

January 2025, County report to parishes

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I hope 2025 is a peaceful and productive year for you all.

I am taking part in a member's panel reviewing the Highways Road Safety Policy. We will feed our comments into the review process that is collecting views from a cross section of the council and public. The existing policy can be found here:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/a55m00cs/road-safety-policy.pdf>

If anyone would like to feed any comments to me that I can consider feel free.

The general website for GCC is always a good place to start looking for any information:

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

Committees I sit on if you would like more detailed information on these do feel free to ask.

- Children and Families Scrutiny committee
- Adoption West
- Foster Panel
- Ambitions board (for our children)
- Corporate Parenting
- Commons and Rights of Way (Chair)

Roads

I am step closer towards getting a **speed reduction** at Nibley Crossroads with a speed survey coming back that indicates the police will support it. We are applying for a TRO to make this happen, there will be public consultation as part of this process but there is at least 18 months before it will be considered due to a huge back log.

Please be advised of the following temporary road closure:

A48 from Elton to High Street Newnham, Broadoak

This road will be closed (as per the attached plan) from **17th February 2025 to 28th February 2025** between the hours of 09.30 and 15.30 hrs each day. This is to allow for drainage investigation works on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council.

Emergency and pedestrian will be maintained.

If you should require any further information regarding this temporary closure please contact Gloucestershire Highways on Highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk

This link is where you can find all the planned road works, the above is the only major work I can see and have been notified about but there are several more minor roads that will be closed and have restrictions on them.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/roads/roadworks/>

Please continue to use and promote the use of FIX MY STREETS

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

It has been a year since Fix my Streets was introduced as a tool for us all to report issues with our roads and footpaths.

Devolution

The Government white paper on devolution will be changing the shape of local authorities over the next few years. What this looks like for Forest of Dean and Gloucestershire is not clear, but it is likely to mean that Gloucestershire will become unitary, taking out the layer of District Councils. This could have an impact on parish councils.

Vacancy - Member of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Are you interested in how local government works and what councillors are paid?

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/vacancy-member-of-the-independent-remuneration-panel/>

The county council has released details of its proposed spending plans for 2025/26.

This will see spending rise by more than £32.7 million on 2024/25 levels, to almost £650 million.

The council's Cabinet is set to approve the proposed budget and a launch a public consultation at its meeting on Wednesday, 4 December.

The £649.6 million proposed budget includes significant investment into the council's priority areas of highways, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), adult services, infrastructure, and the environment.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/budget2024-25/>

How big is your carbon footprint?

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/take-action>

Integrated Urgent Care Service for Gloucestershire

The Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust will be providing the service with our partners IC24.

<https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/news/integrated-urgent-care-service-for-gloucestershire/>

The new service incorporates:

- NHS 111 – telephone and online support
- A new doctor-led Clinical Assessment Service (CAS) giving the public and health professionals access to clinical advice
- An out of hours GP service – seeing people in person either at a local hospital or in their own homes

In the last six months, as we have worked to mobilise the service, we have recruited more than 50 local GPs, we have introduced new IT systems, equipped new bases and vehicles, developed onboarding and training processes and worked carefully with the former providers to transfer existing colleagues into the new team – and this work continues.

We have carried out engagement with primary care colleagues, pharmacists, our partners at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, colleagues in our own hospitals and community services, commissioners, South West Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust and a range of other organisations to support a smooth transition and test our plans and processes. We have also taken on

board feedback and suggestions around the staffing model in order to provide resilience in the initial weeks the service is running. Finally, we have established a group of Experts by Experience who have fed in their ideas and will continue to do so in the coming weeks and months.

The IUCS will form an important part of the system's approach to ensuring patients can access the right service to meet their needs.

For the public, they should notice little change other than what we hope will be an enhanced service when they contact 111. The system's Winter Campaign, which launches very soon, under the banner 'Click of Call First' will signpost the public to 111 as it has done previously, as well as highlight the role of other NHS services locally.

If you have any questions about the new service please do contact us via ghccomms@Ghc.nhs.uk.

Kings Award for Voluntary Service (Gloucestershire Recipients) 2024

On 14 November 2024, HM The King's Birthday, it was announced that the Kings Award for Voluntary Service was awarded to:

Dean Trail Volunteers - Forest of Dean Cycle Centre, Coleford, Gloucestershire. Awarded for the building of safe, inclusive, recreational mountain bike trails for recreation in the Forest of Dean.

I would like to offer my congratulations and thanks to them for all their work.

More details of other awards around the country can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/awardees-of-the-2024-kings-award-for-voluntary-service-announced>

Pete Bungard, Chief Executive to retire in May 2025

After 27 years at Gloucestershire County Council, Pete Bungard has today (6 November) announced that he will be retiring on 4 May next year.

Residents are being invited to borrow an e-bike for up to three months in a new scheme to promote sustainable travel in Gloucestershire.

The 'Pedal Eazy' project was agreed by the county council following a budget amendment put forward by the Green Party at a meeting earlier this year. The scheme is being run by the council's Thinktravel team with the support of Gloucestershire Bike Project and Transition Stroud, and is open to anyone in the county.

The main aim of the Pedal Eazy Loan Scheme is to give people the chance to borrow an e-bike for up to three months and see how it can transform their travel and daily lives. Anyone aged 18 and over can borrow an e-bike through the scheme. To check availability and make a booking, contact [Transition Stroud](#) or [Gloucestershire Bike Project](#).

E-bikes are hired on a monthly basis, with a maximum hire period of three months. It costs £70 per month for standard rental and £30 per month for jobseekers. If you decide to purchase a bike or accessories, all hire fees are refunded in the form of a bike voucher to encourage continued cycling. For more information on the project and support with getting going, visit: <https://www.thinktravel.info/cycling/pedal-eazy/>