

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

MINUTES of the MEETING **held on the Tuesday 14th February, 2023**

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

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. Tony Matthews. Chairman,
Norman Snell, Gwyn Roberts,
Carole Roberts, William Acland.
Helen Medcraft.

County Councillors Present:

Cllr. Graham Morgan.

District Councillors Present:

Cllr. Nicky Packer.

The Clerk – Roland Dowding.

Public Present:

Adrian Peacey, Tony Smith.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Bernie O'Neill, Jo Smith,
Beki Hoyland.

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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST

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

- 2.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 2.2. No other business.

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

2.2. No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest declared.

2.3. **MINUTES** - the minutes of the council meeting held on the **10th of January, 2023** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

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

2.5. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

2.6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

- 2.7. **BUSES** – Members of the public present Adrian Peacey and Tony Smith requested the Parish Council contact Stagecoach to request passenger information for the 24 bus route, Clerk instructed to action request. Members of the parish Council were requested to support the petition to reinstate a 24-bus route and to sign said petition. The Parish Council gave it's support and members signed the petition.
- 2.8. **PLANNING** – completed schedule is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 2.9. Following report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for **February** payment totalling **£4,135.60**, this figure being inclusive of confidential expenditure.
- 2.10. **REVIEW STANDING ORDERS** - Members agreed Standing Orders had been appropriately reviewed and the Chairman duly signed said orders.
- 2.11. **REVIEW FINANCIAL REGULATIONS** - Members agreed Financial Regulations had been appropriately reviewed and the Chairman, Treasurer & RFO/Clerk duly signed said regulations.
- 2.12. **REVIEW FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT** - Members agreed Financial Risk Assessment had been appropriately reviewed and the Chairman & RFO/Clerk duly signed said Risk Assessment.
- 2.13. **BLUE ROCK TRAIL** – Cllr. Acland put forward a motion to have the buttress professionally surveyed. The motion was unanimously approved by the members present. The buttress can be located on the right when entering the BRT from the west (Ruspidge) entrance. The Clerk is instructed to find an appropriate structural surveyor to undertake this task.
- 2.14. **CORRESPONDENCE** The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence: The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 2.15. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 14th March 2023**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 6th March, 2023**.
- 2.16. **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 8.00 p.m.

Signed: Chair. Dated:

APPENDIX

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

Planning Schedule for the February, 2023 meeting.

	<u>Parish comment.</u>
P1774/22/FUL 74 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire, GL14 3AE. Erection of a first floor extension with associated Insulation, landscaping, parking and works. Removal of chimney breast and chimneys. (part-retrospective)	No Objection
P0078/23/GPDE Glanville Cottage, Lower Road, Soudley, Cinderford. Erection of rear single storey extension and front porch. (General Permitted Development Extension)	No Objection
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 Objection (<i>Comment</i>)
<i>R&SPC comment, as a condition of the development we request the developer place speed bumps on the section of road from start of Sneyd Wood to the bottom of the development.</i>	

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

	<u>Parish Comment</u>	<u>District Decision</u>	<u>Date</u>
P1310/22/FUL Land At, Coomb Drive, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire. Erection of 2 semi-detached dwellings with associated parking, access and landscaping. (Resubmission)	No Obj	Consent	20/01/2023

County Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Beki Hoyland

Report to Parish Councils, February 2023.

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

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

New Road in Blakeney is open!

Viney Hill road will be closed from the 30th January for a month.

Works along the A48 between Broadoak and Lydney will be ongoing through February, on signal control. This is for Wales and West Utilities.

The Viney Hill Road from the A48 is closed until the end of February by Gigaclear

The Ruffitt will be closed 20th and 21st February by Severn Trent.

[A417 Missing Link \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/a417-missing-link) The A417 (near the Air Balloon round a bout above Gloucester) has had the go ahead.

Have your say on carbon emissions from Transport until Tuesday 28th Feb follow the link below to the survey where you can let policy makers know your thoughts on how our highways should be used, not only by cars but how we as communities living with the roads would like to see changes.

