

North Nibley Parish [Council](#)

30th July 2022

**1. Highways / Paths**

**Gulley Wood Lane**

This has been cleared and money from Highways Local will be used to do some more extensive work to ensure that it does not become blocked in the future. Now this has been done I have asked Highways to look at digging up and replacing the pavement on the opposite side of the road as a health and safety measure.

**Lengthsman month**

Four weeks of lengthsman activity is planned in August to tidy hedges, footpaths and pavements.

This will be agreed in advance with the Parish Council to ensure that all the areas of concern are included.

There will also be a focus on clearing drains in good time before the change in the weather. We will be rerunning the Leaf It Out campaign and would ask all residents to help where they can by clearing leaves and weeds from drains near their properties.

A reminder that residents can report any issue related to: potholes; lights, signals and signs; damage to pavement or kerb; road markings and stud issues trees, hedges and vegetation; drainage and flooding; spillages or obstructions on the road; Winter Maintenance - Grit and PROW - public footpaths & bridleways (not pavements).

issues can also be logged here:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>

## **2. Buses**

The Bus Services 84 and 85 are under threat of being withdrawn as they are subsidised by Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire Councils . These services are vital for surrounding villages and for the people of Wotton who shop in Yate and get connections into Bristol and Hospitals. Following my contact with the leaders of B&NES and South Glos the councils have delayed suspension of the services for 7 months to give time to meet with colleagues from GCC to look at new and improved but sustainable 'on demand' / community services – creative solutions to solve the issue rather than accept the loss of these bus services. I would welcome hearing from residents and members of the Town Council with thoughts about how we might design a new service.

In addition to this development I met with my fellow County Councillor in Dursley as well as District Councillors in Berkeley and Berkeley Vale and Wotton and Wotton Town Council to explore a new community bus service linking Wotton, Hillesley, Kingswood, North Nibley, Stinchcombe, Alkington, Ham and Stone, Dursley and Berkeley. There will be a particular focus on creating a service which aligns with other public transport timetables e.g. services to and from Cam and Dursley station and in the longer term the proposed Charfield service.

Meetings have already been arranged with officers from GCC and South Glos and existing community bus service operators to inform the process.

### **3. Road Safety**

#### **New Fund**

A new fund has been launched to help create a greener, safer and healthier county, as part of a partnership between Gloucestershire County Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

The £600,000 Community Speedwatch Safety Fund will give communities the tools they need to combat speeding in their areas.

The fund aims to make the county's roads safer for the pedestrians, cyclists and motorists that use them.

Applications can be made for a range of measures, including Road Safety Officer support, speed surveys, 'Twenty is Plenty' wheelie bin stickers, vehicle activated signs to encourage drivers to slow down, and community speedwatch cameras.

Bids must be supported by the local county councillor and submitted by 31 August.

For more information on the fund, visit:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/the-community-speedwatch-fund/>.

#### **Back To School Safety**

This campaign will launch the week before children go back to school and will include road signs, a social media campaign and work with schools and parents.

Full details in the August Report.

### **4. Cost of Living Crisis / Fuel Poverty**

I am acutely aware of the difficulties that families in the community are already facing due to the increase in the cost of living and the challenges that are yet to come when fuel prices rise again in October.

I spoke in support of the motion last week at the County Council meeting to ask the council to lobby the Government to reduce VAT and to also use the windfall tax to help support families this winter.

I will ensure that all residents are given as much information as possible about help that is available and will continue to push for effective support to be in place well in advance of the cold season.

## **5. HAF**

The holiday and activities food programme is open for registrations. The scheme offers free entertainment and lunches for children receiving free school meals and also provides tickets for free activities for all children across the county.

Find out more here about what's on offer:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf/>

## **6. Meet the Gadgeteers with Gloucestershire Libraries**

Gloucestershire Libraries are inviting children to meet the Gadgeteers this summer and get involved in a science and innovation-themed Summer Reading Challenge.

The national event, which is led by the Reading Agency charity in partnership with public libraries runs until 30 September 2022.

It aims to encourage children to enjoy reading and visit their local library and a range of free events and activities is being held in libraries around the county throughout the summer.

Children aged four to 11 will be able to join six fictional Gadgeteers by taking part, with free materials available from libraries and online via the challenge website.

The characters - brought to life by children's writer and illustrator Julian Beresford - use their curiosity and wonder to understand the science behind a range of interests, from fashion and technology to cooking and music.

Summer Reading Challenge events at Gloucestershire libraries can be found here and you can find out which services are available for families to enjoy here.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-july-2022/meet-the-gadgeteers-with-gloucestershire-libraries/>

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