

Great Rissington Parish Council Tuesday June 2nd 2020

Report by Gloucestershire County Councillor Nigel Moor

The HRC site at Fosse Cross Re-opens

The HRC at Fosse Cross re-opened on the 18th May . Opening hours are 9am to 5pm and as before, closed on Tuesdays, but open the remainder of the week. People must pre-book. The booking system is on line at gloucestershirerecycles and works on a 14 day rolling basis, so people can plan their visit well in advance. I visited the site and it was working well with the site well laid out for social distancing. Advance signage on the Fosse advises that people visiting the site must have pre- booked . We trialled the booking system when we reopened Hempsted HRC Gloucester and Wingmoor Farm HRC near Tewkesbury.

Highway Briefing

We are not operating the same highways service as usual , we are running a reduced output because of the complications around staff, resources, supply chains and social distancing guidelines. But we are making the most of maximising what we`re doing and taking the opportunities to do things which otherwise would had been more difficult because of traffic volumes on the network. GCC Highways at the beginning of the month announced more than 30 carriageway repair schemes for minor roads across the Cotswolds over the period June – September this year.

This includes the 3/168 from Stow Road Mangersbury (A424 through Wyck Beacon) to the Little Rissington junction, and the 3/168 from this junction past Upper Rissington to Great Barrington. When I have firm dates I will advise the parish clerk.

I am very pleased that GCC highways have been able to complete the new footway from the existing village to Mitchell Way. Although quiet at the moment, the footway will in future provide a safe access for parents and children to The Rissington School.

Community maintenance gangs are operating in each area of the county and works are being co-ordinated locally. Our Local Highways Manager Rhodri Grey is the point of contact for any work you wish to be dealt with.

Our footpaths are proving very popular and cyclical vegetation is being cut back from mid – May as well as a programme of works for damaged /failing footbridges. Peak of enquiries is around paths being blocked and social distancing concerns.

Lamp Post No 6 Main Road Great Rissington

I am pleased to have obtained the support of GCC to get this street light working. Skanska have been instructed to carry out the works which should be complete by September 2020.

West Cheltenham Transport Improvements

The government is encouraging a return to work where this is safe. Demolition has been completed at Arle Court Cheltenham which will provide the compound area for the commencement of the West Cheltenham Transport Improvement scheme scheduled to start in June. A phased programme including cycle and pedestrian improvements will assist the delivery of the Cyber Business Park and Cyber Innovation Centre. GCC officers are working with our contractor to ensure that social distancing is an integral part of the highway works. It is very encouraging to see a start on this project so essential to the future of the Gloucestershire economy including the Cotswolds.

Cotswold Friends

I have received the latest report from them for the first five weeks of the lock – down. Calls/emails received and responded to are stabilising at about 3000 a week, and the number of people supported each week is around 1000. Shopping trips and meals delivered have increased to nearly 100 per week. Hospital and pharmacy visits have increased to nearly 200 per week.

GCC and CDC through a grant from us have financially supported this work. It is an extraordinary achievement.

Cotswold Friends point out

- People who have received community services for the first time because of the pandemic may want to retain them.

- Some people are likely to have lost confidence to leave their houses and some, who were not housebound, may become so.
- This is likely to affect all parishes in the North Cotswolds and a comprehensive plan needs to be put in place to manage this transition period and on-going community support.

This is something I intend to engage with. We are working on two trials in the North Cotswolds and the Forest of Dean of a new form of community transport which through telephone booking and on-line booking is more responsive to people's needs. A rural form of "Uber."

Walking and Cycling

Gloucestershire County Council has published its plan to make it easier to walk and cycle during the Covid – 19 restrictions. The move comes following government announcements of measures and national investment of £250m to promote sustainable travel.

The council has issued a briefing note to county councillors and district councils asking them to put forward their top priority schemes so that these can be assessed for grant support. These can include:

- Using cones and barriers to widen footways, crossings, refuges and bus stops.
- Additional cycle parking at key locations.
- Whole route approaches – create key corridors for buses, cycles and access only.
- Fast -tracking already planned schemes
-

Cllr Andrew Maclean has provided me with details of a combined cycleway and footpath scheme along the eastern perimeter of the airfield which was supported by Upper Rissington Parish Council in March 2016.

I submitted the proposal as part of the review of the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan consultation which recently took place. However given the new funding from government , your council may wish to submit to Cotswold District Council so as to obtain their support as one of the three schemes to be submitted to GCC.