
RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 9th September 2025.

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. William Acland Chairman, Norman Snell, Tony Matthews, Paul Firth, Denis Bagwell-Johnson.

County Councillors Present:

Ray Donaghue.

Beki Hoyland.

District Councillors Present:

Non-Present.

Parish Council Clerk – Roland Dowding.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Helen Medcraft, Bernie O'Neill, Andy Moore, Richard Burton.

Standing Declarations of Interest

- a) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Denis Bagwell-Johnston.
- b) St Whites School - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. William Acland.
- c) Soudley Village Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Norman Snell.

Public Present: Minette Smith, Tony Smith, Edward Sheppard.

R&SPC Public Participation: No participation.

- 9.1. **Apologies** received and recorded from absent members.
- 9.2. No declaration of prejudicial interest was declared by members present.
- 9.3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the council meeting held on the **8th of July, 2025** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 9.4. **Matters Arising** - There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 9.5. **District Councillor Reports**
Reports are attached as an Appendix to these minutes.
- 9.6. **County Councillor Reports**
None Present, No reports submitted.
- 9.7. **Grants 2025 – Cinderford Town Youth Football Club.** Application totalling £500.00 for equipment and football kit. Approved unanimously by the members present.
- 9.8. **Planning** – The completed schedule for **July & August** is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

- 9.9. Following a report by the Honorary Treasurer, Cllr. Norman Snell the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for **August**, payment totalling **£4,898.97**. Accounts presented for **September**, payment totalling **£4,721.68**. These figures are inclusive of confidential expenditure. A financial report is included for August & September in the appendix to these minutes.
- 9.10. **Budget Transfers**
- Transfer from Contingency Budget **£ 250.00** to balance Street Furniture Budget. Member approval requested. Approved.
 - Transfer from Contingency Budget **£ 200.00** to balance Street Defibrillator Budget. Member approval requested. Approved.
- 9.11. **Conclusion of AGAR 2024/25** – Members noted receipt of Section 3 notice. No recommendations made.
- 9.12. **R&SPC Grant Bid Play Areas** - Via Finding Fitness Limited, for a multi age climbing frame for Ruspidge recreational ground and an aged three and under slide for Woodland View Play Area. Members present approved the application.
- 9.13. **Election of Vice Chairman.** Cllr. Tony Matthews nominated for the role, accepted and approved by the members present.
- 9.14. **Duties of the Council** – Soudley Remembrance Day. Cllr. Paul Firth agreed to undertake the role, work commitments allowing.
- 9.15. **Recreational Grounds & Play Area Inspection Reports** – Member acknowledged receipt of the August quarters inspection attended to by KOMPAN. Actions recommended in the report are requested to be attended too.
- 9.16. **Chestnut Trees Hart Green** – Members requested the Clerk. Mr. Roland Dowding identifies the owner of the Trees adjacent to Hart Green and request them cut back from obstructing the public footpath.
- 9.17. **Vexatious Request Policy** – Member approval requested. The Members present unanimously approved the policy.
- 9.18. **Community Speed Watch SNEYD WOOD** – Cllr. Tony Matthews reported, unfortunately due to suspected vandalism the camera has been rendered inoperable since July. After debating the situation, the members present voted unanimously to discontinue usage of the camera along Sneyd Wood Rd. The Clerk is instructed to confer with GCC Highway and GCC Cllr. Ray Donaghue the possibility of having speed bumps/sleeping policemen sited along Sneyd Wood Rd. This subject will be discussed further at the October Parish Council meeting.
- 9.19. **Liaison's Report for Soudley Village Hall** – Cllr. Norman Snell presented his report.
- Soudley Fete, successful, over 800 members of the public attended. Profit of over £1000 made for Soudley Village hall.
 - Produce show, 160 members of the public attended, over £1000 profit taken for Soudley Village hall.
 - Two Soudley allotments still vacant.
 - New junior football team.
 - Firework display Sunday 9th November 2025, £5.00 entrance fee.

