

Temple Guiting Parish Council

Meeting 2nd February 2022

Report from GC Cllr Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

- Future local Road Closures include:
Tally Ho Lane & Church Lane, Guiting Power – until 18th Feb 2022
Little Rissington 17th Feb 2022
Wyck Rissington 28th Feb 2022
Maugersbury 3rd to 9th March 2022
- 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.
- On 22nd December 2021 Cabinet agreed a Budget of £519.6m for the financial year 2022/23, an increase of £37m over 2021/22, that is open for public consultation until 21st January 2022. Highlights include:
 1. £100m extra for roads
 2. £150m injection into school buildings
 3. Investment into Market Towns & High Streets.
 4. Support & protection for our most vulnerable communities.
 5. Continued support fighting Covid-19 and supporting the counties Fire & Rescue Services
 6. £14m additional investment into Children & Young People's Services
 7. £9m towards services for vulnerable adults & those living with disability.
 8. New cycle routes will benefit from £20m investment, including routes between: Cheltenham & Gloucester (£10.1m); Gloucester City Centre – cycle spine (£3.7m); Cheltenham to Bishops Cleeve (£5.3m).
 9. £300k to the Community Speed Safety Fund working with local communities suffering from increased traffic, including those looking towards introducing 20mph zones. This is an initiative between the Fire & Rescue Service, the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner & Gloucestershire Constabulary.
 10. County Councillors will have a Highways Fund of £30K to support local projects in 2022/23.
 11. Further £1m towards continuing the Climate Change resolution.
 12. £2.4m funding for Fire & Rescue services, ensuring that they have the best equipment available.
 13. A further £2m towards the roll-out of broadband services.
 14. A commitment of £70k towards settling up to 35 Afghan families, working with agencies – 53 people have now moved into 13 homes.
 15. The GCC Climate Change target set in 2019 is well on course with an 83% net (77% gross) reduction in the 2030 target of an overall 80% reduction of carbon emissions.
 16. More than half of the GCC 63 farms (7,000 acres) have signed to the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, working towards improved sustainability & biodiversity.

To achieve this the County Council have identified a further £13m of savings and are raising the average band D Council Tax by £3.50 per month via an increase of 1.99% and a further 1%, ring fenced, for Adult Social Services. The Council Tax will remain one of the lowest in the country.

- The County Council announces the appointment of a new Director of Transport and Highways to drive forward the ambitious transport delivery program. Chartered Civil Engineer, Jason Humm is coming from the West of England Combined Authority where he is Head of Transport. He formerly held a similar position at Swindon Borough Council.
- The County Council continues to look for land where up to 1 million trees can be planted by 2030. Working with the Woodland Trust they want to plant 360,000 trees over the next 3 years as part of our desire to reduce global warming and are seeking landowners who are happy for trees to be planted and maintained on their land.

To date 5,000 ash trees with die-back have been felled and are being replaced on a 2 for 1 native specimen basis. Latest figures show 10,400 have been planted. Current targets are for 28,300 new trees to be planted by March 2022. In some cases, quite tall stumps will have been retained as suitable sites for the very rare violet click beetle which lives only in ash or beech trees in the UK.

- Fosse Cross recycling centre has now reopened. Appointments are by booking only: <https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/household-recycling-centres-hrcs/your-nearest-recycling-centre/fosse-cross-hrc-cirencester/>
Open Hours: Wednesday – Monday (closed Tuesday). Winter hours 10am – 4pm.
- 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 NeighbourhoodsThe 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.