[Reducing Transport Carbon Emissions, Reaching Net Zero by 2045 - Public Engagement Survey | Have Your Say Gloucestershire \(engagementhq.com\)](https://www.engagementhq.com/surveys/reducing-transport-carbon-emissions-reaching-net-zero-by-2045-public-engagement-survey)

Have you tried the £2 bus tickets scheme yet?

The [Department for Transport](https://www.gov.uk/government/departments) has launched a 3 month [£2 single bus ticket scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/department-for-transport-launches-3-month-2-single-bus-ticket-scheme).

43% of carbon emissions in Gloucestershire come from transport and most of this is from private cars.

If you have a local bus route that you haven't tried before now is a great time to try it.

From Blakeney to Gloucester return is usually £6:50 with this scheme it is £4 and no parking so definitely cheaper than driving **if you are on a bus route**. The maximum you have to pay is £7:50 anywhere in the county in any one day with other offers that can bring this down if you are a frequent bus user.

I am having a meeting with Lydney Dial a Ride on the 9th Feb and will keep links in order to help make sure that local public transport is encouraged and funded.

GCC Budget

The full council budget meeting is on the 15th February. The Greens are working with the administration to offer amendments and details of this will be available after the meeting. At last years budget our motion for a Biodiversity Officer to be employed on a fixed term contract was accepted and was appointed in January 2023. We met with him and discussed his role over the next couple of years and the impact he can have in different areas including linking districts and making sure that work is joined up, ensuring that biodiversity is considered in policy across all sectors of the council but in particular the rural estate and highways.

The link below takes you to all the detail in the budget but the largest increase is in the costs associated with looking after children in the county, in particular the vulnerable children open to social services as a lack of permanent social workers means the ongoing reliance

on agency social workers. Placements for children continue to rise as there is a shortage of foster care nationally.

[Budget Consultation 2023-24 - Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Healthy living help for those eligible funded by GCC the link below takes you to a page

that shows the offers available to help those that need help to live a healthier life, such as smoking and weight management.

[HLS Gloucestershire - Home \(hlsqlos.org\)](#)

Children and Families

[Families in Partnership: February 2023 - new Director appointed, Industrial Action, Free School Meals and more... \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

New Executive Director of Children's Services appointed [Ann James has been appointed to the role](#) of Executive Director of Children's Services at Gloucestershire County Council and will take over the role in 2023

Anne James has been with GCC as the safeguarding lead for the last year and I have enjoyed listening to her vision for children in the County, the strategy she will bring is one that is more child locality and family centred that I look forward to seeing rolled out over the next few years

Climate

A useful link to see how GCC is working on tree planting and helping residents to do the best they can to mitigate and slow their contribution to the climate emergency. As the say every little helps.

[Climate change action - January 2023 \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Householders urged to register their appliances

As the cost-of-living crisis prompts more people to consider buying second-hand large domestic appliances, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) is urging householders to register all appliances, whether brand new or pre-loved.

GFRS is supporting the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliance's (AMDEA) campaign this week, which runs from 23 to 27 January.

It aims to remind users to register their appliances with the manufacturer, be they small or large, and bought, 'adopted' or 'inherited'.

The [Register My Appliance](#) portal, designed by AMDEA makes it quick and easy to register both new and older appliances. Registration is free and might even extend the life of your appliance, as well as ensuring that the manufacturer will be able to contact you in case of a safety repair or recall.

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.

Homes for Ukrainians update

Gloucestershire Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Weekly Summary

13th January 2023

The following information provides an update on the Homes for Ukrainians (HFU) scheme in Gloucestershire.

