

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

MINUTES of the MEETING **held on the Tuesday 12th July, 2022**

(These minutes remain in draft form until approved at the next meeting of the Council)

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. Tony Matthews. Chairman,
Jo Smith, Norman Snell,
Mark Ogden, Bernadette Wood,
Gwyn Roberts, Carole Roberts,
Helen Medcraft.

County Councillors Present:

Cllr. Graham Morgan.

District Councillors Present:

No District Councillors Present.

The Clerk – Roland Dowding.

Public Present:

Mike Raettig, Mark Weldt,
Maddy Jarrett, Rory Jarrett,
Nyree Peacey.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Nicky Packer, Beki Hoyland,
Bernie O'Neill, William Acland.

Standing Declarations of Interest

- (a) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Acland.
- (b) Soudley Village Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Ogden.
- (c) Soudley Village Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Wood.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mike Raettig. Land in central Soudley that is subject to planning permission. A group of Soudley residents would like to purchase the land for use as a community area, exact details have yet to be finalised. The group would like the Parish Council's support.

The Parish Council will give provisional support on the condition the natural wildlife in the area is not disturbed and upon review of the group's proposal if a sale of the land is confirmed.

Mark Weldt. Representing and speaking on behalf of a group of residents living on Ruspidge Rd.

Concerns over dangerous driving and motorists speeding along Ruspidge road.

Concerns this will eventually cause serious injury or a fatality to a pedestrian.

Mark Weldt has been lobbying the relevant authorities regarding the motoring issues mentioned and is prepared to continue doing so.

Mark Weldt stated, in his opinion the VAS on Ruspidge road is positioned in the wrong location, it is not recording areas on Ruspidge road where traffic is moving at much higher speeds.

Complaint that data is available to the authorities confirming speeding issues within the district that is not being acted upon by the relevant authorities.

Mark Weldt suggested that a public meeting be held to present public opinion and data to representatives of the relevant authorities.

The Parish Council will support Mark Weldt and the community within the limits of its powers and with any data requests from the Parish Council's VAS systems.

The Parish Council requested to be kept informed of any developments.

Mark Weldt suggested the area require a 20mph speed limit.

Mark will also undertake a fact-finding mission, reporting back to the local residents and the Parish Council.

Maddy Jarrett. Resident of Ruspidge Rd informed the Parish Council, damage has occurred on multiple occasions to her vehicle that is parked on Ruspidge road, believed caused by passing motorists.

Maddy Jarrett also suggested that a member of the public sit and consult on the Crime Commissioners Committee.

Rory Jarrett. Resident of Ruspidge Rd suggested a Public Challenge be undertaken and presented to the Police. A petition to supplement this was suggested by Cllr. Wood, it was suggested Mark Weldt be prepared to undertake said petition.

RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST

Members were mindful that these items were considered and determined as trustees to the RWT.

7.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

7.1. **APOLOGIES** received and recorded from absent members.

7.2. No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest declared.

7.3. **MINUTES** - the minutes of the council meeting held on the **14th of June, 2022** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

7.4. **MATTERS ARISING** – There were no matters arising from the minutes.

7.5 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Report attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

7.6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

7.7. **PLANNING** – completed schedule is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

7.8. Following report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for payment totalling **£4,939.18**, this figure being inclusive of confidential expenditure.

7.9. **RUSPIDGE PARK FENCING** – Colour and style of fencing for the main fence facing Ruspidge Rd. Parish Council opted for the same style of fencing to the existing fencing. Colour choice, first choice being GREEN, second choice BLACK dependant on whichever is cheaper costs. The main and side gates are to be refurbished. Paint to be used by the contractor to be queried and approved prior to commencing work. The Parish Council decided to defer a decision on fencing off the children's play area and a separate area for the public to run their dogs until after the main fence has been repaired. The main fence being considered priority.

7.10. **LENGTHSMAN** – Areas for the attention of the lengthsmen to be specified and details emailed to the Clerk to forward to the relevant County Councillor.

7.11. **BLUE ROCK TRAIL** – The Parish Council agree that the Blue Rock Trail's passability in muddy areas needs to be improved. The mud needs to be scrapped back and packed down with gravel, but only in areas of the trail that require this attention. The Forestry Commission must first be consulted, and consent given prior to any further action being taken.

