



Southam Parish Council

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th June 2026 at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

Councillors Present: S Lennon (Chair), J Calam, K Fish, M Harris, P Sissons, plus L Dowie (RFO)

Also Present: 7 members of the public and Cllr C Agg

16. To receive apologies

Apologies were received Cllrs R Prince, Cllr R Torrington. Apologies were also received from Borough Councillor N Adcock.

17. To receive declarations of interest/ requests for dispensation

There were no declarations or requests.

18. To receive and agree the minutes of the AGM and Annual Parish Meeting held on the 12th May 2026

The minutes were agreed by councillors present as a true record of the meeting.

19. Matters arising not dealt with on the agenda

- a. **Deferred Appointment of Vice Chair** - Cllr Lennon advised that AGM deferred appointment of Vice Chair and confirmed that the appointment will be confirmed at the next meeting
- b. **Noverton Balancing Pond** – Cllr Fish provided an update regarding discussions with TBC and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust concerning improvements to the area and future biodiversity opportunities/ actions. Cllr Fish advised that original meeting has been rearranged with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust on site on 17/06/26 and Adrian Clements and Adam Spokes from TBC and Cllr Adcock will also be attending. Cllr Agg confirmed that SPC should approach Adrian Clements regarding obtaining trees.
- c. **Newsletter update** – Liz Dowie confirmed that invoices have been sent out to all subscribed advertisers and advised that one bounced back from one email address supplied (E-mail address to be checked and resent).
- D. **Wychwood** – Cllr Lennon confirmed that comments on this would be covered under public participation and licensing.

20. To receive Parish Councillor/ Speed Watch/ Neighbourhood Watch reports

Traffic/ Speed Data

Bill Motion confirmed the following data:-

The headline data for March 2026 is as follows.

Southam Lane: An average of 3355 cars per day, going east; the average vehicle speed was 28.5 mph; 85% of all vehicles were slower than 34.4 mph.

Old Road: An average of 1764 vehicles per day, going south; the average vehicle speed was 23.8 mph; 85% of all vehicles were slower than 28.5 mph;

New Road: An average of 1843 vehicles per day, the average speed was 29.8 mph, with 85% of vehicles going slower than 34.8 mph. This data was from the last week in March only.

The headline data for April 2026 is as follows.

Southam Lane: An average of 2650 cars per day, going east; the average vehicle speed was 29.7 mph; 85% of all vehicles were slower than 35.1 mph. This is more like the normal traffic we saw before Evesham Road closures.

Old Road: An average of 893 vehicles per day, going south; the average vehicle speed was 23.9 mph; 85% of all vehicles were slower than 28.6 mph.

New Road: An average of 1831 vehicles per day coming into the village, the average speed was 29.7 mph, with 85% of vehicles going slower than 34.8 mph. During this time we had 3 speeding events at 60 mph, 20 speeding events at 55 mph and 188 speeding events at 50 mph.

Bill Motion advised that John Donovan continues to share the traffic data with Gloucestershire Constabulary.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Lennon advised that Cllr Torrington has confirmed he receives regular updates and uploads these on SPC website.

Councillor Advocacy Scheme

Cllr Calam advised that she has still not heard anything regarding the advocacy scheme. Cllr Lennon confirmed that Cllr Sissons has contacted PSCO Trevor May and he has contacted the Engagement Officer at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Gloucestershire Police).

Cleeve Common Trust

Cllr Harris confirmed that there were no updates to report.

Footpaths

Cllr Sissons advised there were no new reports about footpath issues this month.

At the April 2026 meeting, we noted that a parishioner had raised a damaged stile/barbed wire and overgrown path on the ASM86 (track off Gravel Pit Lane heading East). This was referred to GCC PROW Officer for clarification on the definitive path. GCC have now investigated and the GCC PROW Officer will be writing to the landowners to get the path reinstated.

