

County Councillor's Report

November 24 – Prepared by County Councillor Linda Cohen

Contacts:

I am available on email Linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk or phone 07791110906. I aim to respond within 24 hours. If the matter is urgent, please ring.

My remit covers: highways, public transport, education and skills, children and family services, social care and health, environment, waste recycling.

If you want to alert Gloucestershire County Council to any highway issues, please use www.fixmystreet.com. This applies to potholes, safety issues, overhanging trees, debris on the highway, broken pavement, drains,

Highways

Resurfacing work/ remedial work:

There are a number of major projects taking place over the next few months, most notably: Lisle Place, Ellerncroft Road, Merlin Haven, Old London Road and Rushmire Hill and Damery Lane/Woodford.

Can I please ask that residents try and comply with the request to move all vehicles while work is taking place, this will allow the team to complete the work as efficiently and quickly as possible. I recognise that this will prove inconvenient, but it has been a major achievement to secure the budget for this work and I hope that the improvement will have long lasting benefits.

The Rushmire Hill project will have an impact on journey times for anyone leaving Wotton. Please use the diversion routes and resist the temptation to use smaller routes including Black Quarries Hill. The lanes are not able to withstand a huge weight of traffic and with winter conditions it could cause major damage. Please avoid these routes other than in emergencies.

TRO (Traffic Regulation Order)

Kingswood – still waiting for outcome of consultation.

Alkington -Revision of 40mph – 30 mph – input to represent resident and parish council concerns about speed change confusion.

Long Street -Waiting restrictions– Stage 6 works to be completed and audited.

Signage

Road sign to be replaced at Damery Lane / A38

Road safety

I am working with the Think Travel team to look at road crossing patrols at the British School (Wortley Road), Kingswood (B4060) and North Nibley (B4060).

Separately I am looking at any traffic calming measures for North Nibley to slow traffic during school travel times.

We are still waiting for news on the TRO for Kingswood for parking restrictions opposite Tubbs Turf .

I have started a project for the Bradley Street/Dryleaze/ Ellerncroft Road intersection.

Flooding and gully clearing

North Nibley – Wood Lane – contractors sent in to excavate and relieve the problem.

Bournstream – 2 man gang going out in next week to dig out flooded area and remove blockages.

Coombe – repeat site visit with Highways to update on progress of works, new issues and works needed due to weather conditions on November 14th (Martin Clarke and Vanessa Murray Davey to attend.)

Grit Bins

To be replaced in Parklands and Wortley Road (November).

Stone Wall, Hillesley

Work scheduled to repair first week of November

Public Transport

84/85

A letter will be delivered to the Dept of Transport in London on Thursday 14th November.

I am asking questions at full council on November 7th.

I have asked WECA to consider extending WESTlocal to extend the existing route to Synwell and also to put in some fixed time pick-ups to allow for the needs of those going to work and school and to allow for some planning of hospital and other appointments.

Recycling Centre Thornbury Vs Horlsey

I am campaigning for residents in Ham and Stone and Berkeley Vale to be able to use the tip at Thornbury (South Glos) rather than the one at Horsley (GCC). This will half journey times and allow residents to use the trip for other purposes, further reducing the impact on the environment. I have set up a petition and we are attracting press interest. I need to demonstrate need and potential use to make my case to both councils for it to be worth their while setting up a collaborative arrangement. Please sign the petition (194 signatures as I write) here - <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/use-our-nearest-tip>

Economic growth and prosperity -Bolster Wotton

I joined the meeting on Wednesday which was attended by many of the community groups, retailers and leisure service providers.

There is a groundswell of enthusiasm to really try and put Wotton on the map and broaden awareness of everything we have to offer.

The key to success will be a co-ordinated approach and an integrated communications campaign which targets local residents, tourists and potential visitors within a one-hour radius of the town.

I will make contact, with the comms teams at GCC and South Glos to look at how we mobilise their resources and research any grant opportunities for specific projects/ initiatives.

I would like to put on record my thanks to the Town Clerk for her work in setting up this vital initiative.

It is worth me reminding all residents here about the Christmas Under The Edge on December 7th from 4pm.

If you want to talk to me about the remaining Build Back Better fund please use the email above.

Benches (Wotton)

These proposals are now with Highways and have been reviewed. 2 sites are considered to be suitable. I will be discussing further with Wotton Town Council and Jill Tebb and Paula Underwood who have championed this project and I would like to place on record my thanks for their help and enthusiasm.

Fire and Rescue

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service want your input on the risks we face as a county. Feedback from the public will be combined with the service's own data and inform the team's knowledge and skills to build a balanced picture of the risks they face as a fire and rescue service. The consultation ends on December 1st. www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/glosfire-crp

The service is also looking for full time fire fighters. Full training is given. You need to be over 18 but there is no upper age limit. You must be fit, able to swim and live within a 50 mile radius of the Gloucestershire border. Applications open on November 1st and close on November 18th. For information go to: www.glosfire.gov.uk

Fostering

In Gloucestershire there are 800 children and young adults in care. The county urgently needs more foster carers, particularly in our area.

Gloucestershire County Council have a strong programme of support and provide competitive payments and allowances. To find out more 532654, text FOSTER to 60060 or go to www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering

Free winter fun for families this Christmas

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is back to help keep children in Gloucestershire happy, healthy, and entertained with free activities and nutritious food.

Families eligible for benefits-related free school meals can register now for the winter HAF. Thanks to grant funding, the county council is pleased to extend these fun, enriching holiday activities to all children and young people through the Holiday Activities Programme (HAP).

Most activities will be taking place between 21 December and 5 January. Families are encouraged to check their local district HAF webpages to see information about what's happening near where they live.

Booking opens at midday on Monday 2 December, but families can browse activities from midday on Monday 18 November to plan which ones they would like to attend.

This winter there are lots of great options to choose from including drama and science workshops, sports and games, art and crafts, music and dance, indoor and outdoor activities, as well as the very popular ticketed attractions such as ice skating and pantomimes. More information about the programme is available at: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf.

If they haven't done so already, families are encouraged to:

- [Register for the Children's Activities Booking System \(CABS\) now](#) to be ready to view and select activities
- [Follow their district lead on social media](#) to stay updated on local events.

Families needing extra support to choose, book, or attend HAF activities can get help from six [HAF Community Connectors](#), one for each district. This winter, there's also a Specialist SEND Community Connector to improve support for children and young people with additional needs.