- Additional venue bookings.

9.20. **Liaison's Report for Ruspidge Memorial Hall** – Cllr. Denis Bagwell-Johnston presented his report.

- Worked attended to on the outside walls and rendered.
- Produce produced from the gardens.
- Hearing loop has been installed into the main hall.
- Water butts have sited and improvements to guttering.
- Mac Millen Morning bring & buy, over £600.00 taken.

9.21. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.

9.22. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council will be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at **7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 14th October 2025**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 6th of October 2025**.

9.23. **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 p.m.

Signed:.....Chairman.

Dated:.....

APPENDIX

FINANCIAL REPORT for the meeting in: August 2025					
1. Reconciliation of Account as at:		end July 2025			
Ledger		£		Bank	£
Balance b/f		127,324.42	(Treasurers)	Lloyds Current A/c.	1,775.44
Bank Interest		35.70	(Reserves)	Lloyds Inst. Access A/c.	57,191.38
HMRC VAT Refund		891.18		Unity Current A/c	906.00
FoDDC Busy Rascals Grant		500.00		Unity Inst Access A/c	63,445.63
	Total	128,751.30		Total	123,318.45
Less Expenditure July		5,432.85			
Balance		123,318.45		Balance	123,318.45
2. Accounts for Payment		# = Paid in July but on August's ledger.			
Payee	No	Total £	VAT	Narrative	
Solutions In Technology	DD	42.00	7.00	Broadband Cease/Migration Charge	
Module IT	DD	266.81	44.47	Number Porting, Yealink Handset, Evolve IP Basic User	
# EE Ltd	DD	16.07		Mobile Phone	
Ijin Veterans Memorial Group	1	500.00		R&SPC Grant Award	
*# Busy Rascals Community Lunch	2	100.00		FoDDC Grant Award. Payment on 24th July	
# Post Office	3	8.95		Postage Signed For, 24hours. Return Equipment for SIT.	
Merlin Waste	4	288.00		Dog waste Bins Emptied	
Complete Landscapes	5	1,032.00	172.00	Parish Grass Cutting	
# Solutions In Technology	6	3.98	0.66	Call Charges	
Module IT	7 (DD)	92.80	15.47	IT Support & Web.	
# Lloyds Bank	8(SC)	4.25		Service Charge	
Tesco	9	5.00		Batteries Duracell	
Tim Harris	10	615.51		St Clean, Safety Rreports, Defib Checks, Grass Cutting, Signage.	
Ruspidge Memorial Hall	11	18.00		Hall Rental	
Solutions In Technology	12 (DD)	0.98	0.16	Call Fees	
TOTAL		2,994.35	239.76		

FINANCIAL REPORT for the meeting in: September 2025					
1. Reconciliation of Account as at:			end August 2025		
Ledger		£		Bank	£
Balance b/f		123,318.45	(Treasurers)	Lloyds Current A/c.	875.41
Bank Interest		36.19	(Reserves)	Lloyds Inst. Access A/c.	56,178.65
FoDDC		2,951.08		Unity Current A/c	906.00
Solutions In Technology Inv-41995				Unity Inst Access A/c	63,445.63
July DD Payment Not Taken.		42.00			
	Total	126,347.72		Total	121,405.69
Less Expenditure August		4,942.03			
Balance		121,405.69		Balance	121,405.69
2. Accounts for Payment		# = Paid in August but on September's ledger.			
Module IT	DD	19.79	3.30	Inv-018453. Voip, Evolve IP & Additional Charges	
Module IT	DD	92.80	15.47	Inv-018438. IT Support & Microsoft Office	
# EE Ltd		16.07		Mobile Phone	
# Soudley Village Hall	1	25.00		Grass Cutting. Play Area	
# Amazon	2	30.99		Paddlocks x2	
*# Busy Rascals Community Lunch Club	3	100.00		FoDDC Grant Award. Payment on 28th August	
GritBins.net (Kingfisher Direct Ltd)	4	227.03	37.84	Soudley Grit Bin Storage.	
KOMPAN	5	505.62	84.27	Play Area, Operational Inspections	
# Lloyds Bank	6	4.25		Service Charge	
Merlin Waste	7	288.00		Dog Waste Bins Emptied	
Tim Harris	8	475.51		St Clean, Park Safety Checks, Defibs	
				Grass Cuts.	
Complete Landscapes	9	1,032.00	172.00	Parish Grass Cutting	

<u>Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council</u>			
NO MEETING IN AUGUST 2020			
	<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>	
	<u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>	
SUB	P0841/25/FUL Zion Chapel , Tramway Road, Soudley, Gloucestershire. Change of use from holiday let use to residential dwelling.	No Obj	
SUB	P0562/25/FUL Orchard View, Bradley Hill, Blakeney, Gloucestershire. Erection of a rear single-storey extension, outbuilding and erection of a side porch.	No Obj	
<u>Decisions notified by the Planning Authority</u>			
	<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>District</u>
	<u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Decision</u>
			<u>Date</u>
	P0353/25/FUL The Old Police House, 15B Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire. Erection of rear balcony, construction of raised parking bay and dropped kerb.	Objection	Consent
			01/08/2025

<u>Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council</u>			
<u>Planning Schedule September, 20--</u>			
	<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>	
	<u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>	
SUB	P0910/25/FUL	No Obj	
	35 Buckshaft Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.		
	Erection of a single storey side extension and first floor rear extension with associated works. Demolition of existing garage.		
SUB	P1042/25/FUL	No Obj	
	9 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.		
	Erection of 2 Self-Build Dwellings and associated works.		
	<i>They do seem to have addressed the issues forthcoming from the previous application, by reducing the numbers of properties, parking, privacy, and the gradient for the first part of the proposed access.</i>		
	<i>Therefore there are no objections from that perspective, but the observation that the drive does get remarkably steep further down.</i>		
	<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>District</u>
	<u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Decision</u> <u>Date</u>
	P0562/25/FUL	No Objection	Consent 21/08/2025
	Orchard View, Bradley Hill, Blakeney, Gloucestershire.		
	Erection of a rear single-storey extension, outbuilding and erection of a side porch.		
	P0353/25/FUL	**Objection	Consent 01/08/2025
	The Old Police House, 15B Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire.		
	Erection of rear balcony, construction of raised parking bay and dropped kerb.		
	<i>** Object to this application on the grounds that it is a narrow drive on a busy section of road where vehicle would either have to back in or back out with poor visibility splay.</i>		

Gloucestershire County Parishes Report

September 2025

Beki Hoyland.

Beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk

07815660013

I hope you find this useful, if there is more detail or other information you would like to let me know.

Roads

Please continue to use and promote the use of [FixMyStreet](#) to report issues on the roads.

Consultation on Community 20s and Safer Roads Initiatives

Parishes and towns are being asked to express their interest on two issues:

1. Whether they would like any road in their area to be considered for 'Community 20s';
2. Whether there are other (higher speed) roads that would benefit from a reduction in speed limit.

Feedback is requested to be returned by **19th September** with confirmation of the date and/or meeting at which the matter was considered.

Closed roads:

17th – 19th September New Road Blakeney, Gigaclear.

- 22nd Sep – 24th Sep. Yorkley Lane, near (Old Dam Road junction)
- 22nd Sep. -30th Sep. Church road Soudley. Severn Trent work
- 29th September, The Ruffit. Gigaclear.
- 6th and 7th October. Popes Hill. Filling void in bank
- 20th October -21st October Upper Soudley/Blackpool Bridge. Repairing rails.
- 20th October -25th October, New Road, Whitecroft, Tree felling.
- 17th – 18th November. Grange Road, Littledean. Ditching and drains
- 24th – 25th November. Mount Pleasant Road. Severn Trent
- 25th – 26th November Bridge Street Blakeney for Severn Trent work

Thriving Communities grant

The Thriving Communities Grant scheme aims to invest in Gloucestershire's communities to support local organisations and groups with projects that help adults to stay well and live independently for as long as possible

[Thriving Communities Grants | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

- Sunday 28 September 2025: Applications close
- Monday 29 September - Friday 14 November 2025: Selection process

- End of December 2025: Outcomes communicated to organisations
- January - February 2026: Grant funding sent to successful organisations

Local Government Reorganisation Update

A series of in-person engagement events were held over July and August which provided the opportunity for residents to raise questions and share views on devolution, Local Government Reorganisation, and the future of council services in Gloucestershire directly with councillors. A survey through which residents could share their thoughts on how a unitary council – or councils – should be shaped was also circulated, receiving 3,112 responses. This information will be presented at full council in November where elected members will decide whether to submit a business case for one or for two unitary councils by the deadline in November.

For more information, please visit the dedicated local government reorganisation site: <https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk/>

County News:

Final ‘cause for concern’ at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service lifted

Following a visit by His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), the final cause for concern around promoting equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) has been lifted.

County Council Children’s Services judged ‘Good’ overall following Ofsted inspection

Gloucestershire County Council’s Children’s Services have been judged as ‘Good’ with some ‘Outstanding’ elements following its most recent Ofsted inspection. This represents a significant improvement since the last full inspection in 2022.

Gloucester Library

Gloucester Library will be relocating from its current premises on Brunswick Road to a brand new, state-of-the-art facility at the University of Gloucestershire - City Campus.

Introducing the new member referral process for Planning Committee

If you have a strategic planning application that you would like to be considered by the planning committee rather than a standard officer panel you can ask your county councillor to call it in. [Your Say in Planning – Introducing the new member referral process for Planning Committee | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Get Salt Smart

[NHS Food Scanner app - Healthier Families - NHS](#)

Get Salt Smart is aimed at raising awareness about the hidden salt in everyday foods and encouraging residents to reduce their daily salt intake.

Stores in Gloucestershire sold knives and vapes to under-18s

Gloucestershire Trading Standards have expressed their disappointment after stores sold products including knives, vapes, alcohol and a corrosive substance to underage buyers in undercover operations.

[Stores in Gloucestershire sold knives and vapes to under-18s | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

GCC Meetings

The next Full Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday 10th September**.

Gloucestershire gears up for Cycle September

[Home : Love to Ride](#)

Gloucestershire County Council is encouraging residents, workplaces, schools and community groups to get involved in Cycle September, a free, month-long celebration of biking.

Second-hand September challenge

The second-hand September continues throughout August!

Through to 24 August 2025 you can explore the city's fantastic charity shops, collect a stamp on a loyalty card, and be entered into a prize draw for Gloucester Gift Cards. There are six prizes to be won!

How it works:

1. Pick up a free stamp card with any purchase at a participating charity shop.
2. Make six purchases across at least three different city-centre charity shops.
3. Submit your completed card before 24 August 2025 for a chance to win Gloucester Gift Cards.
4. Keep going – if you complete a loyalty card, start another for even more chances to win!

Charity shops feature goods ranging from vintage fashion to homewares, all while supporting vital causes.

Why is buying second hand supporting climate change action?

Producing clothes uses a lot of natural resources and creates greenhouse gas emissions which are responsible for [climate change](#).

Overall, the fashion industry is responsible for [8-10% of global green house gas emissions](#) - more than the aviation and shipping combined.

By supporting second hand, you're reducing the demand for new clothing, preventing clothes from being wasted and it can save you money too! 🤗

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – I am looking at starting a scheme for Cinderford High St from the Seven Stars Road to the Belle Vue Ctr. I will be meeting a local coordinator this month. Could everyone please let anyone who may be interest know and to contact me.

PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) – Working with CTC and the Police to attempt to get this in place for the Belle Vue Ctr and possibly consider the centre. They are difficult to get but we are looking at it.

Progress meeting regarding Forest High School on 09/09 – I will update at the meeting.

