

County and District Councillor report for Alvington Parish Council 7th December 2023

Gloucestershire County Council

GCC Full Council met on Wednesday 8th November at 10am at Shire Hall.

The following motions were presented.

Motion 930 – Free Bus travel for Gloucestershire veterans and service personnel.

The sentiment of the motion was supported but there would need more research into the costs as if every veteran eligible were to get a free bus pass, the cost could be in the £millions. Likely that following modeling, a pilot period would be budgeted for.

Motion 931 Train ticket pricing structure

This was looking at whether Transport for Wales could look again at the costs of fares on the Lydney line. The motion was approved and a letter will be sent. Separately, there is a survey taking place to receive feedback on the infrastructure plan for Transport for Wales for the Newport to Cheltenham line including increased train frequency. For members who want to comment please follow the link: <https://haveyoursay.tfw.wales/sew-new-stations-and-services>

Motion 933: Sustainable Catering and Procurement policy

With some amendments, this motion was approved. It means that a policy will be developed for procurement and catering to ensure food served at events etc is healthy and sustainable, committing to:

- Locally produced and seasonable food
- Increased plant based options
- good quality meat
- nutritious and balanced options
- Using reusable and recyclable packaging and utensils.

Motion 934: Policing in Gloucestershire.

Heavily amended motion approved to call for meetings with the PCC to look at response times for 999 and 101 calls and other response times.

Motion 934: Protection of Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons.

Although timed out, it was decided that this motion would be enacted to resolve the issue of cattle strikes and the impact on biodiversity. There were no objections to this.

If you are interested in any of these topics you can watch the recording of the meeting online when it is available. For those interested, a look at the public and member questions gives you a feel of what and where the issues are across the county.

Forest of Dean District Council

The next meeting of Full Council will take place on Thursday 14th December at the Coleford chambers. The agenda is large and significantly includes a review of Publica, the Council (corporate) Plan and an ethical investment strategy.

The papers are online if anyone wishes to see them.

The 2023/24 budget consultation will take place soon.

There was a meeting of the **Cabinet** on 9th November. **Three reports** were considered and approved for Full Council determination.

- The purchase of waste/recycling vehicles and the need to decarbonise the fleet
- A review of Publica with options to repatriate some services to FoDDC
- An early budget strategy

There was a member briefing on considerations given towards designating the district as a **Biosphere Reserve**. All parish and town councillors were welcome to the meeting in the council chambers, Coleford on 6th December at 6pm. Andy Bell (N. Devon Biosphere manager) gave a presentation and then answered questions. The Council will now recruit an employee to coordinate the bid, carry out further stakeholder and public consultation, and develop the evidence base, benefits and justification for the district to become an Internationally acclaimed area for biodiversity protection and sustainable economic development.

Highways/footpaths:

The current Highways list I have is not comprehensive and probably missing some issues. I would ask Parish councillors to contact me with any highways and footpaths issues they feel I can help with over and above their reporting them to the newly launched Highways **Fix my Street** page on the GCC website.

Highways issues -

Malthouse Close entrance – works now complete unsatisfactorily. We have this week managed to collate some photographs of the water still ponding and have sent these to the contractor to resolve. Currently no time frame

TRO Double Yellow lines Clanna Road – Ongoing consultation has been completed and is now back with the TRO to process.

Swan Hill - roadworks complete and pipework checked – all clear and not blocked. Resurfacing has been brought forward to 18/12 nights.

Clanna Lane culvert – no change. JCB will clear back when carrying out nearby ditching, Potential job measured for next financial year to relay a section of tarmac to push water towards ditch

Swan Inn – pavement clearing up towards Woolaston still awaiting assessment.

Garlands Rd white lines – being chased up. Have suggested using longer lasting paint. Not sure about progress. May be carried out in the lining plans.

Sandford road potholes – ongoing pothole repair. Ongoing though this is not currently in the forward plan for resurfacing

Loose manhole covers outside Blacksmiths/Duncastle Road – with safety inspectors to inspect. Nathan has them marked as completed.

Signage and road lining

Nathan Choat (Highways Area Rep) has met with the improvements team and they are designing a scheme to improve the signing and lining through the village including the crossing with an island. I have attached the changes that we will make when the road is closed. Some of the lining will change locations. This has been prioritised, so we only paint it once. When Nathan has the full scheme he will pass this on.

(I have attached the plans separately to this report)

If you have any questions or queries please let me know

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