

# Stow-on-the-Wold Town Council

30th January 2025

## Report from GCC Cllr. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

- Local Road Closures:  
Moreton, A429 National Grid dates: -  
6<sup>th</sup> Jan to 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025, Stratford Road – traffic lights  
12<sup>th</sup> Feb to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 access to East Street & High Street – closure  
  
Little Rissington, GCC Highways 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025
- The government is moving towards decentralising and creating Unitary Authorities across the country. This will mean that the 6 District Councils in the county will be absorbed under the County Council. To achieve critical mass, we will need to merge with adjacent authorities under an elected Mayor. Decisions will need to be submitted by the county no later than 10<sup>th</sup> January.
- Meeting held with senior Highways officers over the much-needed footpath to the Fosseyway Garden Centre. CIL funding is now available to reinstate the path from the Spitfire development to opposite the garden centre entrance. Delays are around legal issues where GCC need to acquire, from Spitfire, a strip of land close to the service entrance to the development, to create enough space for a minimum 2-meter-wide footpath. It will also require moving 2 streetlights. Much of the verge is owned by GCC and is more than wide enough. Once the legals have been completed the works shouldn't take too long.
- GCC Budget 2025/26 revealed with an uplift of £32.7m or 2.99% and 2% increase in adult social care, to almost £650m. These proposals will add £6.65 per month to band D properties. Details, which are scheduled to be signed off at Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> January, include:  
  
A further £10m towards the £100m highways budget, with an emphasis of targeting rural roads.  
  
Extra funding towards SEND education, with a new £16.5m school in Gloucester for 200 students.  
  
General improvement and increase in capacity for schools with £12.4m investment.  
  
Three new adult care homes at £7.5m and further funding in future years. £13m of improvements to Waste Recycling Centres.
- Gloucestershire Coroners Court has just been fitted with 220 solar panels, providing 100kWp of solar energy and produce around £21,000 of electricity a year. This is yet another example of GCC way of investing in its carbon neutral energy target of net zero by 2045.
- Gloucestershire adult social care is carrying out a survey of 1,460 adults receiving care and support within the community. The results will be helpful to the Department for Health & Social Care for future improvements in services offered.

- Out of hours library services access. Technology, called Open Access, is being introduced to libraries at Churchdown, Fairford, Prestbury, Quedgeley and Tetbury over the next 12 months. It will enable registered members to use library services outside normal staffed hours. The new service is already being enjoyed at the Bishop Cleeve and Oakley libraries. To register use this link <https://gloucestershire.spydus.co.uk/cgi-in/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/JOIN>
- The Barnwood Trust, Gloucestershire VCS Alliance and GCC have announced a new partnership aimed at enhancing inclusive short breaks for families of disabled children and young people. Running till April 2027 the partnership will fund breaks for families in the North Cotswolds and Tewkesbury. The fund will be investing a further £1.2m in time-limited funding for country- wide projects. It is hoped that the learning from this collaboration will lead to offerings across the county.
- The new government has just announced the increased house building targets for the country. The Cotswolds will face the greatest increase in Gloucestershire from the current target of 504 homes to 1,036 new homes. The average built over the last two years has been 385. Cheltenham has the second largest uplift to 824 and Stroud in third place with 820 homes.
- Responsibilities of Riparian Owners – landowners of ditches and watercourses. In light of recent heavy rains, it's important to remind people of their obligations.
  1. Maintain watercourses and to clear obstructions.
  2. Maintain the banks & bed of watercourses (including trees and shrubs on the banks) and any flood defences.
  3. To accept the natural flow from upstream neighbours and transfer downstream without obstruction, pollution or diversion
  4. Maintain any approved structures on your stretch of watercourse, including culverts, weirs & mill gates.

MM-C/29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025