Ideally the Parish Council would prefer that Forestry Commission are paid by the Parish Council to undertake the required work. If not a suitable contractor be commissioned and liaise with Parish Council members in specifying the areas of the Blue Rock Trail that require the work.

- 7.12. **SOUDLEY LOWER RD BRIDGE REPORT** – Parish Council needs to establish who owns the bridge located on Lower Rd Soudley and adjoins Lower Rd to Soudley Village Hall. It has also been decided to investigate potential funding sources and enquire with partner authorities to effect repairs to said bridge.
- 7.13. **CLERK OVERTIME** – Overtime payments to a maximum of 10hours per week and the Clerk having the option to be paid for the overtime at flat rate or take time in lieu at the Clerks discretion were agreed by council. The Clerk’s hours regarding overtime to be reviewed in September.
- 7.14. **CORRESPONDENCE** The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence: The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 7.15. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 13th September, 2022**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 5th September, 2022**.
- 7.16. **Exclusion of the Press and the Public** - the council **RESOLVED** that for any remaining business of a confidential nature the press and the public should be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 10.xi (2020).

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Signed: Chair. Dated:

APPENDIX

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

Planning Schedule for the July, 2022 meeting.

**Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish
Comment**

P0054/22/DISCON

Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (As Amended)
Church Of St Michael , Church Road, Soudley, Gloucestershire.
Discharge of conditions 03 (trellis) and 06
(hard and soft landscaping) relating to planning permission
P1419/18/FUL

No Objection

P0596/22/FUL

5 Cornish Houses , Buckshaft Road,
Ruspidge, GL14 3DX.
Erection of a boundary fence and shed.

No Objection

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

**Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish
Comment**

**District
Decision**

Date

P0530/22/FUL

Land Adjoining, Dene Vista, Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge.
Erection of a dwelling with new vehicular access and
associated works.
Erection of garage to serve existing dwelling.

No Obj

Consent

05/07/2022

No Meeting In August

Planning Schedule for August, 2022.

**Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish
Comment**

DF16083 P0596/22/FUL
AMENDED DESCRIPTION
5 Cornish Houses Buckshaft Road Ruspidge
Erection of a boundary fence and shed (Retrospective)

No Obj

P0853/22/FUL
64 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.
Proposed two storey side extension to existing dwelling
with associated works.

Concern

*Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council has the following concern.
The applicant states, "Large tree to rear of property to be removed as has evidence of disease and within falling distance of the existing property".
Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council request proof of the status of the 'diseased' walnut tree.
No evidence has been presented in the application to confirm 'evidence of disease'.
Given a declared 'Biodiversity Emergency', protection should be afforded to assets such as a mature tree.*

P0834/22/FUL
Corner House, Lower Road, Soudley, Cinderford.
Erection of a two Storey Side Extension with associated
works.

No Obj

DF15650
P0054/22/DISCON
Church Of St Michael Church Road Soudley
Discharge of conditions 03 (trellis) and 06 (hard and
soft landscaping) relating to planning permission
P1419/18/FUL

Application Withdrawn

P0295/21/FUL
77 Ruspidge Road Ruspidge Cinderford
Conversion of first floor flat to 2no flats.
Erection of a staircase on south (side) elevation,
and associated works.

**Objected due to lack of
parking.**

Application Withdrawn

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

**Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish
Comment**

**District
Decision**

Date

P0051/22/DISCON
Sunnyville Tramway Road Ruspidge, Gloucestershire.
GL14 3AY Discharge of condition 04 (Surface Water
Drainage Scheme) relating to planning permission P0871/21/FUL

Objection

Consent

27/07/22

Object to discontinuation of condition on the basis of ground water vulnerability.

Meeting In September Cancelled

Planning Schedule for September, 2022.

Planning Reference Site Address & Detail

Parish Comment

P1045/22/FUL

No Obj.

Church Of St Michael , Church Road, Soudley, Gloucestershire.
Discharge of Conditions 3 (Privacy Screen - Trellis) and
6 (Hard and Soft Landscaping Scheme). Variation of Conditions 2
(carried out in accordance with approved plans) and 5
(Visibility Splays) relating to P1419/18/FUL.

