support the most vulnerable adults in the county. Based on a band D property, this equates to a £6.34 monthly increase.

The Greens worked with the administration and secured a budget amendment of £300k for natural flood management projects to address flooding risks on roads and residential areas that create habitat and are attractive for local residents to live alongside. We also worked on an agreement for bus passes for unemployed veterans and a cash injection for community libraries of £2k each.

Other amendments from the administration that we support include £2mill to start installing solar panels on maintained schools which will reduce emissions and costs for schools. Other political groups gained funding for youth services, public rights of way and rain gardens

Our campaign 'food waste, it all adds up' has just launched!

Ever wonder why we talk about food waste so much at Gloucestershire Recycles?

There are lots of reasons! Food waste has one of the highest carbon footprints of anything in your bin (second only to textiles). Plus, the average UK family could save £83 per month, around £1,000 per year, by saving food from the bin.

Each stage in the journey of our food draws resources from our planet and produces greenhouse gas emissions, which trap heat in our atmosphere. An astonishing 9% of global carbon emissions come from wasted food.

Recycling food is one of the most important things you can do kerbside but we know that food waste still makes up 25% of the waste found in non-recyclable waste bins. ?

Take a look at [our pages dedicated to food waste reduction and recycling](#).

The classes will be running at on the following dates:

- Harts Barn Cookery School, Longhope - Thursday 15 February
- Oakley Community Centre, Cheltenham - Thursday 29 February
- Wiggly Community Kitchen, Westgate St, Gloucester - Wednesday 6 March

Low waste cooking classes <https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/reduce/food/low-waste-cooking-classes/>

Development of Primary Care Facilities in Lydney

The NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) has identified the development of primary care facilities in Lydney as a key priority. Severnbank Surgery and Lydney Health Centre have been taking forward a Business Case with a 3rd Party Developer (who would fund the development and lease the building to the practices) to co locate both practices at

the former coop site in Lydney Town Centre to provide a range of GP and other local services for around 15,000 patients, with expansion space for a further 4,000 patients if needed, in the future.

Over recent months, the ICB has been working closely with the Practices' 3rd Party Developer, the District Valuation Service, key stakeholders, and other partner organisations within the One Gloucestershire Integrated Care System (ICS) to try and find a way through to deliver a viable, high quality and value for money scheme.

The Practices are now in a position to finalise the outstanding Business Case and submit to the ICB for formal consideration at the Primary Care & Direct Commissioning Committee (PCDC). It is anticipated the Business Case will be submitted no later than early April 2024. Due to Committee dates, it will be formally considered at the PCDC on the 6th June 2024.

Subject to final approval being granted in June, the Developer's current plan is that building work will commence in the early part of 2025 with the building open the following year."