

Firstly,

I would like to say that it is an honour and privilege to have been elected in the May 2021 elections to represent Bisley with Lypiatt and Painswick Division of Gloucestershire County Council. This division represents 10 Parish Councils.

To give an idea of the area, this covers from Coopers Edge in Gloucester which borders Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucester City to Westrip /Randwick in Stroud District. Miserden which borders on Cotswold District Council out towards Birdlip which borders with Cheltenham and Bisley /Eastcombe which is also under Stroud District and of course all Parishes within this boundary.

I try to attend as many Parish meetings as possible and I apologise for not attending all, however you can always contact me directly with any issues either by e mail or phone.

Since becoming a County Councillor I have been working hard on your behalf within these communities. In addition to the daily divisional issues, I am on a number of committees and attend the Full Council Meetings.

- *Planning.*
- *Commons and rights of way & traffic regulation.*
- *Audit & governance and Environmental scrutiny.*

More recently I have become the Cabinet Champion for Health & Adult Social care (provision and purchasing).

Also, I am currently on a working group for *Restoring our Rivers.*

It has been a learning experience and I would like to thank you for your support and patience whilst I continue to aspire to gain your confidence and trust as your County Councillor.

A general update on County Budget

The County-council part of Council Tax was pegged at a 2.99% increase. 1% of that being ring-fenced particularly for Adult Social Care. Hopefully this was considered an acceptable increase given the emerging inflation figures. This was probably the most positive funding-settlement from central government for a generation. This enables Adult Care and Children's Services budgets to have realistic increases in funding given demographic pressures on both those services of around 10% growth per annum. Government fully-funded the additional costs incurred due to the Covid Pandemic

We're also investing more money into highways maintenance, fixing potholes and highways safety schemes, including a £30,000 a year Highways Local fund

I am able to use this fund to address additional areas which need attention.

A new four-year Capital programme has also been confirmed of £100 million into roads resurfacing schemes, £145 million into new schools & refurbishment across the county and further investment in cycle routes and drainage schemes.

Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service will be retained within GCC. I think that adds significant protection particularly to our local Fire Stations at Stroud, Nailsworth, Tetbury and Gloucester stations .

Highways

I wanted to thank everyone for their continued patience when it comes to local roadworks. I am very aware that Traffic lights etc can be very frustrating but necessary as they continue the major task of rebuilding and enhancing our local infrastructure - whether it be our roads, electric, water or gas supplies, upgrading of broadband or cycle routes. I continue to report

road issues particularly potholes and damaged road surfaces, overgrown hedges and speeding issues although reporting of issues can be made directly via GCC site.

Speed of traffic is a continued concern. I am working with a number of communities to monitor speed through their areas and support initiatives for reducing speed. This is not only a road safety issue but equally has a significant environmental impact on all of us. Working together we can make positive changes and would please urge anyone who wishes to be involved or initiate a group to contact me.

Grants

I am so pleased to have been able to secure grants from Gloucestershire County Council under the "Build Back Better" grant scheme which have assisted in a number of initiatives to support our communities. An example being Supporting a local school to explore wellbeing of their pupils, post Covid 19 and the subsequent art competition and exhibition of their work in Stroud was such a fantastic initiative. Equally, being able to support our village spaces to ensure that they are able to continue being at the centre of the community, whether village hall or recreational area will help as we emerge from the horrendous pandemic and the affect this had on us all over the past few years.

Environmental Issues

Over the past 11 months I have been involved in a number of environmental projects within the division. Creating and maintaining wildlife habitats, working with agencies to protect the eco system. I have also facilitated along with the Rights of Way officers to make footpaths more accessible to those less able in the Division. Large Kissing gates which enable mobility scooters and push chairs onto public footpaths have been installed. Footpaths have been recorded onto the definitive map .Surfaces improved and steps/ rails added to difficult areas to assist walkers .

Flooding

The county council website has recently been updated with a "Flood Guide". A "button" at the top of the home page on the GCC website, www.gloucestershire.gov.uk will take you through to comprehensive information about what to do if you are threatened by flood waters. I am very aware that a number of areas in my division have already suffered due to flooding and the devastating affect this has had on the residents is of great concern. I am currently working hard to ensure this is being addressed with the flood management team and highways.

Tour of Britain

In September the "Tour of Britain" cycle race comes to Gloucestershire. We have both a Start and Finish stage in the Men's race as well as part of the Women's race coming through too. I understand that it will be passing through the division, but I will relay additional information nearer the date.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way with any county-council related matter.

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