

Report on County Council Matters to North Nibley Parish Council 2nd November 2020

GCC emails

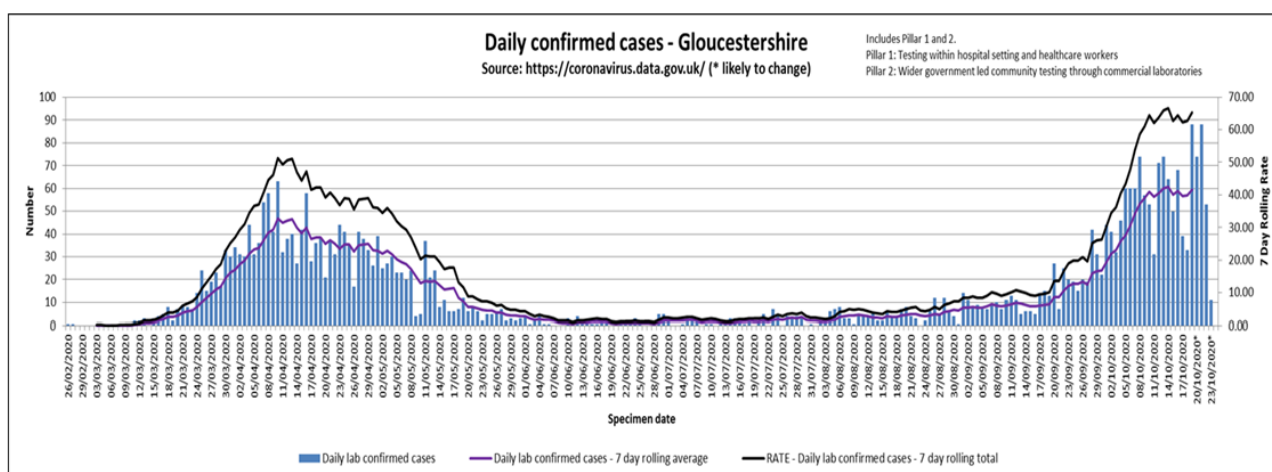
I emailed parish clerks in my electoral division on 22nd October to say that from the previous day all emails arriving from external sources to GCC email accounts were being automatically blocked because of a phishing attempt. I advised that any emails to me should be sent to my personal address, cordwell@clara.net

This situation was resolved last Friday (30th October) afternoon. However it is easier for me to deal with emails sent to my personal address and I access them more frequently.

Covid-19 Cases in Gloucestershire and the South West

The County Council is continuing to publish daily updates. As you will be aware, cases are increasing, and we are about to enter another lockdown.

19th October to 25th October



There were 506 confirmed cases in Gloucestershire of which:

- 122 were in Gloucester
- 89 in Cotswold
- 80 in Cheltenham
- 88 in Stroud
- 69 in the Forest of Dean
- 58 in Tewkesbury

This is 75.8 per 100,000 for Gloucestershire compared to 126.7 in the South West and 219.5 in England.

(These are provisional figures.)

A mobile testing unit will be at Dursley Rugby Club on 2nd and 3rd November. There are now 11,000 tests per week being done in the county.

School Meal Vouchers

No child will go hungry in Gloucestershire.

Parents and carers who want to apply for a free school meal voucher can do so on an online form <https://forms.gloucestershire.gov.uk/FreeSchoolMeals>

or by calling 01452 328518 (during office hours). There are more than 30 people taking the calls but if all lines are busy there is a voicemail where people can leave their name and number and someone will call them back.

Road Safety

There has been concern from councillors on the level of involvement of the council in local road safety matters. As I have reported previously, a Cabinet Panel was set up to:

- review County Council policies relating to traffic calming, including the use of physical design and vehicle activated signage, to aid councillors in securing evidence-based road changes.
- consider the road safety budget for 2021-22, including the suggested introduction of a ring-fenced budget for each council division.
- assess how to build on existing local road safety initiatives to establish 'road safety partnerships' for each of the six districts, and to formalise the relationship between road safety partnerships and the highways authority and county councillors.

The Panel, of which I am a member, resumed meeting (virtually) on 20th October. Its final report will be presented to the county's Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 28 January 2021 and will recommend the future involvement of the County Council in road safety issues.

This is likely to have an impact on the County Council's Stroud Road Safety Liaison Group which has existed for over 40 years and which I chair. Dedicated council officer support for this disappeared several years ago. There used to be one of these for each district council area in the county, all of them chaired by county councillors. The only other one that still survives is in the Forest of Dean.

On a related issue, you may know that at the beginning of September Iain Dunbar stood down as chair of the "independent" Stroud District Road Safety Group which was formed two years ago as a group particularly for parish councils. No-one has been found to take it over and the group is disbanding.

John Cordwell

(GDPR health warning:) If you no longer wish to receive this report please