During the Wychwood Festival, the PROW adjacent to the racecourse were subject to temporary closure with a sign posted on the gate where Ellenborough Park land meets the racecourse shortly ahead of the event. The GCC PROW Officer had not been made aware of the closure. Going forward, we have requested that both Southam Parish Council and Prestbury Parish Council are notified, so that a news item can be circulated to parishioners ahead of any temporary closures for special events. (Subsequently GCC advised Prestbury Parish Council should have been notified as the footpath

Village Hall

Cllr Lennon confirmed that there is a pub night due to take place on Friday 12/06/26 and a "bring your own food to cook" barbecue due to take place on Friday 24/07/26.

Website/Comms

Cllr Lennon confirmed that Cllr Torrington continues to post SPC Updates.

21. Receive and request reports from County and Borough Councillors

Cllr Agg confirmed that she continues to keep pushing for reductions in speed limits and reported that there had been an official opening of the A435 cycleway.

Cllr Agg confirmed that there had been one application for Grass Roots Funding and an enquiry for SPC for funding towards the provision of a defibrillator at Noverton.

Cllr Agg also reminded SPC Councillors regarding responding by 06/07/26 to the Planning Enforcement Update Consultation email she had sent.

Cllr Lennon advised that the County Councillor's report was provided prior to meeting and will be appended to the minutes along with supplemental information provided by Councillor Agg.

Cllr Agg advised that Cllr Adcock is now the chair of the Licensing Committee at TBC.

22. Adjournment for public participation on items on the agenda (if about another subject residents should write to the clerk (clerk@southam-pc.gov.uk))

Edna Smith raised the issue of no information being available regarding the opening of the cycle path and Cllr Agg referred to a post she had made on her Facebook page.

Queries regarding the Car boot field. Cllr Agg explained that under licensing policy any one field can have up to 14 days of events and she has queried with CBC as to how they keep a check on the number of times fields are used and whether they are being used in compliance with the 14 occasions rule. Cllr Agg confirmed that she had suggested to the Racecourse that they accommodate the car boot entrance via the entrance to the coach park which is only used for November and festival meetings.

A query was raised in response to the Wychwood Festival and complaints received. Cllr Lennon reported specific issues were raised regarding the event organisers' poor communication including communication regarding closing rights of way during the event. Cllr Lennon identified that SPC had many concerns regarding the event including whether the event organisers kept to the sound levels agreed for the previous year as promised. Cllr Lennon confirmed SPC has asked to be party to the debrief and that the Racecourse should be party to the debrief too. Cllr Lennon advised that different rules apply to venues where there are higher numbers of events over the year and that SPC would continue to press for having the stages relocated back to the pre-2024 location for the Wychwood Festival in future years.

A member of the public advised that in some locations the sound was permanently audible but may well be below decibel levels to be deemed a nuisance. Cllr Lennon confirmed that SPC will press for results from the monitoring process and look into what other courses of actions are available. A member of the public advised that her father-in-law is a sound engineer and may be able to offer some advice. Bill Motion confirmed that all the sound sensors in his garden were always within limits.

23. Planning Consultations

26/00286/FUL – Grey Gables, Southam Lane, Southam, Cheltenham - Proposed loft conversion and alterations to property, erection of porch – Cllr Lennon confirmed SPC has already submitted comments suggesting alterations ought to be more in keeping with style of the property and white render was not in keeping. SPC raised concerns that proposed dormers could overlook other properties and suggested roof lights as an alternative, as included in a previous application for use of the roofspace. SPC commented that the layout of the gates and posts proposed were not detailed so could not comment upon the impact on parking but stated that the indicative design shown for the gates and posts was not in keeping with properties in the Southam Lane.

26/00262/FUL – Lake House, Noverton Farm, Noverton Lane, Prestbury, Cheltenham - Erection of single storey rear extension, front and side porches, two new window openings to side elevation at ground floor together with external paving to replace existing decking and associated work - Cllr Lennon confirmed SPC had already submitted their comments suggesting that the alterations proposed were modest and in keeping and supporting applications.