Condition Number(s): 2, 3, 5, 6.

Conditions(s) Removal:

Conditions 2 and 5 to be varied to reflect the new drawings,
conditions 3 and 6 to be discharged in accordance with the new
drawings new drawing references

P1203/22/FUL

No Obj

Former St Whites Primary School , St Whites Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.
Variation of Condition 1 (approved plans) and Condition 9 (cycle storage facilities).
Removal of Condition 2 (approved details/plans) and Condition 10
(management and maintenance of proposed streets) relating to P2204/20/FUL.

P0087/22/DISCON

No Obj

Former St Whites Primary School , Land At Buckshaft Road, Cinderford, GL14 3DH.
Discharge of condition 06 (roofing and external facing materials) 15
(biodiversity enhancement) 17 (Construction Method Statement) & 18
(external lighting) relating P2073/21/FUL

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

Planning Reference Site Address & Detail

Parish Comment

District Decision

Date

P0853/22/FUL

Concern

Consent

24/08/2022

64 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.
Proposed two storey side extension to existing dwelling
with associated works.

P0834/22/FUL

No Obj

Consent

26/08/2022

Corner House, Lower Road, Soudley, Cinderford.
Erection of a two Storey Side Extension with associated works.

P0596/22/FUL

No Obj

Consent

05/08/2022

5 Cornish Houses , Buckshaft Road,
Ruspidge, GL14 3DX.
Erection of a boundary fence and shed.

District Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Nicky Packer

Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – July 2022

Cabinet 14th July

There is a full agenda for July Cabinet, with some items then proceeding to Full Council on 21st July. I've summarised (and commented) on each item below, but to see the full reports pack see:

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/g4161/Public%20reports%20pack%2014th-Jul-2022%2017.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>

Local Plan

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s30817/220630%20Local%20Plan%20strategy%20v2%20002%20E.172.pdf>

In October 2020 the 'Preferred Strategy' was agreed by Full Council and made available for public consultation. Due to the furore resulting from the mention of the Parish of Churcham as a possible location for a new settlement, the portfolio holder decided to revise the previous stage of the 'Preferred Option'. This means that the process of forming a new local plan has been delayed by 1 year and 9 months.

An extract from the report for the new version of the 'Preferred Strategy' that is presented to Cabinet and will be presented to Full Council on July 21st gives a summary:

"The revised strategy includes the following headline development themes:

- a. Major development at Lydney together with the associated infrastructure needed to support an enhanced role for the town as a focal point for the Forest of Dean. This will include the realisation of existing commitments and mixed development on new land beyond them, as well as taking advantage of the town's transport connections and making better connections to nearby communities. The town itself will accommodate at least 33% of the new development proposed in the Local Plan in a location presently accommodating about 14% of the district's current population.*
- b. Development of land at Newent to support a mixed use site, to include improvements to circulation and transport and complementary facilities to the centre.*
- c. Redevelopment for mixed uses and regeneration of land at Beachley Camp.*
- d. Supporting sustainable mixed use developments at major villages and towns and at selected villages"*

Later on in the report are the all-important indicative housing numbers:

"The emerging strategy could involve a general distribution of new housing as set out in the table below. Supporting facilities and other development such as employment opportunities will need to be provided for approximately in proportion with the major allocations made."

<i>Location</i>	<i>Total new housing</i>	<i>Existing committed</i>
Lydney	1,326	1,134
Newent	600	376
Beachley	600	0
Cinderford	100	569
Coleford	107	487

Major villages	907	321
Other villages	554	138
Total	4,194	3,025

My comments regarding Lydney:

The farmland around Lydney up to the A48 is already allocated for development in the previous local plan, although the table above shows that many allocated sites are still to be built out, despite significant building in recent years. I am worried that adding another 1,326 sites will continue the rapid expansion of Lydney and that the town will lose a sense of identity. I believe that the proposal is to build on the other side of the A48, which seems to me to fit the description of urban sprawl as the new housing would be physically cut off from the town. The 1,326 new housing sites compares with just 150 sites for Lydney suggested in the previous version in October 2020 – the low number then suggested was to allow the town a ‘consolidation’ period following the rapid recent growth.

