**Annual Report to Parishes : Naunton Annual Meeting Monday 21st th May 2018 by Cllr Dr Nigel Moor ( nigelmoor@gloucestershire.gov.uk)**

**It is worth at the outset my outlining what the County Council does:**

* Our statutory duties include child protection and the vulnerable elderly as well as working with the NHS on public health. Infrastructure includes roads, footpaths and cycle ways, liaison with the railway companies and subsidised public transport, flood relief, faster broadband, libraries, new schools and extensions to existing schools, on street car parking management, TRO`s. Licensing includes trading standards, registration of births, marriages and deaths. Economic development includes learning and skills and working with the Glos LEP.
* This year the council agreed a £470,000 investment in electric vehicle infrastructure. Officers are drawing up plans for electric vehicle charging particularly for people who have no where at home to charge a vehicle off the road. The government is making grants available to help councils do this. As regards planning we are responsible for waste and minerals and our development management team advise local planning authorities on the highway implications of development proposals. We also negotiate with developers s106 contributions to education, libraries, highways and public transport and other services.
* Our new innovations include The Road Safety Hub where you can report safety issues and road damage and which brings together the Road Safety Team, Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service, Gloucestershire Police and GCC Highways.

Go onto [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/community-hub](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/community-hub) and you can choose from

* speeding
* Parking
* Pedestrian and passenger safety
* Signing and lighting
* Road condition or layout
* GCC`s budget for 2018/19 was agreed at Council on the 14th February and is a total of £412.9 m based on a council tax increase of 4.49%, of which 2.0 % is ringfenced for adult care. This represents an increase in our expenditure of 1.27% compared with the 2017/18 budget and means that the county council is able to protect the budgets for adult care, children and families, public health, communities and infrastructure. The budget represents an increase in spending on adult social care of 2.3% where ever possible we are trying to allow more people to remain in their home sand on children`s services of 28%. The aim here is to reduce the case load for each social worker.
* In addition our capital budget going forward to 2019 is almost £505 m and includes our £150 m investment to highways, and in addition to broadband, cycling and footways and other essential infrastructure including a roll out of electric vehicle charging points across the county. Compared with many other counties we have been able to maintain our services despite reduced grant from central government and this has only been possible because of difficult decisions taken during the period of our administration.
* The Lenghsman`s scheme and Highways Local will continue as well as local community budgets for councillors. I have booked the week beginning 24th September 2018 for the Lengthsman`s scheme in Naunton.
* As part of our £150 m investment in the county`s roads over the next five years, Gloucestershire County Council has announced proposals to break down the county`s highways contract into three areas. These are highways maintenance contract, highways structural maintenance contract (resurfacing work) and the highways professional services contract (works design and consultancy support).Tarmac won the tender for the resurfacing contract and have resurfaced Stow Square and repaired the Evesham Road from Troopers Lodge to Stow during May. Further work in the North Cotswolds is planned and I will advise the village clerk when the schedule is published.
* The new highways term maintenance contract will deliver around £20 m of routine maintenance on our roads each year and covers works such as pothole repairs, patching, winter gritting, grass cutting and gulley emptying. The five companies that have been shortlisted are Balfour Beatty, Griffiths, Ringway, Skanska and Volker Highways. Each prospective contractor will go through a rigorous tendering process over the coming months before an award of the contract in the Autumn 2018.The council`s current highways provider Amey will continue to deliver highway services in the county until their contract ends at the end of March 2019

**Safe and Well Visits**

* I wanted to mention these safe and well visits conducted by the Gloucestershire Fire And Rescue Service with vulnerable groups in the county. In 2018/19 10,000 visits reaching 30,000 people across Gloucestershire are planned and three quarters of these visits will be to people in high risk groups. The number of visits has increased by more than 100% since 2013 and during that time the number of dwelling fires has decreased by nearly 10%.

**Street Lighting Improvement Works – remaining LED conversions**

* As you will be aware the County Council has been undertaking a major project to upgrade street lighting, with the main aim being to meet its carbon reduction target of 60% by 2020. Skanska UK PLC has been engaged to carry out these works. They are returning to Naunton for the weeks 1st Aug – 31st Aug 2019 to complete these conversions along with traffic route lighting. This remaining work will include wall brackets and wood pole – mounted units as well as some heritage lanterns.

**Major Roads Network**

* Since I was elected one of my major objectives has been to try and reduce the impact of traffic, particularly HGV`s on Stow. To this end we set up the task group to examine conditions along the A429 and from that I commissioned a more extensive Corridor Study. It is available on the Gloucestershire Transport section web page.. Importantly it provides important evidence for the review we are carrying out this year of our Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan. My aim is to remove the A429 from the freight routes through Gloucestershire. Other events are contributing to this objective :
* Highways England were consulting on the national strategic roads network and the A429 Fosse was not included. Now Highways England are consulting on what would be a second national tier : The Major Roads Network and again the A429 is not included and on this basis would be described as a Local Highway. The down side is that any road improvements along the A429 would need to come from the county council and or s106 contributions but the upside is that the Major Road Network will require new signage and provide the opportunity to direct HGV`s away from the Fosse as map companies/satnav companies are made aware of the new designation and the need to encourage traffic onto the major roads.
* Warwickshire have requested that their length of the A429 be included in the Major Network. We have not supported this and I don’t think Highways England will consider this.
* Oxfordshire have been successful in their bid to Government to pursue a business plan for widening the A40 towards Witney. The A40 is part of the Major Highways Network and we will be working with Oxfordshire to ensure that more HGV`s remain on the A40.
* Moreton Town Council are working on a new parking strategy for the town which will include 20mph restriction through the town centre which will make this route lass attractive for HGV`s.
* There is support in the town for a pedestrian/cycle bridge across the railway alongside the exiting bridge but no widening of the existing bridge. This scheme is now in our GCC capital programme.