26/00371/TPO - Part Parcel 2081 New Road, Southam, Cheltenham - TTR 114 - G1 - T1 Dead/Dying Oak tree - remove, leaving 1m high stump – Cllr Lennon confirmed that SPC responded supporting the application but suggesting that it is replaced with a like species.

26/00363/FUL – Springbank, Old Road, Southam, Cheltenham - Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) and removal of Condition 3 (materials) of planning approval 23/00058/FUL (Proposed loft conversion, installation of dormers and rooflights, single storey side extension, new doors and windows, installation of new steps, wall and balustrade at front - revised scheme) to revise approved plans and roof materials. – Cllr Lennon confirmed that SPC had responded identifying no issues with most of the changes requiring retrospective approval but raised issues regarding the choice of roof tiles. The applicant's agent has suggested that the extension tiles used were as existing but did not match the existing as the existing tiles to the original roof had been painted. SPC have suggested the applicant identifies the paint product used to paint the existing tiles and paints the tiles to the extension to match the existing.

26/00388 /FUL – Clouds End, Spring Lane, Cleeve Hill, Cheltenham – Application for the erection of two single-storey timber-framed ancillary outbuildings within the residential curtilage of Clouds End (Retrospective). Cllr Lennon identified that the buildings were both visual from Spring Lane and located in the Cotswold National Landscape. SPC also raised concerns that the materials used for the buildings are not sympathetic to their setting and the character of the surrounding area, together with the impact on the main building.

Decision Notices

26/00190/FUL - 66 Ratcliff Lawns, Southam, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 3NT - Part garage conversion – PERMIT

Since the agenda was prepared the following updates had also been received:

26/00210/FUL – Cranbrook, Haymes Road, Southam, Cheltenham - Double storey side extension with internal and external alterations – REFUSE

26/00210/FUL - Cranbrook Haymes Road, Cleeve Hill, Cheltenham – Earlier in the meeting the applicant for the refused application raised her concerns regarding the planning process with respect to their application and the difficulties she is encountering trying to enter into further dialogue with TBC's Planning department. The applicant specifically raised concerns regarding the perception that TBC's planning officer made their decision based on comments made by SPC and that this may not have been based upon the current drawings. Cllr Sissons advised that SPC could only comment on the drawings available of TBC's planning portal. Agreed that Cllrs Lennon and Sissons would try to move the dialogue forward with TBC's planning dept.

26/00150/FUL- Green Orchard, Kayte Lane, Southam, Cheltenham - Variation of Condition 4 (personal occupancy) of planning approval 23/00757/FUL for the change of land use to a residential caravan site for an extended gypsy/traveler family to vary the condition to limit occupancy to persons of nomadic habit of life. – PERMIT

Planning Updates

23/00641/FUL - Land East of Kayte Lane, Kayte Lane, Southam Cheltenham – Planning permission was refused and dismissed by the Planning Inspector on Appeal. The occupants had brought a legal challenge in the High Court arguing that the Planning Inspector's decision was unlawful, breached the occupants' rights under the EHCR and was in breach of the Public Sector Equality Duty. A hearing had taken place on 14 April 2026 to determine whether permission should be granted for the case to proceed to a full hearing. The High Court has now issued a decision and has refused permission for the challenge to proceed. The occupants intend to seek permission to appeal the decision in the Court of Appeal. TBC refusal of planning permission had allowed occupants to remain on site until 19 September 2026. Cllr Agg said that she had been advised that enforcement action will be taken but not until the Court of Appeal has made a decision and outcome is known as to whether the appeal will go ahead. Cllr Sissons asked what the timescale was for a Court of Appeal hearing. Cllr Agg said to ask Will Cole at TBC for an update.

Cllr Agg explained that if an alternative site becomes available the situation would change. Cllr Lennon advised that Will Cole has previously identified that an assessment is being undertaken of gypsy and traveler sites along with potentially suitable public and diocese land but SPC has received no update as to what is happening. Cllr Agg confirmed that currently each individual Council is responsible for identifying suitable sites for travelers and that no additional pitches have been found in the previous 5 years.

