

Wyck Rissington Parish Council

Meeting 28th May 2024 Report from GCC Cllr. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

Local Road Closures:

Moreton, A429 Spitfire development, traffic lights 22nd April to 10th June 2024

Temple Guiting for Thames Water. 10th to 12th June

Kington for Thames Water. 17th to 19th June

Stow Square, partial closure for Fair. 19th to 23rd June

Oddington, A436 nights only from Fox junction to Daylesford junction 13th to 17th June

Stow – Tewkesbury Road at Upper Swell Road. Traffic lights 13th May – 5th July

Temple Guiting, Thames Water. 10th – 12th June 2024

Evenlode to Moreton, Gigaclear 23rd – 30th May 2024

- A new service by Via, a charity working with adults needing help over drug and alcohol use, will enter into an initial 5 year contract, with an optional further 4years on 1st April. A total investment of £52.2m or £5.8m per annum. Research shows that for every £1 spent on drug treatment, there is a social and economic benefit of £4.
- The County Council has been appointed by the Arts Council of England to lead Gloucestershire along with Swindon and Wiltshire Music Hub from September, as part of an ambitious national programme to bring high-quality musical education to children and young people. A grant of £2.35m is being provided by DofE.
- Our county libraries are going to launch more choirs as a way to combat loneliness. The first was launched in Longlevens I November 2023 and now will roll out to Coleford and Tuffley libraries with the aid of £16,400 grant. No previous singing experience is needed.
- Highways are trying hard to combat the level of damage caused by last winter by investing in new technology to speed up and make longer lasting repairs before resurfacing. New Find & Fix crews are out and about, we have a Spray Injection Patcher that can deal with 1000 potholes a day, new testing with an inventive material that can be used cold, 2 x JCB Pothole Pros – 13 tonne machines that remove whole sections of road and then resurfaced by the team behind, at the end of May Roadmender machines will start using recycled material to repair damaged areas and finally a Bobcat Planer to cut through layers of road surface, remove and resurface.
- The DofT has awarded the county £2.2m towards our new Bus Service Improvement Plan 2024. The proposals are to deliver faster and more reliable services, attractive fares and ticketing, better vehicles and a more comprehensive network, throughout the day, evenings and weekends. A fleet of 58 electric buses will be ordered by the end of the year at a cost of circa £6m, much enhancing our Net Zero targets. We have also been awarded £611k towards upgrading traffic lights across the county
- County Councillors have access to a further £10,000 in their Build Back Better funds, aimed at Levelling Up, targeting issues such as digital exclusion, cost of living, online harm and community transport. Additionally, £3,000 Youth Fund, specifically targeting such things as sport, recreation, leisure activities, wellbeing, mental health and digital innovation. Any unallocated funds for the year to 31st March 2024 can be rolled up into the new financial year

- 65 community projects have shared in £400,000 awards through the Thriving Communities Grant 2024. Organisations and groups are assisted in helping people to stay well and support them to live independently as long as possible. Since 2018 over 310 projects have received £2.4m of investment. Individual awards have ranged between £627 and £7,500.
- The county council has appointed Rethink Mental Illness to run the Mental Health Support & Advice Service. The charity will enter into a 5 year contract on 1st April working with people suffering mental illness. The investment over the contract period is £4.7m
- Gloucestershire continues to support Ukrainians fleeing the war. 254,900 visas have been issued nationally with 1,678 having arrived in Gloucestershire. Currently 242 guests are living with 63 families in the Cotswolds and 1,184 across the county. Additionally, many have moved into the private rented sector. Hosts housing guests are to receive £600pm over the next year, an uplift over the £350pm paid by central government.
- Gloucestershire Flood Guide – In light of the recent heavy rain the attached link shows you around what you can do in the event of flooding. <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flood-risk-management/flooding-information/flood-guide/>
- The Robin bus service is being promoted in the North Cotswolds with a campaign starting from 4th March. Fares capped at £2 till 31st December 2024 and free concessionary passes to qualifying customers. Booking details are found at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/therobin or call 0345 2638139
- 'Your Circle' is a website run by the GCC to help people by providing information, advice and support for people wanting to remain independent, safe and well. Amongst many things it provides details of local groups, societies, clubs and services offering care, support and wellbeing. Details can be found at: <https://www.yourcircle.org.uk/>
- This year a total of 6,051 Gloucestershire children have been offered a primary school place for September. Some 99 per cent have been admitted to one of their preferred schools, with 94 per cent of pupils receiving a place at their first preference school.

MM-C/27th May 2024