My comments regarding the villages:

The most serious concern that I have is the increase in the number of housing sites for villages. As can be seen in the table above, major villages will be expected to accommodate 907 new sites in total and ‘other villages’ a further 554 sites. This compares with only **250 sites** in the previous (October 2020) version – an increase of 1,211 sites. Villages tend to have a high planning application success rate of ‘windfall’ sites, which are housing sites within or next to the settlement boundary that are for too few houses to be allocated in the plan. These housing sites will be in addition to the numbers above, plus any ‘rural exception sites’ of 100% affordable housing that may be successful. As well as the stated numbers being far too high, I am also concerned that the number for housing in villages may rise further if the ambitious number of sites for Lydney simply cannot be fitted into the space available, as a detailed analysis has not yet been carried out. If the required numbers aren’t achieved, then will these overspill numbers be allocated in the major villages under this strategy, pushing the village boundaries even further? As some villages cannot grow due to constraints like Forest or flooding or poor road access, the housing will not be evenly distributed. Those villages with facilities and better accessibility will probably take most of the allocated sites. Drybrook, Newnham, Lydbrook and Yorkley/Pillowell/Whitecroft are specifically mentioned as ‘*opportunities for change*’ and the report also says housing “*elsewhere will involve a few villages where there are suitable facilities including access to the transport network. These allocations will support their localities but are also a consequence of the approach of meeting the LPs needs in and around existing settlements.*”

My comments regarding the Newent & Beachley:

Newent is relatively unconstrained but suffers from poor services. This Local Plan proposal suggests a more strategic approach to Newent, instead of the piecemeal development so far. This is obviously needed. Unfortunately the aspirations in the Local Plan for better infrastructure to accompany development are sometimes not achieved so one can only hope that this isn’t the case in this instance.

Beachley must be included in the Local Plan because the army are moving out in future, so it will be ‘brownfield site’ – previously developed land is a priority for development under

planning policy both national and local. Poor accessibility will need to be addressed, however. The proposal is that this would be designated as an area for regeneration (the same as the Cinderford Northern Quarter is designated) and that outside funding will be sought to make it more self-sufficient and reduce the need for travel as well as for road improvements. This is a logical approach but with the Cinderford Northern Quarter and Five Acres currently as regeneration projects, the Council may need to prioritise where to focus any funds that become available – although it is true to say that funds usually come with specific criteria, so Five Acres is unlikely to compete with Beachley to any great extent.

Cinderford Northern Quarter Plot F2

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s30821/V2%20CNQSouthernGateway.Cabinet%20Report%20F.566%20July%2022.pdf>

A report is being presented to Cabinet to approve £85K expenditure on preparing a planning application for plot F2 on the Cinderford Northern Quarter.

In the CNQ scheme this plot and the nearby much smaller plot F1 were both intended for office development. The number of full-time employees that these two plots were to accommodate was given as 233 and this was termed as ‘new jobs’ in the information given out on the project in 2014 (as a contribution to the ‘1,000/1,200 new jobs’ cited). No studies were carried out regarding the demand for offices in the Cinderford area at that time.

The current administration decided that the Council should look at being the developer on the CNQ, rather than rely on developers to proceed with the scheme. Even before Covid, the Cabinet decided that the sites should be used for building industrial units, for which there is a known demand, instead of offices. Industrial units will accommodate far fewer employees – between 12 and 30 workers on plot F2 depending on specific use. Although the ‘new jobs’ will probably therefore be only a fraction of the 233 ‘new jobs’ that was originally cited for both sites, it seems prudent to opt for a use for which there is a shortage of available space, as this will help the local economy and not lead to buildings standing empty.

The report presented to the Cabinet meeting next week is to spend nearly £85K to prepare a planning application for industrial units on Plot F2, that will then be marketed speculatively. There is an interested party in one of the plots for use as an engineering training facility. Training will obviously be of benefit to the local workforce and economy and could increase the number of ‘new jobs’ somewhat.

The plot is accessible from existing roads (and was so before the new Spine Road was built).

