

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

MINUTES of the MEETING

held on the Tuesday 13th December, 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,
Gwyn Roberts, Carole Roberts,

The Clerk – Roland Dowding.

Public Present:

Adrian Peacey, Richard Carpenter,
Denis Bagwell-Johnston, Lisa Hype,
Adam Taylor, Charlie Johnson, Paul Storer,
Alan Beddis, Tony Smith, Nick Holder.

County Councillors Present:

Cllr. Graham Morgan.

District Councillors Present:

No District Councillors Present.

Apologies:

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

Standing Declarations of Interest

- (a) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Acland.
- (b) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. C. Roberts.
- (c) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. G. Roberts.
- (d) Soudley Village Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Ogden.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Alan Beddis - Tramway Road streetlights have been removed. The Clerk is instructed to contact Highways to enquire as to the reason for Tramway Road streetlights removal and ascertain when they will be returned.

Mr Beddis will be contacted & informed of the outcome of said communication with Highways.

Adam Taylor - Sneyd Wood estate. Thanked Parish Council for September's speed survey, remained at the meeting to speak to council on item **12.11, SNEYD WOOD VAS & 12.12, SNEYD WOOD ANPR.**

Adrian Peacey, Tony Smith, Richard Carpenter, Alan Beddis, Lisa Hype - All attended to lobby, demand action and support from the Parish Council due to recent bus routes being cancelled in the parish. The aforementioned public were invited to remain and join the discussion on agenda item **12.14, PARISH BUSES.**

Charlie Johnson - From **Cinderford Ladies Football Club**, enquiry regarding use of **Ruspidge RWT football field** and facilities. The **Ladies club** would like to become the resident club. RWT trustees welcomed the club and invited them to take up residency. Also, invited by the Chairman to participate in the **RWT Agenda.**

RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST

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

12.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

12.2. **Cost Increase Per Match played on Ruspidge Football ground.** £30.00 proposed & agreed by majority of trustees. Cinderford Ladies Club have agreed to this per-match fee of £30.00.

12.3. **Ruspidge Football Club Facilities Maintenance.** Trustees have authorised repair & repainting of the outside roofs of the cabins. Rubberise or felt being a potential solution.

Water to be re-connected, electrical inspection to be undertaken, plumbing & boiler to be inspected. The playing field will require rolling, Parish Council Clerk to contact & arrange for these services to be actioned.

Cinderford ladies Club the new resident club, will undertake the painting of the inside & outside of the cabins, cabins to be painted in club colours, **RWT** trust will reimburse material costs. The **Ladies Club** will also undertake the pitch line markings either by using line marking equipment owned by the **RWT** or supplying their own/hiring a service at their cost. The **Ladies Club** can adjust goal posts to meet regulation standards at the club's discretion.

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

12.2. No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest declared.

12.3. **MINUTES** - the minutes of the council meeting held on the **8th of November, 2022** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

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

12.5 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

12.6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

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

FINANCIAL MATTERS

12.8. Following report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for **December** payment totalling **£29,338.32**, this figure being inclusive of confidential expenditure.

12.9. **PRESENT DRAFT BUDGET** - The Parish Council unanimously approved the amended 2023/24 draft budget.

12.10. **INSTANT ACCESS SAVER ACCOUNT** - To protect the Parish Council Finances the **RFO** advice's opening an additional savings account for general reserves to ensure public money is protected through the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). Parish Council members present unanimously approved opening an additional account as per the **RFO's** advice.

12.11. **SNEYD WOOD VAS** - Parish Council members considered a request from the public & the police for the placement of a **VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (VAS)** on Sneyd Wood Road. Also, possible relocation of an existing Parish **VAS**. Parish Council members declined the request for a **VAS** or to move an existing **VAS**. Stating the reason; there are already three **VAS** sited in the Parish and **they** have proved ineffective at discouraging motorists from Speeding.

12.12. **SNEYD WOOD ANPR** - Parish Council members to consider the benefits of an **AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION** camera (**ANPR**) on Sneyd Wood Road and seek potential **ANPR** grant funding. Members present discussed the merits of **ANPR** over **VAS** as a possible solution for Sneyd Wood Road. Members present unanimously agreed and proposed **ANPR** for Sneyd Wood Rd.

The Clerk is instructed to seek funding for the aforementioned ANPR on Sneyd Wood Rd.

