

Naunton Parish Council

Meeting 18th March 2024

Report from GCC Cllr. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

- Local Road Closures:
Great Rissington, Rectory Lane – Gigaclear 9am – 4pm, 21st March to 22nd April 2024
Great Rissington, Sherborne Lane – Gigaclear 9am – 4pm, 5th March to 20th April 2024
A436 Adlestrop Bridge, Oddington Road – Highways 8am – 4.30pm. 18th to 28th March
Nether Westcote – Thanet Water 11th & 12th March 2024
Lower Oddington – partial closure near The Fox bollard installation 18th – 22nd March
Little Rissington, Pound Lane – Thames Water 8th – 12th April 2024
-
- The GCC 2024/25 budget of £616.236 million was approved on Wednesday 21st Feb, an increase of £49.103 million. This is based on an overall Council Tax increase of 4.99% (made up of 2.99% general increase and a further 2% ringfenced Adult Social Care precept). These proposals give rise to a Band D Council Tax of £1,599.82, an increase of £76.04 or £1.46 per week.

The budget is made up of £78.372 million additional investment in services, offset by £3.884 million use of reserves and £25.385 million by the removal of one-off savings and efficiencies. Highlights include:

- £15m boost from Javelin Park incinerator.
 - £2m Solar School Fund to instal solar panels at all county council-maintained schools.
 - £25m for road resurfacing, as part of the £100m manifesto pledge. 212 roads resurfaced and 50,000 potholes filled. Target at least 156 further resurfaced roads, plus £500k in specialist new equipment.
 - £2.2m additional funding into bus services, including expanding The Robin service.
 - £181m for vulnerable children’s services, an increase of £24.1m.
 - £22m investment into schools.
 - £206.6m for Adult Social Care, an increase of £22.8m, with £11.1m capital budget.
 - £37.1m into Public Health, an increase of £730k
 - £82.4m for environment, economy & infrastructure, an increase of £4.7m, with a capital budget of £131.7m.
 - £25.7m into community safety, an increase of £2.4m - £23m for Fire & Rescue,
 - £1.5m Coroner’s service, £1.2m Trading Standards. Capital budget of £5.3m.
 - £51.1m for Corporate Resources, an increase of £6.7m and a capital budget of £25.6m.
- Victims of flooding on 2nd and 12th January can apply for funding of up to £5,000 to go towards improvements to reduce future flood damage.
 - Reach South Academy Trust has been selected to run a new 200 place school for primary and secondary students with moderate and additional learning difficulties (MALD). The school, subject to planning, will open in 2026. The trust already runs the former Peak Academy, specialising complex educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The GCC is currently investing £30m into specialist education needs.
 - A new service by Via, a charity working with adults needing help over drug and alcohol use, will enter into an initial 5 year contract, with an optional further 4 years on 1st April. A total investment of £52.2m or £5.8m per annum. Research shows that for every £1 spent on drug treatment, there is a social and economic benefit of £4.
 - County Councillors have access to a further £10,000 in their Build Back Better funds, aimed at Levelling Up, targeting issues such as digital exclusion, cost of living, online harm and community transport. Additionally, £3,000 Youth Fund, specifically targeting such things as sport, recreation, leisure activities, wellbeing, mental health and digital innovation.

- 65 community projects have shared in £400,000 awards through the Thriving Communities Grant 2024. Organisations and groups are assisted in helping people to stay well and support them to live independently as long as possible. Since 2018 over 310 projects have received £2.4m of investment. Individual awards have ranged between £627 and £7,500.
- Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service has been given the go ahead to recruit 14 additional full time fire fighters and watch managers. They will also be adjusting their shift patterns to 2 x 12 hour shifts against the current 9 hours in daytime and 15 hours at night.
- The county council has appointed Rethink Mental Illness to run the Mental Health Support & Advice Service. The charity will enter into a 5 year contract on 1st April working with people suffering mental illness. The investment over the contract period is £4.7m
- Gloucestershire continues to support Ukrainians fleeing the war. 238,300 visas have been issued with 1,821 in Gloucestershire of which 1,549 (69%) people have arrived. Currently 180 guests are living with 63 families in the Cotswolds
- Gloucestershire Flood Guide – In light of the recent heavy rains the attached link shows you around what you can do in the event of flooding. <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flood-risk-management/flooding-information/flood-guide/>
- The Robin bus service is being promoted in the North Cotswolds with a campaign starting from 4th March. Fares capped at £2 till 31st December 2024 and free concessionary passes to qualifying customers. Booking details are found at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/therobin or call 0345 2638139.
- Time to start booking for the Holiday Activities & Food Program from Monday 11th March. It will run for two weeks over the Easter holidays from Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April. A wide range of activities can be viewed at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf. Families eligible for pupil premium free school meals can apply for Holiday Free School Meal vouchers that will be for 1 week during the Easter holiday and at the May half-term holiday. The £15 vouchers are available now at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/holiday-school-meal-vouchers/
- 'Your Circle' is a website run by the GCC to help people by providing information, advice and support for people wanting to remain independent, safe and well. Amongst many things it provides details of local groups, societies, clubs and services offering care, support and wellbeing. Details can be found at: <https://www.yourcircle.org.uk/>
- 86% of the 6,539 students moving to secondary school in September this year will have achieved places in schools of their first choice. 97% are being offered a place at one of their other preferences. Details of waiting lists etc. can be found at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

MM-C/ 14th March 2024