National visa applications ⁱ

(for each Ukraine refugee scheme) (as of 10 January 2023)

Total visa applications	Received	Issued	% Issued	Arrived in UK	% Arrived
Ukraine Family Scheme	81,500	63,600	78%	44,500	55%
Homes for Ukraine Scheme	177,900	149,000	84%	111,000	62%
Total	259,400	212,600	82%	155,500	60%

Local visa applications HFU scheme only

Total visa applications	Received	Issued	% Issued	Arrived in UK	% Arrived
Gloucester	164	148	90%	114	70%
Cheltenham	360	322	89%	279	78%
Stroud	363	327	90%	277	76%
Tewkesbury	349	218	62%	177	51%
Forest of Dean	291	255	88%	221	76%
Cotswold	398	334	84%	274	69%
Total Gloucestershire	1,925	1,604	83%	1,342	70%

Local data on Hosts, Guests, Visits and School Numbers

Current guest and host numbers

	Current Guest Numbers	Current Active Hosts / Households	Current Hosts / Households that are rematches
Cheltenham	209	90	18
Cotswold	235	76	12
Forest	138	55	8
Gloucester	69	40	6
Stroud	212	89	22
Tewkesbury	128	44	4
Total	991	394	70

Guests that have left the HFU scheme

Reason given for leaving	Number of guests	%
Found private accommodation	180	47
Return to Ukraine	131	34
Return to other country	40	10
Other	35	9
Total	386	100

Rematching of groups with new hosts

	Total Case numbers

Number of rematches in progress	27
Rematches completed into Gloucestershire	28
Rematches completed out of Gloucestershire	26
Total rematches completed (including within county)	118

Visits and revisits

Number of guests visited (after initial arrival in UK)	1342
Number of guests revisited (at six months)	388
Number of hosts/households revisited (at six months)	160

School Placements

	Families for Ukraine	Homes for Ukraine	Total
Total number of places allocated	69	312	381
Early years	3	17	20
Primary	34	153	187
Secondary	32	142	174

County Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Graham Morgan

Since the beginning of the year and the Christmas run up, most of the work at the County Council as revolved around compiling the County Budget for 2023/24.

This budget will be put to the full County Council on Wednesday of this week 15th February 2023.

This Budget will be a total spend of £566.110 million, it is based on an overall increase of 4.99% on Council Tax, this includes a 2% increase on the Adult Social Care Precept.

This proposed increase in the Adult Social Precept is estimated to raise an additional £7.4 million.

These increases will result in a Band D property increase of £72-42 per annum.

The Band D property County Council Tax will be £1,523-00 in 2023/24 this is compared to a County Council Tax of £1,451-00 in 2022/23.

The Budget Spend Areas are as follows.

- Adults £183,851000
- Vulnerable Children £130,031000
- Other Children's Services £26,888000
- Economy Environment & Infrastructure £91,959000
- Community Safety £23,326000
- Prevention & Wellbeing £36,379000

-
- Corporate Resources £44,488000
 - Technical & Countywide £29,188000.

This makes up the overall Budget of £566,110000 for 2023/24, the Conservative are going to allow some very minor amendments from the Lib-Dem, Labour, and Green opposition groups, however this will not alter the overall figures above, you can see by the above figures that the major County spend is on the people services.

On 20mph a lengthy discussion took place at the Environment Scrutiny Committee of the County Council, the Committee endorsed the recommendations in the report it received, they asked for them to be actioned by the lead Cabinet Member and relevant officers. This means they will bring in certain measures to bring down the figures of Killed and Seriously Injured of which Gloucestershire is the sixth worst in the Country for lowering these figures, this does not mean a blanket 20mph over night but they will work to bring down these figures within budget constraints over a period of time, and to this end they agreed the following points.

- Officers to continue to deliver existing schemes as before through the TRO process.
- Officers to develop a methodology for the prioritising of requests for 20mph zones.
- Officers to work with Police in Partnership to review the community approaches to road safety document and develop a 20mph policy supported by internal guidance.
- Officers to collect data to confirm the effectiveness of recently introduced schemes.

To help with the above more resources have been put into the 2023/24 budget with the above amendments passed this week.

