

Naunton Parish Council

20th January 2025

Report from GCC Cllr. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

- Local Road Closures:
Moreton, A429 National Grid dates: -
6th Jan to 4th Feb 2025, Stratford Road – traffic lights
6th Jan to 21st Jan 2025 Batsford Road - closure
12th Feb to 7th March 2025 access to East Street & High Street – closure

Bledington, B4450 Stow Road surfacing 15th to 21st Jan 2025 9.30 – 15.30

Little Rissington, GCC Highways 23rd to 29th Jan 2025
- The government is moving towards decentralising and creating Unitary Authorities across the country. This will mean that the 6 District Councils in the county will be absorbed under the County Council. To achieve critical mass, we will need to merge with adjacent authorities under an elected Mayor. Decisions will need to be submitted by the county no later than 10th January.
- “Pedal Eazy’ by borrowing an e-bike for up to 3 months to promote sustainable travel. Anyone over 18 years old can borrow a bike through www.thinktravel.info/cycling/pedal-eazy The hire costs £70 per month standard rental of £30 per month for jobseekers. Those who become converted can buy the bike and accessories and will have the hire costs refunded.
- GCC Budget 2025/26 revealed with an uplift of £32.7m or 2.99% and 2% increase in adult social care, to almost £650m. These proposals will add £6.65 per month to band D properties. Details include:

A further £10m towards the £100m highways budget targeting rural roads.

Extra funding towards SEND education, with a new £16.5m school in Gloucester for 200 students.

General improvement and increase in capacity for schools with £12.4m investment.

Three new adult care homes at £7.5m and further funding in future years. £13m of improvements to Waste Recycling Centres.

- Gloucestershire Coroners Court has just been fitted with 220 solar panels, providing 100kWp of solar energy and produce around £21,000 of electricity a year. This is yet another example of GCC way of investing in its carbon neutral energy target of net zero by 2045.

- Out of hours library services access. Technology, called Open Access, is being introduced to libraries at Churchdown, Fairford, Prestbury, Quedgeley and Tetbury over the next 12 months. It will enable registered members to use library services outside normal staffed hours. The new service is already being enjoyed at the Bishop Cleeve and Oakley libraries. To register use this link <https://gloucestershire.spydus.co.uk/cgi-in/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/JOIN>

- The Barnwood Trust, Gloucestershire VCS Alliance and GCC have announced a new partnership aimed at enhancing inclusive short breaks for families of disabled children and young people. Running till April 2027 the partnership will fund breaks for families in the North Cotswolds and Tewkesbury. The fund will be investing a further £1.2m in time-limited funding for country- wide projects. It is hoped that the learning from this collaboration will lead to offerings across the county.

- The new government has just announced the increased house building targets for the country. The Cotswolds will face the greatest increase in Gloucestershire from the current target of 504 homes to 1,036 new homes. The average built over the last two years has been 385. Cheltenham has the second largest uplift to 824 and Stroud in third place with 820 homes.

- Responsibilities of Riparian Owners – landowners of ditches and watercourses.
 1. Maintain watercourses and to clear obstructions.
 2. Maintain the banks & bed of watercourses (including trees and shrubs on the banks) and any flood defences.
 3. To accept the natural flow from upstream neighbours and transfer downstream without obstruction, pollution or diversion
 4. Maintain any approved structures on your stretch of watercourse, including culverts, weirs & mill gates.