

County Councillor Report

Sue Williams

Speed Reduction on the A46

When I became councillor in 2021 one of the issues brought to my attention was the speed and risk of accidents along the stretch of A46 at Pitchcombe .The Parish councillors and community had tried for many years to get the speed reduced and safety measures put in place to reduce the risks of accidents and improve the environment for residents in the area .The County Council have announced new measures to reduce fatalities on Gloucestershire's roads. Pitchcombe is one of two sites in this new initiative. The approved strategy aims to halve road fatalities and serious injuries over ten years and this new measure is part of that strategy

As county councillor I have worked hard to ensure the speed reduction was implemented The speed limit on the A46 near Pitchcombe will be reduced from 50mph to 40mph following community consultations. The reduction will however be from Painswick by the rugby club to Stratford Park wall and on the Edge Road to past the church This change is supported by local stakeholders and will be implemented alongside the installation of average speed cameras.

The work to install these measures, costing around £200,000, will begin in April 2025. Installation of cameras will be coordinated by the county council with ongoing operation by Gloucestershire Constabulary. The key focus of these measures is to ensure compliance with the appropriate and safe speed limit for the roads and to make our roads safer. It is hoped that compliance will be high, however any surplus income from speed awareness courses, run by Gloucestershire Constabulary will be reinvested in road safety improvements in Gloucestershire

I have been in consultation with GCC highways, the road safety officer and parish councillors regarding other areas in our communities such as Wickstreet ,Edge road and Whiteway, Miserden to firstly obtain surveys of volume/ speed /times of traffic to support looking at improving safety on our minor roads .

Holiday Activities Programme and Holiday Activities and Food

Once again families who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals still have time to sign up for this spring's Holiday Activities Programme (HAP).

Using grant funding the county council is once again able to extend holiday activities to all children and young people through its Holiday Activities Programme (HAP). The fun-filled activity programmes run for two weeks from 14th April to help keep children and young people happy, healthy and entertained during the school holidays. There are lots of options to choose from including circus skills, forest school, drama and science workshops, sports and games, art and crafts, music and dance, as well as the ever-popular ticketed attractions.

For families eligible for benefits-related free school meals can also apply for Holiday Free School Meal vouchers, which the council is providing for one week during the school holidays. Parents will receive £15 per week, for each eligible child from reception to year 11. Applications opened at midday on 18 March and will close at midday on 1 April. Vouchers will be distributed from 7 April. Families can find out more at <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/holiday-school-meal-vouchers/>

Families who require additional support to choose, book or attend HAF activities, can receive assistance from our [HAF Community Connectors](#). There is one for each district, as well as a [Specialist SEND Community Connector](#) to improve support for children and young people with additional needs.

For Stroud District HAF contact

- **Bloodhound Education Limited**
- **0208 150 3767**
- **Monday to Friday (9.30am –2.30pm)**
- accounts@bloodhoundeducation.com

Parents who have registered previously are automatically included and do not need to reapply. Families whose circumstances may have changed, can read about eligibility for free school meals on our website childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk and should contact us if there are any changes.

County Council Launches Support to keep Children Safe Online

The Online Harms portal was launched at Young Gloucestershire's headquarters in Gloucester on Tuesday, March 11th.

Young Gloucestershire provides young people with support and seeks to help them to develop the skills they need to thrive.

The webpage gives parents / guardians information about different aspects of online harms, with further information and where to find support available bringing together links to already trusted sources of information and local support relating to wider health and wellbeing recognising the broad range of impacts that using digital devices and online spaces can have for children and young people.

Young Gloucestershire are one of the partners the council consulted with to develop the webpage and help provide expert insight into the needs of children and young people. As part of the county council's commitment to stopping the risk of harm to children and young people, the council is also working with Young Gloucestershire to develop and deliver additional youth worker support to those experiencing harm online.

County Council launch New Campaign for Older Residents

The Council want everyone to know that there is support available

As part of the ongoing information available **Living Well in Later Life** campaign seeks to increase awareness of assistance that is available, as well as the many steps that older people and their families can take to improve their quality of life and prepare for the future. The council are raising awareness of services, such as the [Disabled Facilities Grant](#) which can help with grants of up to £30,000 to help people to live independently for longer.

Older residents are also being encouraged to [sign up to Digi Hubs](#), which offer free support to help make the most of the internet to help to access services that make independent living easier, and to keep in touch with friends and family. There will also be self-support advice and tools, such as the [Online Financial Assessment](#), a finances calculator to assist with planning for the costs of care. The assessment tool and [information about services for older people](#) can be found on the county council website.

£57m Investment for Three New Care Homes

The council looks to help people to live well in their own homes however, this isn't always possible. A recent £57m investment for three new care homes across the county will focus on offering people access to residential care closer to their support networks, family and communities where they lived previously.

Gloucestershire's Tree Planting Milestone as Half a Million Trees have been Planted

Gloucestershire County Council is thrilled to announce the planting of the 500,000th tree, marking a significant milestone in its ambitious goal to plant one million trees by 2030. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the council, its partners, and the countless volunteers who have contributed to this monumental effort.

The official milestone tree was formally planted in Winchcombe Park on Friday 14th March. This highlights the county council's commitment to creating a greener, more sustainable Gloucestershire, enhancing biodiversity, and combating climate change. It not only marks the significant planting achievement, but also the commitment to ensuring trees are not just planted but looked after and well cared for as well.

The council's tree planting initiative is part of its broader strategy to improve air quality, support wildlife habitats, and enhance the natural beauty of the county. With the support of local communities, schools, and businesses, Gloucestershire County Council is well on its way to achieving its goal of one million trees by 2030.

For more information on how you can get involved in the tree planting initiative, visit the Gloucestershire County Council website.

The Thriving Communities Grant Programme

This grant aims to invest in Gloucestershire's communities to help local organisations and groups with projects that help people to stay well and support them to live independently for as long as possible.

Since 2018, the grant has supported over 370 projects, investing nearly £2.8 million in local groups across the county. The funding has helped many community and voluntary organisations to connect people to their communities, strengthening ties, reducing isolation, and improving physical and mental wellbeing.

Individual awards range from £500 to £7,500 and the 68 projects being funded this year include: A diverse range of community organisations have been supported by the grant to strengthen local communities and help our communities to thrive

Full details of all community projects being supported and the grants awarded can be found at:

[Grants Awarded for delivery in 2025 | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

County Councillor Elections in May

Following a letter from the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Communities, we know that the County Council elections will go ahead on 1 May 2025.

As always if you wish to contact me about any of the report information

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