Town Centre Regeneration – Catherine Lines (the new Market Towns Officer) is building a plan to improve the centre. I have been in meetings and arranging meetings with the different services and officers to look at how we can tidy up the highways and appearance of the town centre and also get the County Council to take a closer look at Cinderford and what they can contribute. This includes:

A Cinderford walkabout planned with the GCC cabinet members for Highways and Business Investment (and hopefully counterparts in FODDC).

Lisa Spivey (Leader of GCC) has agreed to have a roundtable discussion to look at what GCC can help with as a whole.

VOLUNTEER WANTED! We are looking for a volunteer to put every highway, pavement, street, overgrowth issue on the reporting app – fixmystreet and work with me when the issues are held up or not sorted in a timely manner. If you know of anyone then let me know. They will be a CTC volunteer but working with councillors when there are issues they need support with.

Cinderford High St Action Group (HAG) – cross party work with residents concerned with the speed bumps on the High St by the hospital is underway.

Other work I have been doing at a GCC level is:

Requesting information from the Chief Constable on 2 internal investigations Gloucestershire Police have undertook on Group Based Child Sexual Exploitation (GBCSE) in the county.

Working with different officers and cabinet members and highlighting the issues of chaotic and complex female drug users in the area. Also feeding in the overall nature of the substance misuse issues in the area and the challenges everyone faces managing it. Conversations are underway to look at the level of resources the Forest receive.

Attended a migrant hotel protest with other councillors and FOD constituents and people that had been affected by migrant crime including sexual and property crime.

In talks with the OPCC to try and scrutinise the potential consequences for the PCSO cuts.

Working to try and scrutinise that Cinderford gets its fair share of resources and investment.

Some useful press releases:

Gloucestershire County Council launches £400k fund to support local community projects

Community groups across Gloucestershire are invited to apply for a share of £400,000 through the County Council's [Thriving Communities Grant programme](#).

The scheme supports local organisations running projects that help people stay well, connected, and independent for longer. Since launching in 2018, the grant has backed more than 370 projects, investing £2.8 million into local initiatives that reduce isolation and improve physical and mental wellbeing.

Last year alone, the council received 184 applications and awarded 69 grants, ranging from £500 to £7,500. Thanks to this funding, community groups across Gloucestershire are making a real difference to people's lives.

Examples include the Friendship Café in Gloucester which launched a wellbeing programme for vulnerable residents, while the Marah Trust in Stroud continued offering hot meals and vital support to tackle isolation.

In Tewkesbury, Mindsong expanded its uplifting Sing 2 Remember sessions for people with dementia and their families, and Cheltenham's Mental Health Carer Support Group continued its essential work supporting carers.

Meanwhile, Great Oaks Hospice in the Forest of Dean extended its counselling and bereavement services, and the Avening Community Café remained a welcoming hub for isolated and bereaved villagers.

Councillor Dr Kate Usmar, Cabinet Member for Adults' Support & Independence, said: "It's fantastic to support the amazing work happening in communities across Gloucestershire. These grants empower groups to turn great ideas into action - helping local people to stay well, feel connected and live independently for longer."

Full details including how to apply are available on our [website](#).

Media Release RE Flu Vaccine

28 August 2025

Flu vaccine campaign gets underway for children and pregnant women

The NHS in Gloucestershire is launching its annual flu vaccination campaign on Monday 1 September, with pregnant women and children from age 2 and 3, in primary school, and up to Year 11 at secondary school the first to be eligible for the vaccine.

The campaign aims to reduce serious illness and hospitalisations this winter, while helping to protect vulnerable groups and ease pressure on local health services.

In addition to being able to get a vaccine via their GP practice, pregnant women may also be able to book in for the jab at an antenatal appointment.

Sue Cooper, lead midwife for vaccinations at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said:

“Flu can be really serious, especially for pregnant women who are more likely to develop complications such as pneumonia, early labour, low birth weight babies, and in some cases, stillbirth.