Cllr Lennon enquired as to how the situation can be moved forward and Cllr Agg advised we will need to wait for review to be completed.

26/00833/SCREEN – Land North of Swindon Lane Cheltenham – Potential housing development for 750 homes - DEADLINE Weds 10/06 – Cllr Lennon explained that the purpose of this screening is to identify whether an environmental impact assessment is required and confirmed that SPC would be responding confirming that they support the need for an environmental impact assessment. Cllr Agg advised that the more comments received the greater the sway they will hold.

Planning Enforcement Update – Cllr Agg advised that a consultation relating to planning enforcement had just begun and seeks opinions of residents and businesses on a set of proposed changes – DEADLINE 06/07/26 for comments.

24. Licensing

26/00743/PRMA – Tribute Licensing Application – DEADLINE Cllr Lennon confirmed that the deadline has been extended to 03/07/26.

25. To receive an update on possible installation of defibrillator on the Noverton Estate

Cllr Fish identified the four options for powering the defibrillator which were being considered. Cllr Fish has issued a summary report detailing the options.

Cllr Fish has had some initial discussions with Prestbury Parish Council and will organise a meeting with them once in a position to identify most viable options. In all of these cases there is the issue of either obtaining a free defibrillator via a charity or obtaining funding via a funding organisation to purchase one and training costs to factor in. Cllr Fish to contact Village Hall Committee to find out how they dealt with these issues.

Cllr Fish has also had some initial discussions regarding potential Grass Roots Funding towards the costs of supplying, powering and installation of the defibrillator.

26. To approve grass verge maintenance agreement

Cllr Lennon reported that the draft Grass Verge Maintenance Agreement had been circulated to all councillors. All councillors confirmed their acceptance of the draft terms. On that basis Cllr Lennon will confirm acceptance of the Agreement to GCC Highways.

Cllr Lennon mentioned that one of our grass-cutting contractors, still had to confirm their Public Liability insurance cover at £10m. (This has since been confirmed).

Cllr Fish advised that she is still waiting for Vince Larcombe to meet with her on site and provide a quote for the two adopted areas of verge which are GCC responsibility and Jacob Cotterill has requested to be added to this agreement.

27. Southam War Memorial repairs and cleaning

Cllr Sissons confirmed that the War Memorials Trust had advised that SPC may be eligible for a grant towards half the cost of the repairs but that its consideration would be low to medium priority and no decisions would be made until the end of 2026. As SPC wishes to progress with the works before next winter, it was agreed they did not want to delay commencement waiting for a grant application to progress. Three quotes had been obtained. Cllr Sissons advised that only one of the three contractors (Kevin Paul) actually attended site and identified the full extent of works including the need for steel stitching to cracks in the cross.

Kevin Paul had carried out work at Church of the Ascension in Southam and Bishops Cleeve War memorial. Having reviewed the quotes, Councillors agreed to accept quotation from Kevin Paul and to instruct him to carry out the works.

Cllr Sissons to contact TBC to enquire whether stainless steel stitching work would require Planning Consent (subsequently confirmed that planning consent was not required).

Cllr Sissons advised that the War Memorials Trust had enquired as to SPC's wreath policy. Having checked with neighbouring parish councils it was suggested that the wreaths be removed by Epiphany and that in future wreaths were held in place by raffia rather than wire. This was agreed by Councillors present.

28. Clerk Appointment

Cllrs agreed that SPC needs to advertise again for a clerk. Liz Dowie advised that the position needs to be worded that SPC currently has a Temp RFO in place and provide an option for successful candidate to take on the RFO duties as well if suitably experienced/qualified to do so.

It was agreed to develop a short job overview seeking experience in similar role or business/project experience. Cllrs agreed to advertise with GALC, Indeed and Glos Jobs.