- 12.13. **SOUDLEY BRIDGE REPAIRS** - The Parish Council, given the information presented by Gloucestershire County Council & Forestry Commission England, informed the Chairman of Soudley Village Hall (**SVH**) present at the meeting, that the Bridge on Lower Road Soudley and the land to the front of the Hall is owned by **SVH**.
It is established that the urgent issue for the bridge is the repair/replacement of the handrails. Future refurbishment of the bridge 'steel supports' and decking will be required, but not urgent.
The Chairman of **SVH** was advised that the Village Hall committee seek grant funding and appoint contractors at their discretion to undertake repairs to the bridge.
The **PC** will contribute to said funding to be considered at a later date.
Recycling Centre on SVH land. It is uncertain as to who initially gave consent for the recycling centre sited on SVH land. The Clerk is requested to confirm instruction from **SVH** to Biffa, to have the recycling bins removed from the **SVH** land.
- 12.14. **PARISH BUSES** - How can the Parish Council best serve its Parishioners regarding the recent cuts to bus routes.
Members of the public present at the meeting request the level of services are reinstated. Mr **Adrian Peacey** stated that at no point were the public consulted regarding proposed cuts and the impact on local communities considered.
The public present demand the Parish Council add its voice in support of the parishioners to bring pressure, contest the recent cuts and for future consultation in the form of a public meeting to be held within the parish, with Cllr. Philip Robinson present.
The Parish Council requests the Clerk draft a letter for member approval and then to be sent to;
Cllr. Philip Robinson - Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Bus Transport.
The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP - Secretary of State for Transport.
GCC Cllr. Morgan will be copied into the email.
- 12.15. **CORRESPONDENCE** The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 12.16. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 10th January, 2023**. The agenda deadline is **Wednesday, 4th January, 2023**.
- 12.17. **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 8.15 p.m.

Signed: Chair. Dated:

APPENDIX

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

Planning Schedule for the December, 2022 meeting.

**Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish
Comment**

P1883/21/FUL

Land At Sneyd Wood Road Cinderford Gloucestershire
Erection of residential development of 11 number dwellings
with associated works, drainage, roads, parking, and landscaping.

No Obj

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

**Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish
Comment**

**District
Decision**

Date

P1045/22/FUL

Church Of St Michael Church Road Soudley
Gloucestershire GL14 2UA
Discharge of Conditions 03 (Privacy Screen - Trellis) and
06 (Hard and Soft Landscaping Scheme) and variation
of Conditions 02 (Approved Plans) and 05 (Visibility
Splays) relating to P1419/18/FUL.

No Obj

Consent

25/11/2022

P0098/22/DISCON

Land Adjoining Dene Vista Ruspidge Road Ruspidge
Gloucestershire Discharge of Condition 8 (bicycle store)
and Condition 9 (surface water drainage) relating to
P0530/22/FUL.

No Obj

Consent

07/12/2022

District Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Bernie O'Neill

Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – December 2022

Together fund.. this is available to help organisations that are providing sport or physical activity and may be helpful with financial support for heating for Ruspidge Memorial Hall as there are exercise classes held....contact 'Active Gloucestershire' Tom Beasley CEO01452 393602.

If the hall was to be opened up as a Warm Space , perhaps as a lunch club then contact Fran Palmer, FODDC Community Builder, 01594 812 382

A pack has been made available (which I hope the PC has) regarding the Cost of Living Crisis, giving much advice and help. If you haven't got one, then please let me know.

We have now had Confirmation regarding the allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity fund of £1m over 3 years, with yr 1 receiving approx £120k, year 2 £ 240k and year 3 £640 on mainly revenue funding. We have projects identified. We are awaiting confirmation of the Rural England Prosperity Fund which is for Capital projects, and it is a much smaller amount.

I have heard nothing more about Forest Lodge, so I am still keeping an eye on things with regard to Planning, and I have asked our Officer to let me know when things change.

Cllr. Nicky Packer

Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – December 2022

S106 & CIL

FoDDC is the only District Council within Gloucestershire that has not adopted CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). CIL and s106 are different to each other. District Councils have more control over CIL payments to GCC. In the last two years, GCC is millions of pounds short on contributions towards education and libraries, compared with previous years. The shortfall in funding has become an urgent and serious problem for GCC. Let me know if you would like the report.

