

Wyck Rissington Parish Council

Meeting 26th June 2023

Report from GCC Cllr. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

- Local Road Closures:

Moreton, Stockwells 3rd June – 29th September

Stow, 5 Park Street 31st May – 30th June

Upper Rissington, Mitchell Way s278 works. 5th – 30th June

Stow, Hastings House multi-way lights. 5th – 28th June

Stow - Tewkesbury Road, Upper Swell – bridge repairs 15th May – 30th June

Great Rissington – GCC curbing works 12th -23rd June

Back Walls, Stow -Thames Water 12th -14th June

Moreton Road to Evenlode Road – drainage 26th June – 14th July

Little Rissington, Sandy Lane Thames Water. 17th – 20th July

- Free Summer Holiday Activities. Families with children eligible for free school meals can register for the Holiday Activities and Food Program (HAF) and Holiday Activities Program (HAP) for a period of 4 weeks during the school holidays. For details www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf Bookings for activities starts on 5th July so register now.
- Gloucestershire has won £4m government boost for use towards helping fix the significant highway challenges caused by one of the coldest and wettest winters in many years. The additional funding can go towards more resurfacing, not just temporary pothole fixing.
- GCC is standing up against disruption caused by utility companies who cause as much as 80% of the disruption. Government reforms require companies to perform to a consistently high standard and within time. GCC will now step-up their inspections and particularly of those poorly performing companies.
- Gloucester's The Venture Community Hub has been recognised as Southwest Regional Champions at the National HAF Awards held at an event at the House of Commons. Working as a key partner in the delivery to children & families through Holiday Activities and Food Program.
- As the weather improves Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue are urging people to stay safe when spending time around water. Throughout 2021 there were 277 accidental drownings across the UK. Of these 40 percent lost their lives as a result of slips, trips and falls into cold water. Others lost their lives by jumping into unknown water where there were unseen hazards. They are also raising awareness of fires at camp sites and around caravans.
- NHS Gloucestershire are reminding people to protect themselves from COVID-19 by taking up the Spring booster. The vaccination is available to those aged 75 and over by 30th June 2023, those over 5 years old with a weakened immune system and residents of care homes. The NHS will make contact about arranging appointments.
- The county has now secured over £8m to go towards Active Travel, awarded by the DofT. The funds will go a long way to improving both walking and cycling, thereby reducing carbon emissions and creating a healthier lifestyle. Last year

the DoT awarded the county £14.1m in a similar round of bidding which will go towards the new 26 mile link between Bishops Cleeve and Stroud via Cheltenham and Gloucester.

- The Local Government Boundary Commission is recommending that the number of County Councillors is increased from 53 to 55. A period of public consultation will run till 5th June, to hear views on the proposal. The objective is that the Divisions have, as near possible, similar populations. Details are on the GCC website.
- Help wildlife thrive. The Wild Gloucestershire campaign being run by the GCC Sustainability Team are encouraging people to make changes to their outside spaces so wildlife and biodiversity can thrive. Whether you have a sunny windowsill or garden there are loads of tips to help you. Add wildlife water stations, bug hotels, wild areas, grow fruit & veg. Also make compost simply and beneficially. Link <https://track.vuelio.uk.com/z/z?>
- Build Back Better – Youth Fund. A sum of £159,000 is available to Councillors to support, with up to £3,000, projects specifically targeted towards children and young people. The objective is to support such things as sport, recreation & leisure activities, wellbeing, mental health, building resilience and digital innovation.
- Get Composting – Gloucestershire Recycles are encouraging us to compost green waste at home. Composting reduces carbon emissions and reduces the emissions from recycling vehicles. Details and tips can be found at www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/composting
- Ageing with Creativity – Gloucestershire Libraries are launching a 3 year project targeting the over 60s. Working with Gloucestershire NHS Trust they will be able to support people with dementia or memory loss as well as their carers by providing accessible and engaging activities such as music through introducing Library Choirs. Other initiatives include art, photography, performance and film, linking with Gloucestershire Archives. For further details contact Sally Williams, Library Development Officer, at sally.williams3@gloucestershire.gov.uk
- 99% of the 6,237 primary aged children have been offered places to one of their preferred schools in September. 92% of pupils are going to their first preference. Those who failed to get their first preference can be placed on a waiting list, in the event that one comes available.
- A new target for tree planting has been achieved with 130,006 newly planted this season, on the way to the target of one million by 2023. To date the total has reached 220,396. This season's planting has been across 124 projects by the County Council, it's partners, volunteers and individuals. These include the Woodland Trust, National Farmers Union, community tree packs for schools and 9,000 on the Miserden Estate. Additionally, parish, town and district councils as well as Hartpury University were involved. Anyone interested in knowing more or wanting to become involved in being a Tree Warden email glosclimate@gloucestershire.gov.uk. Additionally Sponsor a Tree to create a Greener Gloucestershire. Working with the charity Trees for Streets communities are being encouraged to nominate locations suitable for urban tree planting. Link for details <https://sponsor.treesforstreets.org/scheme/sponsor-a-street-in-gloucestershire>