29. Finance & Governance

1. **To receive the Internal Auditors Report for 2025/26** - Council considered the report and noted the recommendations. Following receipt of additional information from the RFO the internal auditor withdrew Recommendation 6.
2. **To confirm that the Council meets the criteria to declare itself exempt from external audit** - Council confirmed that both income and expenditure for 2025/26 were below the threshold of £25,000 and that it therefore meets the criteria to declare itself exempt from external audit. The RFO will forward the Certificate of Exemption to PKF Littlejohn.
3. **To complete the Annual Governance Statement (AGAR Section 1)** - The Annual Governance Statement was completed and signed by the Chair and (in the absence of a Clerk) the RFO. It was noted that the GALC internal auditor had responded "No" to Objective M on the Annual Internal Audit Report (AIAR) since the Council had not recorded in the minutes the previous year the dates for the exercise of public rights for 2024/25. She advised that this was necessary since the requirement is for the Council to **approve** the dates rather than **note** them. Council challenges the "No" response since the formal notice had been displayed correctly on the website - the wording on the AIAR form states that compliance is "evidenced by a notice on the website **and/or** authority approved minutes confirming the dates set". As the internal auditor advised that her response must stand, Council responded "No" to Assertion 4.

4. **To approve the Accounting Statements (AGAR Section 2)** - The Accounting Statements were approved by Council and signed by the Chair.
5. **To note the dates for the period of Exercise of Public Rights** - The dates for the period of exercise of public rights were confirmed to be Wednesday 17th June – Tuesday 28th July and were approved by the Council.
6. **To approve and sign off the bank reconciliation as at 31st May 2026** - The bank reconciliation as at 31st May 2026 was approved by the Council.
7. **To approve the Budget vs Spend report as at 31st May 2026** - The Budget vs Spend report as at 31st May 2026 was approved by the Council.
8. **To review the Bank Mandate signatories for 2026/27** - It was noted that more signatories were needed to authorise payments and Cllr Fish and Cllr Sissons agreed to be added to the bank mandate.
9. **To approve payments for June 2026** – The list of payments for June (previously circulated) was approved by the Council.
Payments to be approved - June 2026

Payee	Net £	VAT	Total £	Power to Spend
Starboard Systems Ltd Direct debit paid 1/6/26 Scribe Accounts monthly subscription	28.00	5.60	33.60	LGA 1972 s111
John Preece & Sons	388.00	77.60	465.60	Highways Act 1908 s130
Gotherington Garden Services	320.00	0	320.00	Highways Act 1908 s130
Reimburse to Karen Lennon – Flowers for Rebecca Prince	28.00	0	28.00	LGA 1972 s137
Gotherington Nurseries Reimburse to Mike Prince – plants	8.38	2.09	10.47	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9-10
Liz Dowie – Net salary April – June 2026 (Gross £506.91)	405.71	0	405.71	LGA 1972 s112
Liz Dowie Working from allowance April – June 2026	78.00	0	78.00	LGA 1972 s112
HMRC – PAYE	101.20	0	101.20	LGA 1972 s112
PATA UK (Payroll fee)	18.25	0	18.25	LGA 1972 s112

10. To note income received in May 2026

The following income received in May 2026 was noted:

CIL	£5,866.30
VAT refund	£562.57
Newsletter adverts	£140.00

11. **To review Financial Regulations** – The Financial Regulations were reviewed and adopted without amendment.

12. To confirm which policies are still due for review

It was confirmed that the following policies were due for review and would be added to the agenda over the next 6 months:

Biodiversity Policy	December 2023
Complaints Policy	May 2022
Grant Awarding Policy	May 2022
Grievance Policy	May 2022

Disciplinary Policy	May 2022
Social Media Policy	May 2022
Training/Development Policy	December 2020
Standing Orders	May 2025

30. Parish and CIL Survey

Cllr Lennon suggested potential evenings for Councillors to meet to discuss the summary of the outcome of CIL survey. Dates suggested 15, 18, 22 or 25 June. Cllr Lennon to contact Village Hall Chair to find out if they have any funding requirements/ requests for CIL funding. Cllr Lennon asked Liz Dowie to seek clarification as to whether any CIL money has been spent.