It is stated that the £85K will be taken from reserves already earmarked for the CNQ, although elsewhere it has been stated that some will come from Shared Prosperity Fund (although not from this year’s allocation). The decision will not be presented to Full Council to endorse because the expenditure is less than the £100K threshold for this being required.

Once planning permission is in place there will need to be grant funding obtained to proceed any further. The current budget estimate for construction is £3.96m, although this obviously may change over time. The interest on a Public Works Loan Board loan for this amount would cost over £114K in the first year. This doesn’t include the repayment instalments of the loan. The projected rent revenue would be between £53K and £74K in the first year (based on £5 per sq ft and £7 per sq ft respectively, which is the range of rent envisaged at this time). The revenue will obviously not be enough to pay the interest on a loan, let alone any capital repayments, so obtaining grant funding is the only possible way forward.

Once grant funding has been obtained and before actual construction begins, the estimated construction costs for developing plot F2 will be presented to Full Council for approval to proceed. I hope that the council will act in a prudent manner to ensure that there is a good measure of certainty that the costs will not exceed the grant funding. The overspend on the construction of the first phase of the Spine Road was £2.5m. This was funded by the County Council from reserves. It has been said by GCC that such a project should have had a large

'optimism bias', which was missing. A significant overspend on the F2 site could have serious implications for the District Council, who would be carrying the risk in this case. Unlike the rest of the CNQ site, the mine shafts on plots F1 & F2 have been 'treated'. They are on the periphery of the CNQ area and are not ecologically important either individually or strategically. However, it is important that 'abnormals' and 'optimism bias' are sufficiently assessed and included in the costings to reduce the financial risk to the council.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s30820/Cabinet%20Report%20UKSPF%20FODDC%20F.565.pdf>

The total fund allocated to the Forest of Dean is £1m however the proposed spending below is just for the 1st year:

Biosphere Initiative £18K

Climate Resilience Implementation Plan £18K

Public Toilets Improvement Programme £3K

Newent-Hartpury- Gloucester Active Travel Feasibility Study £20K

FoD Active Travel Strategy £15.5K

Coleford Town Centre Regeneration Plan £10K

Film friendly & digital marketing campaigns £2.15K

Forest Economic Partnership (FEP) Secretariat £2K

FEP Action on Climate - Collaboration Tool £10K

FoDDC Low Carbon Energy Business Support £16K

Total: £114.65K

Funding available is mainly revenue, not capital. No education projects are allowed until year 3. All above is subject to the Investment Plan being approved by the Govt. body – this Investment Plan must be submitted by 1/8/22. Publica would receive £20K for the preparation of the required Investment Plan, to be allocated from the fund. A 4% 'administration fee' would fund a programme manager for the three years of the fund, shared with West Oxfordshire DC and Cotswold DC, who will also contribute 4%. All projects listed must be completed in the 2022/23 financial year.

Forest of dean and wye valley tourism – service level agreement (sla) review

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s30828/Forest%20of%20Dean%20and%20Wye%20Valley%20Tourism%20-%20SLA%20review%20-%20Cabinet%20Report.pdf>

To update the contractual arrangements between the Council and Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Tourism.

Finance is included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy at £22,000 per year.

Playing pitch strategy

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s30822/FODDC%20-%20PPS%20Cabinet%20Report%20July%202022.pdf>

and

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s30823/Annex%20A-%20Forest%20of%20Dean%20PPS%20-%20Final%20Strategy%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

To consider the findings and recommendations proposed by consultants commissioned to develop a Playing Pitch Strategy for the District and to approve the Strategy.

Cyber Security Costs

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s30824/FODDC%20-%20Cyber%20Security%20Cost%20F.568.pdf>

Following a recent increase in cyber security threat activity, Publica has completed a review of the Council's internet security systems and relevant staff. This has identified that additional staff, training and systems are needed. The additional costs will be shared with the other 3 partner councils.

Nicky Packer 10/07/2022

Cllr. Bernie O'Neill

Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – July 2022

Local Plan. The report on the Local Plan will be presented to Cabinet on Thursday. It will provide a positive vision for the future and apart from housing it reports on the economic, social and environmental needs. The draft plan will go out for consultation, if agreed, from 25th July for 8 weeks.