SOSC meeting 3rd November

A bit more detail about this meeting than was in my last report:

- Waste Services Update. A study that was done in preparation for work on the new contract for waste collection was presented. This report will be more understandable within the context of the work that will be done on the different options and costings to be considered for the new contract, for which it is intended as a base line. The Waste Service Review will be considered at the December Cabinet meeting.
- Leisure Services Update from Freedom Leisure:

Freedom Leisure commenced a 10 year partnership with Forest of Dean District Council in 2015. This was originally to manage Cinderford, Coleford, Lydney, Newent and Sedbury. In 2018 the fitness suite at Cinderford was added to the contract and in October 2018 Coleford leisure centre was closed.

In March 2020, due to the national pandemic, all leisure centres were closed. Over the next 15 months the leisure centres were only open for around 3 months in total.

Pre pandemic memberships levels were at a record high. Membership levels are currently 3% above pre covid levels whereas the national average is around 15% below.

Learn to Swim Pre pandemic memberships levels were at a record high. Membership is currently 53% above pre covid levels with additional time slots for lessons added. It is difficult

to satisfy the demand for swimming lessons and general pool sessions. A new portal is in place where parents can track and monitor their child's progress.

Freedom Leisure have replaced such things as pool covers at all the pools and other pool equipment as necessary. Also additional fitness equipment purchased for Cinderford.

Energy usage is obviously an issue, with actions being taken at all sites to control temperatures of pools and rooms. However, temperatures must be compatible with people's health.

Active Communities / Healthy Communities – much work is being done, for example introducing GOGA (Get Out Get Active), launching youth sports clubs, a tots programme and disability programmes. Attendance has been excellent. For example, 60 – 70 young people attend Cinderford youth sports club every week. Freedom Leisure has started its own football league.

- Performance Panel Report
<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s31462/New%20Microsoft%20Word%20Document.pdf>
- Cinderford Northern Quarter Update: an incomplete preliminary draft had been circulated to some of the scrutiny inquiry committee for comment.

Local Plan

The comments made by the public to the consultation are now visible:

<https://fdean-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/event/36968/section/6031022>

Click on the 'What people say' tab, then click on the eye symbol within the consultation document.

Modern Slavery

We had a training session about modern slavery. The prevalence and the lack of help that many receive is truly shocking. Let me know if you would like a copy of the presentation. In the meantime there is an app that you can download: <https://www.unseenuk.org/about-modern-slavery/download-the-app/>

Five Acres briefing

The proposed site plan, ground floor plan and designs can be seen on the Council website: <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/planning-and-building/regeneration/five-acres-redevelopment-site/>

Phase 1 includes refurbishment of the existing curved 'Speedwell' building, plus a 4 court sports hall, 3 performance rooms, new toilets and changing rooms and a café. These spaces are to be linked with a new atrium area. There will also be new under cover cycle storage and an outdoor seating area in this first phase. An expansion area for a possible future swimming pool building and space for a possible future hotel as also shown on the plans, (for a possible future phase) with the rest of the front area shown as taken up with 186 car parking spaces in addition to the existing 27 car parking spaces – however these numbers are indicative. The sports hall could have retractable bleacher seating and a removable stage installed in future if funds become available.

Phase 2 includes 4 new tennis courts, a 3G sports pitch, a new sports pavilion with changing rooms, toilets and storage, plus overflow parking on grass are proposed. Funding is not currently secured.

The business case for phase 1 will be presented at the December Cabinet meeting, but it will be exempt business. I believe that will then be considered at the December Full Council meeting, presumably again as exempt business.

Cost of Living Crisis briefing

The briefing included the information on the Council website, that I outlined last month. Hopefully a poster will be produced for village halls etc. Leaflets have been sent to those on the Council's database as receiving benefits – this has telephone numbers as well as website links.

There was also information on the Household Support Fund Delivery Plan, which is one of the funds that individuals can apply for on the council website.

Also, information on 'A Warm Welcome', which is a fixed amount of funding to be shared among community groups to enable them to provide warm spaces for the community.

Information for householders and landlords on funding to reduce energy use, plus an overview of the health impacts of the cost of living crisis completed the information pack.

Additionally, local food projects are being mapped. If you know of any community food growing or community eating projects, please get in touch in case they haven't yet been mapped. The list also includes an emergency/crisis food category and a sustainable eating category.

If you want any more detail on the above, I can scan and email the information in the pack.

Cabinet meeting 10th November

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/g4164/Public%20reports%20pack%2010th-Nov-2022%2017.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>

Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).

Forest of Dean District Council has been indicatively allocated £614,444 over two years, starting in April 2023.

Under the Communities and Place UKSPF/REPF investment theme, early thoughts are that the REPF capital funding could help to boost the Council led Public Toilet Improvement project – where £243,590 is already allocated from UKSPF. A condition survey has been commissioned to understand the extent of the works and what refurbishment costs may look like. REPF could provide a useful top up and help upgrade all 4 town centre toilets and potentially include the 2 cemetery toilets in this scheme.

The Council led Active Travel Strategy & Action Plan project has been allocated £155,500 from UKSPF. This funding will support strategy preparation work, enable technical feasibility work and planning application preparation to progress new cycle routes. The REPF could offer an opportunity to help with delivery and build out some of these routes.

Under the "Support for Local Business" UKSPF/REPF investment theme, the Council led Business Grants & Loans project has been allocated £120,000 from UKSPF. REPF could provide a useful top up and allow this new grant and loan programme to be expanded to include REPF interventions eg. Food and farming sector support; community growing projects; and, village hall improvements (digital, energy efficiency, decarbonisation, accessibility).

REPF could provide an opportunity for the Council to work with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and existing local community transport providers to understand the gaps in provision. REPF may provide a mechanism to support organisations seeking to improve the transport offer and create sustainable solutions to support people struggling to access school, college, and training locations or access shops and services within towns and village centres. A sustainable transport initiative may help to reduce the need to travel out of area, reduce car miles and support local retail, service and hospitality businesses.

Collaborative working with Cotswold District Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council is recommended.

Budget Strategy

Government has not yet informed Local Authorities of the support that they will receive.

Publica Annual Report

We had a briefing with Publica on their Annual Report. Searching questions were asked about why Publica has lost so many good quality experienced staff recently. In my view, adequate answers were not received. I asked for a report (without names) on the 'exit interviews' that were undertaken but was told that this would not be provided.

Nicky Packer 07/12/2022

County Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Graham Morgan

Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – December 2022

The County Council and the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board are continuing their work to prevent violence towards Women and Girls, by taking part in 16 Days of Action in the international campaign aiming to become 'White Ribbon' accredited.

The Winter Holiday Activity booking is now open from the 1st December, families can now book a range of fun, festive activities to help keep children and young people active, entertained and enjoying healthy meals during the Christmas school holidays, local partners FAVF are helping the County here in the Forest to make this possible.

A new £1.6 million unit for children with social and mental health needs (SEMHD) this will be provided here in the Forest at the Heart of the Forest Special School at Speech House and is part of larger amount of money being spent across Gloucestershire.

The go-ahead has been given for the first Police, Fire & Rescue Stations with Newent and Winchcombe Stations to be used this way.

A New Diagnostic Centre is set to open in the Autumn, the £15 million Centre the first in the South West that will be in the County Council owned building at Quayside can now get underway with Kier being the contractor.

Locally I have have been working with Mr Adrian Peacy of Ruspidge to try to resolve this situation caused by Stage Coach withdrawing its services effectively cutting off the Villages of Ruspidge & Soudley, a protest was staged at Cinderford over the loss of these services, and I have contacted Councillor Philip Robinson Cabinet member responsible at Shire Hall to ask if the Buckshaft service could be extended to take in these two Villages.

I have also trying to find out what has happened to the VAS sign at Cinderford Bridge which has recently disappeared, I have made inquiries to Highways, Cinderford Town Council and the Police to try to find out what has happened to it.

Very Best Wishes Graham.

Cllr. Beki Hoyland

Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – December 2022

Report to Parish Councils, December 2022.

Feel free to contact me on beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk if you have any questions. Some of this information may be useful to disseminate further via your website etc:

ROADS

Please find attached to the email a pdf of the latest road safety strategy launch event slides.

[Application criteria and guidance - Gloucestershire County Council](#) This link will allow you to access the funding for road safety for Parish Councils and Community Groups.

I will try and keep you updated but the best place to check is: [Roadworks - Highways \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](#) note: closed roads still allow access for residents.

