

Gloucestershire County Council - June Update

Boost to Youth Voice

At this month's Council meeting we brought forward an amendment to the green motion to ensure young people's voices are heard at the heart of local decision-making.

We are establishing a new senior role dedicated to youth engagement and influence.

This will coordinate and strengthen the wide range of existing youth voice activities across the county and ensure a more joined-up, strategic approach linking young people's priorities directly to the delivery of the Council's 'One Plan for all Children and Young People.'

As Liberal Democrats it's incredibly important to us that we are listening to all our residents, from all walks of life and all age groups.

Tackling Climate Change and Increasing Community Benefit

At the same meeting we brought forward and passed a motion to establish a thorough process to promote and organise community renewable energy and benefit schemes.

We believe that Community energy should be understood not only as a climate policy, but also as a form of local economic development, community wealth-building, energy resilience and democratic participation. Policy should support genuine community ownership and shared ownership models, where local people and community bodies can invest in, own part of, or otherwise benefit from renewable energy schemes.

Highways Community Partnership Initiative

We also co-presented a motion to introduce a highways community partnership to Gloucestershire.

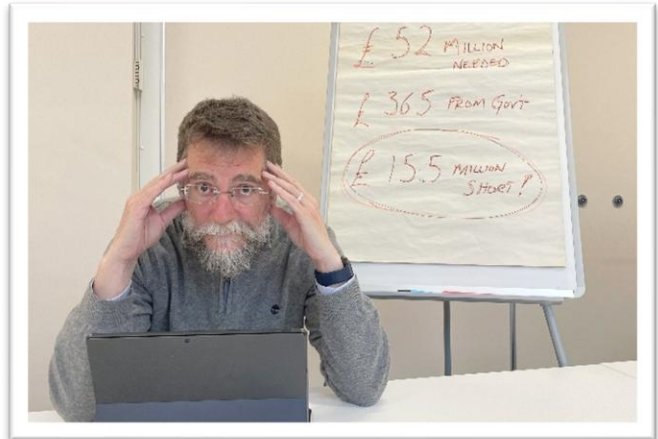
This would bring together all political groups, local councils, community organisations and volunteers to work collaboratively with Council officers to tackle the county's highways issues.

Inspired by the work of Liberal Democrat-led Devon County Council and their road warden scheme, this would enable local communities to deliver approved minor works on or around the public highway.

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The Highways Funding Gap

We've raised serious concerns about the gap between what we need to properly maintain our roads and what the government actually provides. We require around £52 million a year to keep highways up to standard but government funding currently stands at just £36.5 million—leaving a £15.5 million shortfall.



This ongoing underfunding is putting increasing pressure on our highways network and making it far harder to meet residents' expectations or prevent long-term deterioration. Quite simply, we are being asked to deliver more with significantly less.

We've committed an additional £15 million over the next three years through our own savings and efficiencies and are working hard to do the most we can with every penny, but this cannot fully replace the funding we should be receiving nationally.

Public engagement launched on future of Cheltenham's high street and promenade

We, along with Cheltenham BID and Cheltenham Borough Council want to hear your views on how we can revitalise Cheltenham's High Street and Promenade.

You can get involved in a number of ways:

- Visit Cheltenham BID's website - <https://cheltenhambid.co.uk/our-shared-vision-cheltenham-high-street-and-the-promenade/>
- Complete the online survey - <https://cheltenhambid.co.uk/cheltenham-high-street-promenade-quick-survey/>

Donation of Decommissioned Fire Engines to Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine

At full council we also supported a motion to explore the feasibility of donating up to five decommissioned fire engines to Ukraine. The ongoing war in Ukraine following the has caused widespread humanitarian issues and Fire and rescue units in Zaporizhzhia have reportedly been damaged or destroyed during the conflict, significantly reducing their operational capability.

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We already work with Fire Aid to ensure we are giving support wherever possible and remain committed to humanitarian support and international solidarity during times of crisis.

Residents & Businesses invited to shape the future of parking in Moreton-in-Marsh

We are asking residents, businesses, visitors and commuters to share their views on parking in Moreton-in-Marsh as part of a review to better balance parking needs across the town.

With the increasing visitor demand, we want to ensure parking arrangements are fit for the future, protecting the needs of residents and businesses while also ensuring disabled bays are located close to key destinations to support those with mobility needs.

An online survey is now open to gather your feedback and closes on Sunday 12 July 2026

To complete the online survey, and find out more information including details on drop-in events - <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/moreton-in-marsh-parking-consultation?preview=true>

The Work of Our Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund Continues

Our members continue to commit Grassroots Neighbourhood Funding to local projects that improve health, wellbeing and community resilience.

We have visited a couple of these groups this month including the 11th Gloucester Hucclecote Scout Group and the Cornerstones Centre, Oakley, where they run a Soup Lunch every Thursday to bring the community together.

For more information about the Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund and how you can apply see - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/business-property-and-economy/finance-funding-and-grants/grassroots-neighbourhood-fund/>

Or speak to your local councillor



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Hosting the Clean Energy and Green Skills Conference 2026

We're bringing together key partners to tackle the skills and workforce challenges of the transition to a Net Zero economy at the Clean Energy and Green Skills Conference on 8 July 2026. The event will connect educators, employers and policymakers to align green skills needs and strengthen energy resilience, with insights from national and local leaders.

We'll also launch our Gloucestershire Green Skills Strategy (2026–2030), setting out plans to position the county as a leader in green workforce development, including a Federated Green Skills Faculty and Retrofit Centre of Excellence.

The conference offers a valuable opportunity for educators, careers advisers and industry partners to explore emerging career pathways, share expertise and help shape Gloucestershire's green future.

For more information – <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/business-property-and-economy/green-skills-conference-2026/>

We're Calling on Utility Companies to Reduce Disruption During National Highways Over Bridge Works

We are aware of the disruption caused by national Highways working on Over Bridge and have called for utility companies to play their part in keeping traffic moving.

We have written directly to utility companies operating in the area, urging them to avoid carrying out non-essential works that could add to congestion during this period and are taking action to manage the wider network and minimise disruption for residents, businesses and commuters.

Our Streetworks Team will also assess all permit applications in the area on a case-by-case basis, helping to ensure any additional works are carefully coordinated and kept to a minimum.



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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>



Get Ready for our Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

A wide range of free, fun activities and nutritious food will be on offer for children and young people across the county to keep them happy, healthy and entertained from Wednesday 22 July to Tuesday 1 September for the summer school holidays. You can view activities available through Gloucestershire County Council's summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) from midday on Monday 22 June. Bookings will be open from midday on Monday 6 July here - <https://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>



Safer Roads Consultation in Stroud and Cainscross

Residents, businesses and communities in Stroud and Cainscross are being asked to share their views on new proposals to introduce lower speed limits across the area. Public engagement will run from Monday 22 June to midnight on Friday 24 July. People can view the proposals, comment on an interactive map and complete a survey online here: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/Safer-20s/> Paper copies of the information and surveys are also available at Stroud Library, Five Valleys Shopping Centre. A pop-up event and an online webinar will also be held to give residents the chance to speak to the project team for more information - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gcc-news/news-june-2026/residents-invited-to-shape-plans-for-safer-roads-in-stroud-and-cainscross/>