I shall be presenting 3 reports to cabinet,

Forest of Dean and Wye valley service level agreement review to recommend further funding;

Northern Quarter to seek funding approval for the preparation of a planning application submission for plot F2 at CNQ and

Shared Prosperity Fund to present the year 1 shortlist for agreement to be included in the Council's Investment Plan. (We worked very hard to produce this shortlist including holding 3 local events). We had 2 full days of analysis to come up with the final list to fulfill the £114000 available for year 1.

Forest Lodge. I have been working on the Forest Lodge Planning application and I am very grateful to Tony, Steve and Wendy for all their endeavours.

As yet, there is no definite date for the application to be heard, but September will be the earliest. I have heard nothing more from the applicant's agent regarding a site visit. A council site visit will be held for Committee members nearer the date.

County Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Graham Morgan

Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – July 2022

The County Council is moving forward with plans to install 1,000 on street electric vehicle charging points over the next three years.

The County Council has recently appointed Connected Kerb one of the UK's leading charging point providers, to install and run a network of chargers.

Around one third of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in Gloucestershire come from transport and private vehicle use.

This programme aims to prioritise access to charging points for the one third of residents who do not have off street parking and charging, the Council as started working with District and Parish & Town Councils to identify suitable locations.

Care home closures, the combined opposition groups are going to call in the decision to close the Care Homes across the County, which includes Westbury Court Care Home in the Forest of Dean.

At the recent County Planning Meeting last week, the planning committee deferred the decision to build a 650 pupil primary and reception school plus play school, on the outskirts of Bishops Cleeve because of lack of parent drop off facilities and wider safety concerns along the very busy A435 into Cheltenham, officers will come back with new proposals around these two issues, the Committee have no issues with the New School, we are hoping this will change future proposals with regard to new school building in these two areas.

Best Wishes Graham Morgan.

If you are contacting me as a local constituent please be aware I may need to share your personal information when contacting County Council Officers or other agencies relevant to your query.

For more information on how I and the County Council use personal data visit

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/privacynotices.

Cllr. Beki Hoyland.

Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – July 2022

Beki Hoyland, County Councillor for the Blakeney and Bream Division.

The Community Speed Watch Fund is available to you now, applications need to be in by 31st August, below is a list of the criteria and a link to more information and the application form. I am very happy to be a part of the conversation if that is useful in putting together a bid;

[Application criteria and guidance - Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Criteria

1. Applications can be made by the following:
 - Parish councils
 - Town councils
 - Community groups
2. All applications must be supported by the local County Councillor
3. Applications for Tranche 1 of the fund must be submitted by 31st August 2022
4. [Applications can be made for the following items only:](#)
 - Road Safety Officer support
 - Speed Surveys
 - Twenty is Plenty wheelie bin stickers (packs of 20, 50 or 100)
 - Mobile vehicle activated signs (VAS)
 - Community Speedwatch Cameras
5. Applicants cannot bid for **both** the mobile VAS sign and the Community Speedwatch Camera
6. All items must be used within existing GCC policies / guidance.
7. Only registered Community Speed Watch Groups can apply for the Community Speedwatch Camera.

There will be roadworks to do with Ash die back **on the A48** near Severn View Garden Centre between **the 25th and 27th July, I understand that the road will be shut.** I have asked Highways to make sure that the work being done on the Awre road by Gigaclear at the same time does not mean both roads out of Blakeney are shut at the same time.

New Road Blakeney. I have talked to Knights Brown, the contractors, and the ground they are working with is harder than expected meaning good news for the long term stability of the road but bad news as it means they are only half way through the piling. Opening the road is likely to be the end of September rather than August unfortunately.

I am trying to see if there is any chance of Highways fixing the path (not an official public right of way) down from the road to the valley bottom.

Viney Hill Junction on the A48. I have been working with highways and police to reduce speed at this junction. Over the last week they have put up some large signs warning of a blind summit and I believe they will be adding in road markings too. Once the work is done the police will come and do a speed survey and hopefully the average speed will be low enough for them to agree to 50 mile an hour speed limit from Blakeney through to Lens Brook.