New Road in Blakeney is due to open on the 23rd December! It has been closed since February 2021. Many people will be very happy about this, particularly those that have been having heavier traffic because of the closure. However, there are works that have not been happening because it has been closed for so long so

- 4th to 25th January road from A48 to Viney Hill will be closed as far as Pine Tree way. This is for Gigaclear.
- 6th January for a month, Soudley to Blakeney will be closed then again later in the spring for another month, although I am sure this is subject to change. This is for Gigaclear to come through.
- Access for residents will be maintained for both these roads.
- Awre road will be closed near Blakeney 25th to 27th January
- Various road works on the A48 in the centre of Blakeney until the 22nd December
- All saints, Blakeney Hill and Pitching Green all due for Gigaclear work in the new year too. No roads are due to be shut but expect delays.
- Traffic lights in various places along the A48 between Blakeney and Newnham until mid-February
- Dean Road between Newnham and Littledean closed until 14th December.
- Other areas have road works on going but with traffic lights and delays rather than closures. Please see link above for more detail.

Highways Local money

I am waiting for a report from Highways on the work completed as part of the highway's local money, I do know they did some grass cutting in Bream and allowed water to get to the drains around the Awre area.

The pavement between Broadoak and Blakeney, where it exists, has now been cleared so that it is safer to walk along.

Do please continue to let me know about the kind of jobs that the community lengths men teams can do, they will be starting work again once the weather is better.

[A417 Missing Link \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](#) The A417 (near the Air Balloon round a bout above Gloucester) has had the go ahead.

Bus services

Stagecoach has given the following statement about busses in the Forest of Dean:

Changes to the Forest of Dean network from 20th November 2022:

From Sunday 20th November, we'll no longer be operating the following contracted routes: Service 25, 27, 710, 748, 755, 761.

We'll also no longer operate contracted journeys on the Service 24 between Cinderford and Chepstow. The route of the Service 24 will be adjusted to provide connections between Gloucester, Cinderford and Coleford, replacing journeys currently operating on the Service 25.

A Welsh bus company from Newport has now taken on the route from Lydney to Chepstow. I am in conversation with Glos Coll, Philip Robinson and Lydney dial a ride about how young people are to get to college in Cinderford from Blakeney Soudley and Newnham, if you know families effected by this do ask them to be in touch with me.

The Robin

Driven by  Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

The Robin, an on-demand minibus service has just started operating in the South of the Forest of Dean, the A40 to the north and Chepstow to the South being the boundaries of its operation.

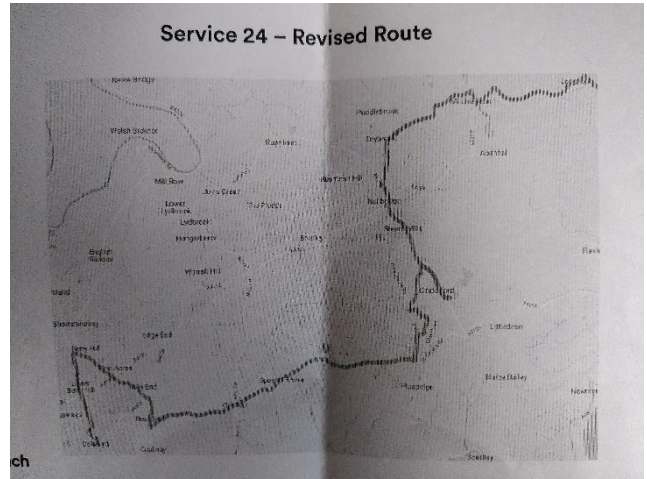
The Robin can be booked over the phone, on line or you can download the app from the play store. It can be booked up to 2 weeks in advance or an hour in in advance. The idea is that it will supplement stagecoach bus services especially in villages with no bus service. It will not take you to Gloucester but it will take you to the A48 or Littledean to catch a bus to Gloucester. Lydney dial a ride won the contract. There are 2 minibuses in operation. I have used it twice and it has been very efficient, an excellent service.

Below is copied from GCC website:

How to book

1. Sign up / log in
2. Search for a pick up time, location and drop off location
3. Select a time that suits you
4. Select a ticket type (on the right hand side)
 - 4a. If you need a **child** or **concessionary** bus pass ticket, please select 'Add a discount/subscription', and add your ticket type
5. The correct fare and payment options appear on the left hand side

Please note, if choosing to pay on board, both contactless card payment and cash are accepted on the service.



