

## **County Council News** **Cllr Sue Williams**

The County Councillors have returned to council chambers for our committee meetings although the “Full Council” continue to be held in the large tennis centre in Gloucester.

### **Gloucestershire County Council is about to start work on a new flagship cycle route on the B4063 between Gloucester and Cheltenham.**

The six-mile route will include a footpath for pedestrians and a ‘buffer’ to separate cyclists from road traffic making it safer and more enjoyable. This was a key change made to the design following feedback from residents and industry specialists.

When finished the path will stretch between Arle Court roundabout in west Cheltenham to London Road in Gloucester, via Staverton, Churchdown and Longlevens.

The new cycle path will provide a continuous off road route for cyclists of all ages and abilities, connecting with a new cycle path under construction along the A40 in Benhall and with the London Road cycle lanes completed last year in Kingsholm.

By providing residents of Cheltenham, Churchdown, and Gloucester with a safe cycle link to two railway stations, the University of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls Campus), Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, schools and business parks, cycling will become a convenient, safe and healthy choice for short trips to school, to work and for leisure.

It is also a simple thing that we can do regularly to reduce our carbon emissions and tackle climate change.

### **Build Back Better Councillor Scheme**

The Build Back Better - Councillor Scheme is a grant fund open to community groups across Gloucestershire. Over £2.2 million is available to be spent on projects to support the county’s recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and to build back better and stronger Each **County Councillor has £40,000** to spend in their community over the next four years. The scheme is open to a wide range of groups and projects in areas such as:

Nature and the environment · Physical and mental wellbeing. Digital inclusion · Building connections and improving neighbourhoods. The scheme is not limited to these themes though, and all applications supported by the Councillor will be funded. We will accept applications from community and voluntary organisations, charities, community interest companies, town and parish councils, sports groups and other not for profit groups. This is a rolling grants fund which will run from 30th July 2021 until January 2025.

All applications must be supported by the County Councillor. More information on the fund can be found at:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/build-back-better-councillor-scheme/> Alternatively, you can email [Buildbackbetter@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Buildbackbetter@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

### **Recycling Metal Really Matters**

In a county wide social media campaign. Residents are being encouraged to recycle their metal packaging to make every can count! Metal can be recycled endlessly so the county and

all six district councils have teamed up with Metal Matters to highlight the benefits of recycling our metal packaging to inspire everyone to get involved and do their bit. More than 12 billion items of aluminium packaging alone are sold every year in the UK. Householders are being encouraged to recycle their cans, foil, empty aerosols, trays, tubes and metal screw tops. Every district in the county provides a frequent & convenient door-to-door recycling service. It's never been easier to recycle our metal packaging; and once recycled, it takes around 60 days for a drinks can to return to the supermarket shelf.

### **Ash Dieback rolling programme**

Ash trees are very common in Gloucestershire, and generally found in parks, gardens and hedgerows. It is the third most common tree in Britain and there are up to 60 million ash trees outside woodlands in the UK. The ash dieback disease is particularly destructive of our native common ash. The disease affects the structural integrity of the tree, this can create health and safety risks as tree's become brittle, losing limbs and in more severe cases causing the tree to fall.

It is planned that two trees will be planted for each ash removed.

### **Residents parking review**

Residential areas in Stroud are in line for a parking review later this year and the county council will be working with Stroud Town Council once their plans to improve the town are finalised.

The county council is also keen to find out what people think of on street electric vehicle charging points in the area. As part of the consultation, possible locations will be included for new on street EV charging points in these review zones for residents to consider. These charging points will be the first of 500 double charging points (1000 charging points in total) around the county, allowing those without a driveway to consider moving to an electric vehicle to reduce their carbon footprint.

### **Open Call for Land . Trees Need You !.**

The county council has recently been awarded £300k from the Woodland Trust for planting trees in the county and developing a programme to maintain them, however finding enough space to put the trees is the next vital step. The council is now looking for landowners to come forward and offer land to plant approximately 360,000 trees over the next three years.

As trees grow, they help to reduce the impact of climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, which is driving global warming, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.

Now, a joint bid with the Local Nature Partnership to plant more trees in Gloucestershire has been given £299,960 from the Emergency Tree Fund Grant Scheme run by the Woodland Trust. The money will go towards planting more trees in Gloucestershire over the next three years, contributing to the county council's individual aim of planting one million trees by 2030.

**Are you a landowner who can help? Contact the county council's climate change team by emailing [glosclimate@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:glosclimate@gloucestershire.gov.uk)**

To read more about our approach for trees please visit <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/climate-change/climate-change-what-is-the-councils-approach/trees/>

### **Greener Gloucestershire**

Climate change has become an increasingly critical area for action across the world, and for good reason. As a result of climate change, this year we have again seen extreme weather events being recorded all over the world, with the UK recording its first ever ‘amber heat warning’.

In 2019, many councils across the county declared a climate emergency and have been working individually and collaboratively on a portfolio of activity to help tackle climate change and lower emissions.

Over the coming weeks, ‘Greener Gloucestershire’ will promote the positive work of councils, the police, NHS and other partners across the county, whilst raising awareness of how residents, businesses and communities can cut carbon emissions and support the fight against climate change.

Find out more about the different projects by heading to the [website](#) and follow #GreenerGloucestershire on social media. You can also sign up to receive the new [‘Greener Gloucestershire’ newsletter](#), to keep up to date on local activity, as well as to receive hints and tips on how you can reduce carbon emissions and take action to protect the future of our environment.

Planting trees will help us work towards a Greener Gloucestershire by improving air quality and biodiversity. You can sign up to receive the new [‘Greener Gloucestershire’ newsletter](#), to keep up to date on local activity, as well as to receive hints and tips on how you can reduce carbon emissions and take action to protect the future of our environment. Find out more about the different projects by heading to the [website](#) and follow #GreenerGloucestershire on social media.

For further information visit Gloucestershire county council website or Contact me on Tel 07766318854 or e mail@ [Susan.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Susan.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk)