

County Councillor Report – Councillor Linda Cohen

North Nibley Parish Council

July 5th 2021

1. The last few weeks have mainly been taken up with the County Council AGM and the necessary introductions and training for the various committees. A full report will follow at the end of July.

I have been appointed to the Gloucestershire Health Overview Scrutiny Committee, The Planning Committee and The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. I am the Liberal Democrat's spokesperson for Education.

2. I intend to hold monthly meetings to allow residents to meet and discuss concerns and new initiatives. The first meeting will be at The Keepers on Symn Lane in Wotton on Saturday 17th July at 10.30am. It would be useful if this information could also be shared on the Parish Council website.

3. Greenway - I have attended the Greenway Project meetings and actively support the re-opening of Charfield Station and the creation of a walkway to link Wotton with Charfield and Kingswood.

4. Road safety / speed controls - I am involved in and support the initiative for parish and town councils across the district to share information and to explore best practice together. I have met with members of North Nibley Parish Council to walk through their road safety concerns and the proposed actions. I have met with Paul Helbrow, Local Highways Manager to explore creative ways to use limited budget to best effect.

I have also reviewed the Gloucestershire Highways School Safety Zone Guidance.

The recent incident in Charfield highlights the need for a proactive rather than reactive strategy. We need to be mindful of the changes of the use of our roads and be alert to resident and visitor behaviour patterns post lockdown.

5. Highways Local - This is an initiative which focuses on a safety led maintenance approach to keep our roads in as good a condition as possible. A 30k budget is available for Wotton and Berkeley Vale. Examples of use might include patching of paths or highways, winter or environmental maintenance, repairs to drains or repointing of walls or a contribution to capital projects. Much of this budget has already been committed to existing priority projects. A small amount has been ringfenced for use in North Nibley.

Decisions need to be made by July 16th and the programme of work completed by the end of December.

This is clearly a very small budget to address a very extensive requirement and I will be ensuring that we maximise what we can achieve.

8. Covid - In the week Monday June 21st - Sunday 27th June there were 1186 cases of COVID 19.

Of these cases:

- 347 Gloucester
- 303 Cheltenham
- 259 Tewkesbury
- 122 Stroud
- 99 Cotswold
- 56 Forest of Dean

The rate of cases in the last 7 days per 100,000 is 178.3 in Gloucestershire. In the week 12th -18th June, there was one death mentioning 'novel coronavirus' which is 1.0% of all deaths.

Please ensure my contact details are available on the North Nibley Parish Council website. linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk . Mobile 07791110906