31. Date of Next Meeting

14th July 2026 at 7.30pm

GCC – May 26 Update

Local Transport Plan (LTP)

We have launched early engagement on a new Local Transport Plan to guide how transport across Gloucestershire is developed over the next 15+ years, covering all modes of travel. With expected growth placing increasing pressure on the network, we are exploring ways to boost public transport use and active travel to help manage congestion and support sustainable growth.

We are seeking feedback on current travel experiences and priorities for improvement, alongside views on the Cheltenham and Gloucester Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Both surveys are open until 24 June and will help shape future transport investment and priorities.

Have your say here - <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/help-shape-the-future-of-transport-in-gloucestershire?preview=true>

General Highways

To maintain Gloucestershire's roads, we need £52 million a year. However we only get £36.5 million from the government. A £15.5 million shortfall every year.

Through savings and efficiencies in other service areas, we've found an extra £15m over the next 3 years to increase the level of road repairs. Allowing us to fix 9,000 more safety defects than the previous year, a total of 69,000 jobs – but we know there is still much to do.

We're embarking on an education programme to help residents understand how everything works as well as examining a Road Warden Scheme to allow residents to take on repairs as a parish or voluntary group. Similar to the model at the Lib Dem led Devon council.

We are also exploring Lane Rental which motivates utilities companies to use less disruptive techniques when doing street works.

Cheltenham Road Safety

We're asking for views on plans to make Cheltenham's roads safer, including expanding 20mph limits in residential areas and improving key junctions in the town centre.

The proposals aim to cut collisions and make it easier and safer for people to walk. Residents can have their say via the online survey, with engagement open until 19 June - <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/cheltenham-speed-and-road-safety-improvements>

Local events and an online webinar will also be held to give residents the chance to speak directly with the project team.

In-person pop-up events will be held as follows:

- Cheltenham High Street (Outside the Cornish Bakery), Wednesday 3 June 10am-6pm
- Montpellier Gardens, Montpellier Spa Rd, Cheltenham GL50 1UL, Wednesday 10 June, 10-6pm

And an online webinar will be held on Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 9 June, 6-7.30pm. To register, please follow this link

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=VUIjPQ_iBUKlpZZYpAKZm4uDI6dbltpPjEBx2xxyUm1UQTZONkJaMFRYQIJSTENHS0JXUzI3NUIGMy4u&route=shorturl

Opening of the A435 Cheltenham to Bishop's Cleeve Cycleway

We were incredibly honoured to have Chris Boardman officially open the A435 cycleway.

This was a great event bringing the community together to try out the cycle spine with information displays about the improvements as well as hands-on demonstrations including e-bikes, adaptive bikes, e-scooters and cargo bikes, bicycle maintenance advice.

Information on active travel, transport planning and public health was also available.



Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund

We are 7 months into our Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund scheme with over £500,000 allocated of the £1.1m available to a plethora of community projects from physical activity to creative arts and the natural environment.

Some brilliant examples are Nailsworth Mill bowling Club to improve disabled access, West Cheltenham Arts Youth Theatre, Minchinhampton Youth Club and Wellbeing Walks run by Cleeve common trust.

The deadline for new applications is early 2027. For more information and how to apply - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/grassroots-neighbourhood-fund/>

Largest ever seizure of illegal tobacco by Gloucestershire Trading Standards

We've secured a 28-month prison sentence against a Gloucester shop owner for selling illegal tobacco and evading over £429,000 in duty.

The offender stored and distributed large quantities of counterfeit and unpaid tobacco, including the biggest ever seizure by Gloucestershire Trading Standards.

This case shows we will take strong action against organised illicit trade that harms local businesses and communities.

Library challenge

Our 2026 summer library challenge is nearly here! Starting in July, it aims to help children stay connected to reading over the school holidays, when literacy levels can often dip.