Newport to Gloucester TRAINS

Network Rail are carrying out major resilience work between Monday 18 July 2022 and Friday 2 September 2022 to help protect this vital rail link on the Severn Estuary from landslips. During this period, buses may replace trains for all or part of your journey. Please plan ahead at national rail.co.uk.

networkrail.co.uk/severnestuary

24-hour National Helpline 03457 11 41 41

Libraries

Residents in Gloucestershire are being invited to give their views on a new library strategy that sets out the aims and ambitions of the service from 2023 to 2028.

It will run from 4 July to 23 September 2022 and [you can take part in the survey, as well as read the draft strategy, here](#).

Children and Families. With the summer holidays nearly here please be aware of the following:

Science and innovation-themed Summer Reading Challenge. Gloucestershire Libraries are inviting children to meet the Gadgeteers this summer and get involved in a national event, which is led by the Reading Agency charity in partnership with public libraries. It is being launched on Saturday 9 July and runs until 10 September 2022. It aims to encourage children to enjoy reading and visit their library and a range of free events and activities is being held in libraries around the county throughout the summer. Children aged four to 11 will be able to join six fictional Gadgeteers by taking part, with free materials available from libraries and online via the challenge [website](#).

HAF: Together with its partners, the county council is once again providing a wide range of activities across Gloucestershire for four weeks of the school holidays, from 1 – 26 August. The summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) is funded by the Department of Education for families eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Using grant funding, the council is giving all families in Gloucestershire the opportunity to join in this summer's fun by offering enriching holiday activities to all children and young people, through its Holiday Activities Programme (HAP). More information is available at

Gloucestershire has many families that are hosting Ukrainian refugees, please look out for them and help them support the families fleeing war. This is an ongoing situation with many refugees founding sanctuary in Gloucestershire from all over the world. Thank you to the amazing work of [GARAS » Latest](#). More information about how you can help can be found here:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf [Ukraine - Gloucestershire guidance and support - Gloucestershire County Council](#)

How can you get involved in Plastic Free July?

The worldwide 'Plastic Free July' campaign launched on Friday 1st July.

You can support the campaign by:

- Sharing Gloucestershire County Council's Social Media posts about reducing plastic use throughout July (primarily through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). Comment on our posts and share how you are reducing plastic use throughout July.
- Reading our waste newsletters, which are packed full of plastic free tips, please encourage others to [Subscribe](#)
- Holding your own plastic free tea break.
- Talking to friends, family, colleagues, customers and your local community about plastic free options and encouraging people to visit <https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/plastics/> to find out more.
- Encourage everyone to sign up to take part in Plastic Free July via our website <https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/reduce/plastics/plastic-free-communities/>

I know I have had conversations this month with people asking why the forest of Dean does not collect more plastic for recycling and although this is a district area of responsibility my understanding of it is that the FoD District Council collects the types of plastic for which there is a market. There are lots of ways that we as individuals and householders can reduce our own plastic consumption as recycling our way out of too much plastic is not the

answer. Making sure you use reusable water bottles; shopping bags and coffee cups is all within our gift and once you get into the swing of it is easy enough. What we also need to work on is companies taking responsibility and using less plastic packaging. There is lots of conversations that can be had around all these issues and now is a good time to have them with friends and family.

Motions at Full Council

The Green Group put forward a motion that asked for **7000 acres of Council owned farms** to be appreciated and protected for the future; using them to enable new entrants into farming to access land, build local food security and address the climate and biodiversity emergencies. The farms have the potential to give Gloucestershire County Council a seat at the table when deciding how land in Gloucestershire should be used and can work in partnership with all the many land based organisations across the county such as Hartpury and CPRE and Landworkers Alliance. We found a compromise that will mean a group will be formed to look at the issue and review the current strategy on County Farms. Now the work begins, I will keep you informed of progress.

Labour also managed to get agreement to have a new group to look at how **the local bus service** and can be improved.

The Conservatives asked us to support their work on knife crime, writing an action plan and working with youth groups, local communities and the police although they did not support the LD motion that was asking for the County to lobby government on the cost of living crisis.