

## **County Councillors report for June 2022**

Events in the county to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee have drawn to a close. What a weekend of celebrations to mark the occasion and honour her majesty's reign, not to mention the additional events such as the Cotswold Olympics in the north of our county with the famous shin kicking and here in the South the tradition of cheese rolling down Coopers Hill Brockworth.

We really do live in such an amazing county and I feel very honoured and privileged to be a county Councillor for Gloucestershire

There have been a number of press releases over the past month and I have included items relevant to our area. On the GCC website there is a list of all county news, however some items are relating to Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury so I would suggest visiting the web site for the news in these areas.

### **Tree-mendous progress towards tree planting target**

A vision of a thriving network of sustainably managed trees and woodland around the county is being developed, supported by funding from the Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust.

A total of 66,000 trees have been planted during the last two planting seasons by the county council, including trees planted to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

More than 40 different sites around the county have been used, involving nearly 100 volunteers and officers. These projects enable the public to play a key part in planting trees while providing many benefits to the community, including bringing people together, having a positive impact on mental health and encouraging outdoor activities.

Trees also create habitats for wildlife, offering protection and shelter along with nutrition from fruits, nuts and seeds.

Plans are now being made for the winter planting season from October 2022 and next year, when we aim to plant over 100,000 more trees.

A 'Gloucestershire Tree Warden Scheme' is being set up, in partnership with the Tree Council, to bring everyone together who has a shared interest in looking after trees.

It aims to build on the current network of fantastic volunteer tree champions, so more trees can be planted and cared for.

To find out more about the Tree Warden Scheme and sign up, please email [glosclimate@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:glosclimate@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

More land is also needed around the county for tree planting.

## **New fund launched to improve safety of county's roads**

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.

*Cllr Norman, Cabinet member responsible for road safety at Gloucestershire County Council, said: "The Community Speedwatch Safety Fund will have a positive impact on road safety in Gloucestershire and help to reduce road deaths and injuries."*

*Police and Crime Commissioner Chris Nelson said, "Working closely with the Constabulary and County Highways, we have revolutionised the Community Speed Watch scheme to better empower those wishing to tackle persistent speeding and make our roads safer."*

*"Education and community involvement are crucial ingredients to ensure a long term, positive effect on road safety."*

*"I hope this developing partnership between the Police, Fire Service, County council and local communities is a recipe for success in dealing with a problem that has been plaguing communities across Gloucestershire for years."*

*Mark Preece, Chief Fire Officer at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "This fund is important to ensure our roads are safer for everyone that uses them. "Emergency services, with partners across Gloucestershire, will continue to work together to tackle this serious issue and keep people safe on our roads."*

For information on the fund, visit at <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/the-community-speedwatch-fund/>

## **Know your Plastics and help increase recycling rates**

A new campaign was launched on the 6<sup>th</sup> June.

It is called 'Know your Plastics' and aims to increase the amount of plastic that is recycled correctly at kerbside. The campaign has been launched by the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership, which is made up of Gloucestershire County Council and the district councils.

Each district has its own processors and methods for separating and processing plastic recycling, meaning that types of plastic suitable for collection are different in each district.

With many different types of plastics sold, it can be confusing to know which types can and cannot be recycled locally. Understandably, some people resort to putting plastics in their bin hoping they can be recycled, known as "wish-cycling". However, this can result in extra sorting costs and lower quality materials.

The campaign will focus on questions that residents might have about plastic recycling, such as whether plastic items need to be washed and squashed, are black plastics accepted and should lids be left on or taken off bottles.

Some tips to get you started include:

- Always wash your recycling - dirty items are not able to be picked up by automated plastic sorting machines
- Many items like plastic bags, salad bags and crisp packets can't be added to your kerbside recycling, but they can be recycled at some supermarkets – find your nearest place here: [www.recyclenow.com/recycling-locator?rlw-stream=16](http://www.recyclenow.com/recycling-locator?rlw-stream=16)
- Check your local district guidance for details about what can be recycled in your area or the Gloucestershire Recycles website – [www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/plastics/](http://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/plastics/)

You can find out more about the campaign and share hints and tips on plastic recycling by looking out for #GreenerGloucestershire on social media.

*Cllr David Gray, cabinet member for environment and planning, said: “We are committed to creating a Greener Gloucestershire and increasing our recycling rates is an important part of that.*

*“Recycling helps to reduce carbon emissions and the amount of plastic getting into our natural environments, which can harm wildlife, so I would encourage everyone to support this campaign and ensure they are recycling plastics properly.”*

To keep up to date with the latest news you can subscribe to the [Gloucestershire Recycles Recycling and Waste Minimisation newsletter](#) and the [Greener Gloucestershire Climate and Sustainability newsletter](#).

## **Carers Week 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> June**

The theme for this year's Carers Week is 'Make caring visible, valued and supported.' The council and its health partners want to raise awareness of caring, the amazing work carers do to look after some of our county's most vulnerable people and highlight the support available for unpaid carers.

There are over 63,000 unpaid carers in Gloucestershire, 1 in 10 people are carers, and 1 in 7 juggle caring responsibilities with work. Most people probably have at least one carer living in their street, but they may not know.

Carers will often be looking after a family member or friend who has a disability, mental or physical illness, or who needs extra help as they grow older. This can have a significant impact on their lives, from relationships and health, to finances and work.

Most of the time, the care provided by unpaid carers is in people's homes and is largely invisible to the local community. Some people don't even realise they would be classed as a carer. If you or someone you know is a carer, contact the Gloucestershire Carers Hub for a chat to see how they can help.

By registering with the Hub carers can access a wealth of support, including the Carers Emergency Scheme which builds on personal contingency planning and can mean that extra emergency support is available for them if they need it

The [Gloucestershire Carers Hub](#) which is funded jointly by the council and NHS, has a wonderful Carers Week programme on offer each day from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June for all unpaid carers to attend, with online and face to face sessions across the county.

*Cllr Kathy Williams, cabinet member for adult social care at Gloucestershire County Council said: "Carers are unsung heroes who work hard day in and day out and they can get forgotten. We want to use this week to highlight the fantastic work they do and say thank you, whilst encouraging everyone to think about carers all year round. "Many people do not recognise themselves as a carer. They identify as a 'husband', 'wife', 'mother', 'father' or 'friend', rather than understand they are carrying out a caring role over and above this.*

*We want all people in Gloucestershire to help us identify carers, so they get the recognition they deserve and can access the support available."*

Support is also available for young carers through Gloucestershire Young Carers,

## **Change in Cabinet Members**

Cllr Dom Morris will become the Cabinet Member responsible for Highways and Flooding, taking over from Cllr Vernon Smith who has decided, after 10 years, to step down from the position. Cllr Smith will continue as local county councillor for the Tewkesbury East division.

As well as becoming Cabinet Member with a focus on Levelling Up, Cllr Nick Housden will also take on the Public Health portfolio, held by Cllr Tim Harman for the past five years. Cllr Harman will continue as local councillor for Lansdown and Park.

I will remain the cabinet champion for Adult Social Care.

Some other changes have been made to the areas of responsibilities. For an up-to-date list,

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s82160/Cabinet%20Poster.pdf>

As always, do please contact me if you have any queries or concerns

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