This year's theme is Tales Through Time, celebrating history, imagination and discovery. Each library will bring the theme to life in its own way, with eye-catching displays and activities throughout the summer holidays. The challenge is free for all children through their local library, please join us in championing and promoting this. Find out more here - <https://gloslibraries.uk/welcome-library-challenge>



Improved road safety as new traffic enforcement measures set to go live 1 June

We're introducing new powers to enforce moving traffic offences at locations across Gloucestershire, using ANPR cameras to tackle issues like banned turns and blocked junctions.

This will help improve road safety, reduce congestion and keep buses, emergency services and other road users moving more easily.

Drivers will receive warning letters for the first six months before penalties are introduced, with any income reinvested back into the transport network.

The phase one locations are:

- Northgate Street - Prohibition of Vehicles
- Eastgate Street - Prohibition of Vehicles
- Westgate Street - Prohibition of Vehicles
- Southgate Street - Prohibition of Vehicles

- Cheltenham Transport Hub via Grovefield Way - Prohibition of Vehicles
- Grove Lane junction into the A38 (southbound), Whitminster – Left Turn Only

F40 Campaign

We presented and passed a motion at full council to continue supporting and promoting the F40 campaign as well as requiring other members to do the same.

The F40 campaign fights for fairer funding for every pupil. Currently Gloucestershire receives less funding per pupil than many other counties. We're calling on the Government to confirm that upcoming policy reforms will include a real commitment to reinvest in our primary and secondary schools. The children of Gloucestershire deserve equal funding.



Find out more about the campaign - https://www.f40.org.uk/campaign-activity/?fbclid=IwY2xjawPolPhleHRuA2FlbQlXMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjlwMzIxNzg4MjA_wODkyAAEeFeCxKb3B8GLNraNapLe0T8jh9riYTAcZbVszGMLF7SQg7US6gCOhEROGnB8_aem_kgKskBThuvX43XY_BR9TCw

Encouraging 'Veteran Friendly' care homes to better support former Armed Forces personnel

We are encouraging care providers to join the free Veteran Friendly Framework to improve support for veterans and their families in residential care. With many residents having military backgrounds that may go unrecognised, the programme helps ensure their experiences are understood and reflected in their care.

By signing up, providers can create more inclusive environments through simple actions like recognising service and incorporating life stories into care planning. Two homes locally have already achieved Veteran Friendly status, and we are encouraging others to get involved.

Gloucestershire SEND Consultation

We want to hear your views on the future of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision for children and young people.

A consultation is running from Tuesday 5 May until 5pm on Tuesday 23 June.

Take part here www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/send-consultation

Continued funding for drug and alcohol services

At Cabinet on 20 May we approved plans to use Government funding to strengthen drug and alcohol support services across the county over the next three years.

We will support a wide range of services, including treatment and recovery support for adults, specialist help for people who are rough sleeping, and targeted provision for young people affected by substance misuse. As well as employment support to help people in recovery move into work, alongside ongoing harm-reduction measures such as naloxone provision.

By investing the funding across different parts of the system, we aim to reduce harm, improve outcomes, and help more people move towards long-term recovery.

District Council Update

The annual Mayor Making ceremony recently took place, marking an important occasion in the civic calendar. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the outgoing Mayor for their dedicated service and commitment over the past year. Their contribution to the Borough and its communities has been greatly appreciated. I would also like to offer my congratulations and a warm welcome to the incoming Mayor, and I look forward to supporting them during their term of office.

This was followed on the subsequent evening by the Full Council meeting. A key item of business was the appointment of Committee Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and the allocation of committee memberships for the municipal year.

I am pleased to report that Nigel was appointed as Chair of the Licensing Committee. This is an important role within the Council, overseeing licensing matters that impact residents and local businesses alike.

In addition, Nigel has already undertaken his duties in this capacity by attending a Licensing Sub-Committee meeting, contributing to the consideration and determination of licensing applications.

I will continue to keep you updated on Council matters and any issues of relevance to our parishes.