

Naunton Parish Council Meeting 21st March 2022

Report from GC Cllr Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

- Future local Road Closures include:
Stow – Well Lane 14th to 18th March
Lower Oddington 22nd to 25th March
Icomb Hill 6th and 7th April
Upper Oddington 18th to 22nd April
Lower Oddington 20th to 29th April
Moreton, Coders Lane 3rd to 5th May
- Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service is donating to Ukraine an Aerial Ladder Platform vehicle, along with equipment including portable generators, batter-powered saw, cable reels, batter chargers, jerry cans and body armour. The vehicle was scheduled to be sold by auction.
- Tarmac have been awarded a £40m road surfacing contract over the next 2 years with an option for a further 2 years. Tarmac have been resurfacing in the county since 2018. This contract is all part of the commitment to invest an additional £100m into improving our roads.
- The Central Government support grant for bus services has, after lobbying, been extended until October this year having been originally set to finish at the end of March. Special bus arrangements are in place in Cheltenham for the Festival Week.
- The School Streets trial, where cars are banned during arrival and departure times, is being extended to 4 further Primary Schools in Cheltenham after a 2 year trial with Tewkesbury C of E & Warden Hill Primary Schools in Cheltenham.
- Future Bridleways and Footpath closures or diversions include:
HMM10, Evenlode Road, Moreton across the 'polo ground' from 26th Feb for a period of 6 months.
- A new support service has been launched for adults suffering bereavement following suicide in the family. Run by Rethink Mental Illness, the service will include help for friends, colleagues, health and social care professionals and those who might have witnessed the death. Information can be found via 07483 375516 or e-mail glossupportaftersuicide@rethink.org or visit www.rethink.org/glossupportaftersuicide.
- The County Council approves the £521m budget for the 2022/23 on 16th February. £10m on roads; £150 into school buildings; £14m additional funding into Children & Young People's Services; £20m into cycling and pedestrian ways; a further £9m into support for vulnerable adults & those with disability. Additional amendments include £550,000 for Community Speedwatch; £45,000 for a biodiversity officer to identify opportunities in Council owned land; £120,000 to establish recycling shops at county recycling centres. A further £2m to the Fire & Rescue Service in addition to a similar sum last year.

- Moreton Market has joined the 'Real Deal Charter' to ensure that traders are offering legitimate produce and products for sale and ridding markets of counterfeits. There are over 500 markets across the county who are signed to the Charter,
- The proposed 26 mile 'cycle spine' has been announced that will extend from Stroud in the south, through Gloucester and Cheltenham to Bishop's Cleeve in the north. Funding was approved at the recent Council Budget meeting.
- Libraries have opened up 'Green Together' sections specialising in ecology, waste management, how to reduce energy consumption & more climate friendly approach to energy at work.
- The County Council will be working with the Aspire Foundation providing additional support for families in need of additional support who don't have easy access to existing Children & families Centres. A fund of £920,000 is being provided through the Gloucestershire Health and Care NHC Foundation Trust.
- Trading Standards are reminding people to keep poultry under cover while avian influenza is prevalent in the county.
- CDC car parking charges in Stow & across the Cotswolds are to rise by 5%, rounded to the nearest 10p. 'Free After 3' introduced in 2015 will also be removed as of April 2022. The 6 day a week charging times will be 8am to 6pm.
- Don't forget my 'Build Back Better' Fund where Councillors have access to £40,000 over the next 4 years to support projects, such as;
 - Nature and Environment
 - Physical and Mental Wellbeing
 - Digital Inclusion
 - Building Connections and Improving Neighbourhoods
 The funds will be open to community and voluntary organisations, charities, sporting groups and other non-for-profit groups, town and parish councils.
- Innovation Labs located in libraries across the county are being rolled out. They will work with schools, businesses and the community offering training in virtual reality, computer skills, digital design, 3D modelling and printing. Experienced volunteers are now being sought to help man these.
- £1.7m has just been made available as New Year bonuses of £185 per care worker throughout the county as a thank you for their unstinting work during the Covid pandemic. To qualify the individual needs to have completed 6 months continuous service. Two further bonuses are scheduled to be paid in the Spring & Summer months.
- A central government fund of £3.7m is available for greater support for vulnerable households for food & fuel vouchers, white goods and essential household items. A sum of £123,000 will be given in addition to each of the 6 district councils for their own targeted schemes.