Visit our [contact us page](#) for contact details and you can stay up to date with The Robin news.

Distance	Fare (single journey)	Concessionary Pass Holder**	Child fare (15 Years and Under)
0 – 7 miles	£2.50	FREE	£1.50
7.1 + miles	£4.00	FREE	£3.00

**Concessionary passes must be presented when boarding the The Robin vehicle and scanned on the ticket machine reader when you board.

Children's services

There are currently 855 children in care across Gloucestershire, a quarter of these are placed outside of county, away from familiar school, family and friends, for some this is a necessary move but there are those that should be in County if we had more foster families. Please consider **if you or anyone you know could become Foster carers, if so please get in touch with [Fostering - Fostering \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](#)** These short films on You Tube give some insight into fostering [Gloucestershire - Foster for your council - YouTube](#) <https://youtu.be/vFVmaLu-td0> Sharing them within your community could help find some much needed foster parents. [Fostering World Cup GCC Subtitles - YouTube](#) this is a link to Gloucestershire's clip of the ads that will be going out over the world cup from many councils working together on the issue. Gloucestershire's will be going out on day 21 of the World cup

I went to an event run by the ambassadors, young care experienced young people that are working with GCC to make sure that the child's voice is heard, it was good to meet these amazing young people and hear about the launch of organising an event that will celebrate the achievements of care leavers in the County. If you know a care leaver who would benefit from being celebrated for what they have achieved in their life do let me know and I can nominate them for an award. This is aimed at under 25 year olds. Thank you.

Warm spaces

[Warm spaces - Gloucestershire County Council](#)

County Libraries have been funded to make sure that there is a warm place in the community for anyone that needs it. You can have free drinks, charge your devices, work 'from home' so you can keep the heating off at home during the day. You can use their IT and get support with other services that the county offers.

Gloucestershire County Council had full council on Wednesday 9th November. There were four motions put forward.

- Violence against women and girls – Conservative.
- Action to tackle river pollution - Labour
- Tackling the crisis in NHS dentistry -Lib Dem
- Creating warm spaces – Labour/Lib Dem

[Agenda for County Council on Wednesday 9 November 2022, 10.00 am \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](#)

All the motions were passed, there were several amendments and a lot of discussion with a particularly moving speech from Rebecca Halifax to the motion on violence Against Women and Girls. The result is that GCC will work with the Enough Campaign www.enough.campaign.gov.uk to become white ribbon accredited and support and encourage other organisations, including schools, to become involved too.

The Restoring our Rivers Task Group report [Final report with annexes.pdf \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](#)

The state of our rivers is largely down to water companies not maintaining infrastructure which leads to storm overflows being used too often and the Environment Agency not being funded enough to be able to

enforce the existing legislation. Intensive agriculture also plays a part of our declining water quality with historical and ongoing over loading of the land with phosphorous from intensive poultry units. Cheap food comes at a cost to our environment.

There are no NHS dentists with any open lists for new patients in the whole of Gloucestershire with many people unable to access much needed treatment

Be prepared for flooding this winter

Since 1998 we have seen six of the ten wettest years on record.

Communities are being urged to prepare for flooding this winter with the [Environment Agency](#) warning of “ignoring the danger at your own peril”.

The best way to protect yourself from flooding is to [know what to do in advance](#).

The Environment Agency encourage those who live in areas at risk of flooding to act now to protect their home, possessions and family. We strongly suggest having a look at [our flood guide](#) which will equip you with everything you need to know ahead of any possible flood event.

Have you seen our support hub?

[The Support Hub](#) provides links to helpful information and advice and will provide you with the tools you need to help with the increased cost of living. Most of these tips also can help you reduce your emissions as well as save money, look after your mental health and wellbeing and conserve energy.

Christmas jumper swaps at our Libraries

Got any Christmas jumpers lying around? Participating libraries are calling for donations from 14 November. Swaps will take place from 5 - 24 December.

You can drop off your donations at any of these participating libraries: Cinderford, Coleford, Lydney, Newent in the FoD

Winter Wheelers

Winter Wheelers is on its way and from December 1 - 25 there are [prizes up for grabs](#) every day.

Enter the daily prize drawings by riding your bike and enter the encourager prize draw by getting other people to ride too.

[Register now](#) and join the movement to get more people riding through winter.

[Learn more and register](#)