

County Councillors Monthly Report - October 2016

New Road Safety Hub Launches

The Road Safety Community Hub is being launched by Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership, made up of Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucestershire Constabulary, the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service.

The new one-stop hub launches on Friday 28th October and will be the main point of contact for residents to report any concerns they have about road safety in their local area. Reports can be made via the Road Safety Partnership's website at <http://roadsafety-gloucestershire.org.uk/communityhub/>

The Hub is an addition to the existing services offered by the Road Safety Partnership and joins forces with colleagues in police and highways to provide the best possible service to the county's communities.

By working more closely together, they will be able to improve the quality of life for people living, working and travelling within Gloucestershire by reducing collisions and casualties on our roads and promoting road safety skills.

The launch event takes place at Gloucestershire Rural Community Council's headquarters in Gloucester. It has been instrumental in putting together the original speed toolkit that gave community groups a range of practical ideas and advice on ways they help themselves to improve road safety.

Fastershire - Have Your Say About The County's Broadband

Residents and businesses in Gloucestershire are being invited to contribute to a major survey of broadband availability across the county. The survey is being undertaken by independent researchers at the Royal Agricultural University (RAU) as part of the evaluation of the impact of superfast fibre broadband in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire due to be published in 2017. The survey will be live until the end of November and the responses will directly feed into the Fastershire project. The results will also help demonstrate the level of demand in communities that are yet to benefit from the Fastershire rollout and help raise their profile for better broadband with potential suppliers. The survey takes around 5 minutes to complete, with questions relating to how residents and businesses currently use broadband and internet services and where better broadband services are required.

The Fastershire project began in December 2012, and has so far brought access to faster connections over 30Mbps to thousands of rural premises in the county. Fastershire's ultimate aim is that by 2018 there will be access to broadband speeds of 24Mbps and above for all who need it. Fastershire's new broadband strategy for 2015-2018 is available at www.fastershire.com/strategy

In phase one of the project, Gloucestershire County Council invested £7.5m, matched funded by central government, through a contract with BT to improve faster broadband speeds across the county. Phase two of the project sees faster broadband extend even further with an additional £6.2m, match funded by central government, being invested by the authority. The second phase has already started in some areas, with Gigaclear targeting over 6,500 additional homes and businesses, upgrading speeds specifically in the Cotswolds. The council has also agreed a £500,000 investment to be match funded by Cotswold District Council to extend phase two even further.

Fastershire is in the process of tendering a second phase of rollout valued at £20m that will see faster broadband extend further across the both counties. The results of the survey will be presented to prospective suppliers and could help influence which areas they target in their bids.

To complete the survey, please visit - www.broadband-feedback.com

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