By having the flu jab, pregnant women are not only protecting themselves - they’re also protecting their baby, as the vaccine passes on immunity for the first few months of life.

The vaccine is safe to have at any stage of pregnancy and doesn’t contain live virus, so it can’t cause flu. Some people may experience mild side effects like a slightly raised temperature, aching muscles, or soreness at the injection site, but these can be managed with paracetamol.

Speak to your GP practice or midwifery team - they’ll be happy to talk you through it.”

Children aged 2 and 3 can receive the nasal spray vaccine via their GP, and for the first time this year, some may also be able to get it at participating pharmacies.

Children from reception to Year 11 will be offered the nasal spray through the School Aged Immunisation Service in the coming weeks.

Dr Hein Le Roux, Deputy Medical Director, NHS Gloucestershire and local GP, said:

“Flu can be very serious for children and spreads quickly in schools and households.

Getting your child vaccinated helps protect them from becoming seriously ill and also reduces the risk of passing flu on to friends and family.”

Caroline Halford, Head of the School Aged Immunisation Service, Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust added:

“The flu vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect children from serious illness and reduce the spread of flu in schools and communities.

We urge all parents and carers to complete consent forms promptly so their children don’t miss out on this vital protection.

Children are known to be ‘super spreaders’ - they’re in close contact with others at school and during clubs and activities, which means they can easily and unknowingly pass flu on to more vulnerable family members.”

Older people and those with certain health conditions will be eligible for the flu vaccine from October, in line with national guidance. This timing ensures the vaccine offers maximum protection during the peak flu season, as immunity can wane over time. By vaccinating closer to winter, the NHS aims to safeguard those most at risk when flu is circulating widely.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Flu vaccine availability

The following cohorts are eligible for the seasonal flu vaccine.

From 1 September 2025

- All children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2025.
- School-aged children from Reception to Year 11 (inclusive).
- Children aged 6 months to under 18 years in clinical risk groups.
- Pregnant women.

From 1 October 2025

- People aged 65 years and over.
- People aged 18 to under 65 years in clinical risk groups.
- All frontline health and social care workers.
- Carers and household contacts of immunocompromised individuals.
- Residents in long-stay residential care homes.

COVID vaccine eligibility

Some people may also be eligible for a COVID vaccine which will also be offered from 1 October. Where possible, both the flu and COVID vaccine will be offered at the same time.

- adults aged 75 years and over.
- residents in care homes for older adults.
- individuals who are immunosuppressed aged 6 months and over.

More information about the vaccinations is available on the NHS Gloucestershire website: www.nhsglos.nhs.uk/link/vaccination.

News Release

EV 9256

For Immediate Release

Bold vision set out for greener, smarter growth

Gloucestershire County Council is stepping up its commitment to shaping a better future for residents with two major initiatives aimed at delivering sustainable development and unlocking investment across the county.

The county council is set to adopt the Local Development Guide (LDG) – this updated framework sets out clear expectations for developers and planners. It is designed to ensure that new developments are well-designed, environmentally responsible and benefit local communities. From transport and education to libraries and climate resilience, the LDG will help steer growth and ensure a sustainable future.

Alongside this, the council is re-launching the Gloucestershire Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF), an £8 million loan fund to support projects that boost connectivity, housing, and economic growth. The loan fund will help unlock stalled developments,

improve transport links, and support regeneration in areas that need it most. This powerful tool has already helped unlock major projects like Gloucester Services and the 270 Climbing Park in Benthams under its previous guise within GFirst LEP. It will now continue to help deliver the ambitions set out in the Gloucestershire Economic Strategy and ensure that infrastructure keeps pace with growth.

Reports on the initiatives are being presented to cabinet at a meeting on Wednesday 23 July.

Gloucestershire County Council will work closely with district councils, developers and local communities to ensure the plans deliver real impact. The LDG will be used to inform planning decisions from this summer, while the GEIF is expected to begin allocating funding before the end of this financial year.

Cllr Julian Tooke, cabinet member for business, economic development, planning and infrastructure, said: “We want Gloucestershire to be a place where growth is not just about numbers, but about delivering quality places - where people want to live, where services are accessible, roads are safe and walkable, and where communities feel proud of their local community.

“These initiatives will help shape places where people want to live, work and thrive - and where future generations feel proud to call Gloucestershire home.”

For more details, see the [LDG cabinet report](#) and [GLEIF Cabinet Report](#).

District Councillor Report – Richard Burton – September 2025

Forest of Dean District Council Invests Over £80,000 in Local Community Assets

Six facilities across the district are set to benefit from the Council’s Community Asset Grant for 2025/26. The funding, totalling more than £80,000, will support vital improvements and help secure the long-term future of these valued community spaces.

The funding was aimed at village halls, community buildings, sport facilities and local heritage buildings and performance spaces. Forest of Dean District Council were particularly keen to support projects that promote decarbonisation, improve energy efficiency, renewable energy installations, improving digital connectivity and conserve and enhance buildings of local and national heritage value.

The grant will support the installation of solar panels onto the roof at Soudley Village Hall to reduce energy bills and help safeguard the building for future use.

Rising Sun, Woodcroft, purchase and install solar panels on the south facing roof of the community owned pub.

Other grants were at Wilderness Centre, Scarr Bandstand, Dean Heritage Centre, Forest of Dean Gymnastics Centre.

Exciting vision for Five Acres takes shape with new Masterplan

The new phase one designs for Five Acres provides for soft play, party rooms, power assisted exercise rooms, group exercise space, a large 53-station gym and a café. There will also be a repurposing of the former Speedwell Building upper floors from the previous classrooms to create new office & community spaces, and an outreach space for Hartpury University’s Aspiration Centre, all included in phase one of the project. Outside there will be new car parking and a secure cycle parking facility.

Phase two consists of the 3G artificial pitch, floodlights and spectator area and was part of a separate successful funding submission to the Football Association in January 2025. The new pitch has been designed for football and rugby use and is the subject of a live planning application P0087/25/FUL, the decision of which will be communicated in due course.

Full details relating to the future vision for the site, as well as comments and questions from previous public forum events can be found at the link below:

<https://www.fdean.gov.uk/planning-and-building/regeneration/five-acres-redevelopment-site/> Full details of the planning application for the 3G pitch at Five Acres can be found by searching Five Acres, or the reference number P0087/25/FUL at the following link: <https://publicaccess.fdean.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Don't lose your vote - Forest of Dean residents urged to check voter registration details

Residents across the Forest of Dean are being reminded to check their voter registration details

Forest of Dean District Council is carrying out its annual canvass to update the electoral register. This process helps identify anyone at risk of losing their right to vote and ensures that everyone eligible is properly registered.

Nigel Brinn, CEO at Forest of Dean District Council and Electoral Registration Officer, said:

“Maintaining an accurate electoral register is a vital part of our democratic process, and the annual canvass plays a key role in ensuring that. It’s important that residents take a few moments to check and respond to any information our Electoral Services team send out.”

Emergency bleed control kits rolled out in Forest towns

Forest of Dean District Council has supplied emergency kits which help to stem traumatic bleeding in a medical emergency. Kits will be installed in accessible locations in Cinderford, Coleford, Lydney and Newent, as well as locations such as Pedal-A-Bikeaway at the Forest of Dean Cycle Centre.

The project was made possible thanks to the Community Safety Partnership and funded from the proceeds of a successful prosecution carried out by the Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit and Forest of Dean District Council.

The kits are designed to provide immediate aid in cases of severe bleeding from traumatic injuries, such as those resulting from assaults, falls, or road traffic collisions, before emergency services arrive.

Along with defibrillators, the emergency bleed kits are accessible and available 24/7. All bleed kits are registered with the Ambulance Trust and should a member of the public need either a bleed kit or a defibrillator, the code will be provided when calling 999.