These are £400,000 extra for Road Safety and £150,000 extra for Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO Schemes) this will help speed up the delivery of these road safety measures.

So if the Local Councils have a wish to bring in particular road safety measures or 20mph schemes it would pay to get these requests formally put the County Council in good time as there no doubt be many requests going in.

District Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Nicky Packer

Report to Parish Council – Feb 2023

Local Plan – Government proposals

There is a public consultation until 2nd March 2023. Many of the Government proposals are likely to take effect soon afterwards. To see the proposals: [Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy)

The actual proposals are not what might have been expected when the review was announced as “housing numbers becoming advisory”. The consultation document states: “The government does not propose changes to the standard method formula or the data inputs to it through this consultation.”

I have made a summary of the proposals. This is a personal summary, although informed by officer comments we have been given. My own impression is that some of the proposals

could be beneficial, although that is difficult to ascertain at this stage; other proposals are naïve and unworkable in the current form; and some proposals would be damaging or are trivial.

Chapters 1 & 2

Introduction and objectives

Chapter 3

Proposal that there would be no need to demonstrate a 5 year land supply if the local plan is less than 5 years old. The FoDDC local plan was adopted in June 2018 and so will be 5 years old in June 2023.

When working out the housing numbers, the Govt. now proposes to delete the requirement for “buffers” of 5, 10 or 20% to be added to the housing numbers. However, in reality some additional allowance may still be necessary to ensure a 5 year land supply in case some allocated sites aren’t developed.

Currently a NDP gives protection from development if the NDP is less than 2 years old – it is proposed to change this to 5 years. Also, a 5-year housing land supply won’t be applied to a NDP.

Chapter 4

There are proposed changes to add flexibility to the application of the standard method for calculating housing need. These do not change the method. However, flexibilities currently proposed may help ensure that provision is more able to be accommodated in areas where there are constraints and may help with assessing availability. The consultation says “These changes are designed to support local authorities to set local housing requirements that respond to demographic and affordability pressures while being realistic given local constraints. Being clearer about how local constraints can be taken into account and taking a more proportionate approach to local plan examination is intended to speed up plan-making.”

3 changes are proposed:

1. The housing numbers can be reduced if housing need can be met only by building at densities which would be significantly out-of-character with the existing area.
2. local planning authorities are not required to review and alter Green Belt boundaries if this would be the only way of meeting need in full.
3. authorities may also take past ‘over-delivery’ into account, such that if permissions that have been granted exceed the provision made in the existing plan, that surplus may be deducted from what needs to be provided in the new plan.

I think only the first change is relevant to the Forest of Dean. The proposed changes do not include clarification about constraints, so whether constraints may reduce the housing numbers required is unclear.

The standard method is flawed because it uses out of date household forecasts - the 2014-based household projections to establish a baseline underestimates the number of deaths and overestimates the level of net migration. This is hopefully set to change next year because the data based on the 2021 Census is due to be published in 2024.

The Govt. propose to give more explicit indications in planning guidance of the types of local characteristics which may justify the use of an alternative method, such as islands with a

high percentage of elderly residents, or university towns with an above-average proportion of students.

Proposal to remove the explicit test at examination that plans are 'justified' is unclear.

Urban uplift – I don't think this applies to the Forest of Dean.

Housing delivery test – this concerns the 5-year land supply. Proposals for more flexibility on the type of planning permissions to be taken into consideration to constitute a 5-year supply are welcome.

Chapter 5

Proposals to increase social rented housing are not suitable in the Forest of Dean because low property values mean social rent grant funding is not accessible. The proposals to support the supply of older people's housing are more suitable for urban areas and are likely to be specific to work in such a rural area as the Forest of Dean.

The proposal that policies are strengthened to support development on small sites is unnecessary.

The proposal to strengthen statements to put more emphasis on community-led development of affordable homes to rent, could make it more difficult to ensure that providers are held accountable by tenants.

Proposals to make developers more accountable by: treating past irresponsible behaviour of an applicant as a material consideration in future planning applications or; allowing local authorities to decline to determine applications by applicants who have a track record of irresponsible behaviour, is possibly naïve considering the legal nature of planning decisions and could lead to the council being involved in legal disputes and compensation claims if implemented and used.

There are proposals to increase 'build out' but they seem ill considered and impractical.

Chapter 6

This is concerning beauty and placemaking in strategic policies. Some of the proposals seem naïve – the terms used are subjective and anyone with any practical experience of planning would see that policies so vaguely worded would be unworkable. Support for local design codes is existing although it could be improved.

A section pushes all local authorities to allow mansard roofs (to allow upwards extensions). Obviously, whoever drafted this had no concept of retaining the traditional character of areas like the Forest of Dean.

Chapter 7

A section supposedly about delivering biodiversity net gain and local nature recovery is followed, by just one question, asking whether national policy on small scale nature interventions could be strengthened and bizarrely giving the example of the use of artificial grass. The section completely ignores the Glover report, even though this is the first review of the NPPF since the Glover report was published.

Proposed is a change to the current Framework footnote 58 by adding detail on the consideration that should be given to the relative value of agricultural land for food production, where significant development of higher quality agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, compared to areas of poorer quality land. The consultation ignores completely that farmland is important for nature as well as food production and that

intensive agriculture brings environmental costs as well as benefits. No mention is made of ground solar, even though this can be on prime farmland.

The consultation asks what method or measure could provide a proportionate and effective means of undertaking a carbon impact assessment that would incorporate all measurable carbon demand created from plan-making and planning decisions.

The consultation document says: “The government has commenced a review of the case for implementing Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 concerning Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). If implemented, this Schedule would introduce standards for new sustainable drainage systems as well as making connection to public sewers conditional of approval that the drainage system meets the national standards.”

Chapter 8

Proposed to make changes to Paragraphs 155 and 158 of the existing National Planning Policy Framework to enable the re-powering of renewable and low carbon energy where planning permission is needed.

It is proposed to remove the requirement for new onshore wind sites to be designated in the development plan, but they will still require the support of local communities.

It is proposed to relax restrictions in conservation areas and listed buildings to allow energy efficiency measures such as improved window glazing and better insulation.

Chapter 9

Plan makers will have until 30 June 2025 to submit their local plans, neighbourhood plans, etc for independent examination under the existing legal framework.

Under the reformed system, which is expected to go live in late 2024, there will be a requirement for local planning authorities and minerals and waste planning authorities to start work on new plans by, at the latest, 5 years after adoption of their previous plan, and to adopt that new plan within 30 months.

Plans that will become more than 5 years old during the first 30 months of the new system (i.e., while the local planning authority is preparing their new plan), will continue to be considered ‘up to date’ for decision-making purposes for 30 months after the new system starts.

Neighbourhood plans submitted for examination after 30 June 2025 will be required to comply with the new legal framework. ‘Made’ neighbourhood plans prepared under the current system will continue to remain in force under the reformed system until they are replaced.

In the reformed planning system, authorities will have to prepare Supplementary Plans to replace existing supplementary planning documents (SPDs). This will be a lot of extra work for Local Authorities and will stretch resources.

Chapter 10

A proposal for a new National Development Management Policy document to cover planning considerations that apply regularly in decision-making across England or significant parts of it.

The existing National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) already contains policies that can be significant ‘material considerations’ when assessing planning applications but does not have any statutory status. The proposal is for the new National Development Management Policies to initially consist of the policies in the NPPF although other topics could be added.

The National Development Management Policies would be a separate document to the NPPF, with the NPPF to be refocused on the principles of plan making.

We are told that “the creation of National Development Management Policies is part of the government’s ambition to make it easier to produce plans and foster a genuinely plan-led system, leading to clearer and more certain decision making.” Because the NPPF would have a new statutory status, the policies in it would not have to be repeated in a Local Plan document, which would make the Local Plan a shorter document that just contained locally relevant policies. Also, the latest versions of the national policies would always apply, even if changed since the Local Plan was adopted.

