

Great Rissington Parish Council Meeting 7th September 2021

Report from GCC Cllr Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

- The County Council is working closely with the Government over resettlement of Afghan refugees. 7 properties are in the process of being prepared for arrivals within the next week. The ambition is to offer homes for 35 families.
- I've joined the North Cotswold Line Taskforce which is seeking ways to enhance the train service from Worcester to Oxford and London via Moreton & Kingham. This will include further dual running track and station upgrades to take longer trains as well as more frequent and later running services. Great Western & Moreton Town Council have jointly acquired the Royal British Legion site at the entrance to the station where additional parking will be provided. Additionally, the building itself is likely to be redeveloped providing more and better services.
- The latest Highways Work Schedule reports the following:
Sheep Street & Park Street in Stow will be closed for resurfacing Monday to Friday from Wednesday 26th August to Thursday 9th September, excluding weekends and Public Holidays, between 09.30 and 15.30.
- A Market Towns fund of £500,000 has been created with the aim of boosting the county's market towns and high streets. Applications can be made by parish & town councils, voluntary and community organisations, for bids ranging between £1,000 and £25,000. Completed applications must be made by 26th September for events up-to August 2022. Results will be announced on 4th October 2021.
- A new team of Covid Response Officers has been established to assist the NHS 'track & trace'. Team members will contact Covid-19 positive people by telephoning and making home visits so ensuring welfare checks are in place and assistance with food and medical deliveries while self-isolating.
- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has just announced £101m investment into Cheltenham General & Gloucestershire Royal Hospitals. The objective is to provide even better care, reduce waiting times and ensuring fewer cancellations.
Works in Cheltenham will include 2 new operating theatres with a capacity of 3,000 additional operations each year, a new Day Surgery Unit and extensive refurbishment of the Radiology Department and provision of the latest scanners.
Gloucester will have an extended Emergency Department with improved Mental Health provision, an enlarged Acute Medical Assessment Unit, a new 24 bed ward and a pioneering hub for image guided interventional surgery, making it one of the finest units in the country.

- Trevone House in Gloucester has been shortlisted for 2 National Awards for it's work with young care leavers. The GCC has invested £15.5m in providing specialist support for young people leaving the care system in teaching themselves to become more independent.
- Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service has recently been praised by Audit Risk Assurance for implementing 124 recommendations since February this year.
- The County Council is promoting a Fast-Track Assessment for new foster carers in response to the increasing number of children and young people coming under council care. There are currently 840 being looked after by the community.
- On 15th July Gloucestershire County Council won a national award for being the 'best training provider and employer partnership'. Working with Aspiration Training and reinvesting unspent levy funds back into the region through:
 1. Supporting School Leavers with apprenticeship training.
 2. Investing in local businesses and inspiring them to recruit and support apprentices, as well as upskilling their existing workforce.
 3. Boosting skills and the local economy.

The partnership has supported 140 learners across 34 employees and 48 distance learning courses over the last 2 years.

- Over £600k is being spent on refurbishing the strategically important Brockweir Bridge. The iron bridge was built in 1906 and crosses the River Wye between Brockweir and the A466 in the Forest of Dean. Works start on 9th August and are scheduled for completion by 17th December with traffic being controlled by three-way lights.
- The new £9.5m school at Brockworth is now under construction with completion scheduled for September 2022. Specialising for 75 children between 11 and 16 years old with social, emotional and mental health, it will also support children with autism, speech, language and communication needs.
- The County Council Trading Standards have signed up the nationwide It's The Real Deal scheme along with Cirencester Market to protect consumers by ensuring that legal and not counterfeit goods are available

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