The government’s initial view is that National Development Management Policies would fall within 3 broad categories:

1. Existing policies aimed at decision-making already provided within the National Planning Policy Framework, subject to these being reviewed on a case-by-case basis so that the rationale for their inclusion is clear;
2. Selective new additions to reflect new national priorities, for example net zero policies that it would be difficult to develop evidence to support at a district level, but which are nationally important.
3. Selective new additions to close ‘gaps’ where existing national policy is silent on planning considerations that regularly affect decision-making across the country (or significant parts of it).

Proposals to fill in ‘gaps’ in current policy include carbon reduction in new developments, allotments and encouraging development in built up areas connected by sustainable transport.

We are told that the “new ‘gateway’ stages during plan preparation, and at the local plan examination, will provide opportunities for local planning authorities to explain the local policies they wish to include and (where relevant) demonstrate their consistency with National Development Management Policies.”

The Bill also provides that National Development Management Policies would take precedence where there is conflict between them and development plan policies when making a decision on a planning application. This is similar with the NPPF, but the situation should be clearer.

Chapter 11

There is a long section on “ensuring that national planning policies empower local leaders across the country to attract investment, drive economic growth and grow the private sector.” At this stage it is unclear what this will mean in practice and whether different to the current economic, social and environmental components of ‘sustainable development’.

Chapter 12

There is a list here of the likely changes to national planning policy. Some of the changes are explained in earlier chapters whilst some are to incorporate recent legislation.

The government will undertake a full consultation on a revised National Planning Policy Framework and proposals for National Development Management Policies once the Bill has completed its passage through Parliament.

Chapter 13

We are told:

“Once the consultation on the proposals set out in this document has closed and we have analysed the responses, we will publish a response to the consultation aspects.

We will use the views received on the approach to National Development Management Policies, to inform our approach to developing more detailed policy options and proposals for full public consultation following passage of the Bill. Proposed changes to the rest of the National Planning Policy Framework (those residual parts aimed at plan-making) will be consulted on at the same time. We also intend to undertake further stakeholder engagement and user research to inform this policy development.”

District Councillor’s Report.

Cllr. Bernie O’Neill

1. We have received an allocation of £313,777 to prevent homelessness to reduce the need for short-term emergency accommodation. Last year we helped 180 households to stay in their own home or find an alternative, and arranged over 150 emergency or temporary accommodations.
2. Photo ID for local elections in May. The FOD website has more info.
3. Shared Prosperity fund. We have received £1 million over 3 years. Building Communities Yr 1. £199k, Support local businesses Yr 2, £240k and employment and skills Yr 3, £641k.
4. 200 new affordable homes built last year.
5. Cost of Living crisis support. £165k has been given out in Supermarket vouchers, and we continue to support Food banks, warm places for people to go to etc.
6. 5 Acres...now tendering for building programme.
7. Arson in Cinderford...working with partners to educate young people after some were caught for Englehardts arson. Working with Glos Fire and Rescue, Neighbourhood Place, Schools and Skillzone.
- 8, Working with FVAF to identify different food projects in the district....what communities are growing locally and distribution across the wider community. This will be used to map a central reference for those seeking to access help. Any news from The Parish Council regarding allotments, community fridges and larders, orchards, supper clubs etc.
9. There is no update on Forest Lodge !!
- 10 Council Budget. Cabinet will be recommending to Council on Thursday a budget which will increase Council tax by 2.99% or 10p a week for class D houses. County Council's is 5% including 2% for Social Care (Closing 4 homes...including Westbury Court!!)£15 per year.
Police and Crime Commissioner 5,4% £15 per year...

Forest of Dean receives approx 9P out of every £1 total Council tax.

The problem lies in the fact that it is the District that sends out Council tax bills for all 3.

Police a Crime Commissioner