



Linda Cohen County Councillor

Monthly Report - August 2025

Headlines

- **Y8 Service**
- **Walking to school and road safety - back to school**
- **Parking – please be considerate**
- **Wotton Womble 17 August**
- **Drains – please help**
- **Gloucestershire County Council Children's Services judged Good with Outstanding elements by Ofsted**
- **Adult Social Care annual report published**
- **Fire Safety – get children cooking safely**
- **Gloucestershire Family Hubs launched**

In Detail

Y8

It's official, we have a Y8 service that runs between Wotton and Yate and thanks to the indomitable Barbara Lawrence now starts at 7.15am and will begin in September. The timetable should be published by August 11th.

There aren't words for the effort and determination that has gone into this. Proof that it's best never to give up! Thank you to GCC, South Glos and WECA and David Redgewell.

Walking to school / Road safety

This is a priority across my area. We want children to be able to walk to their school wherever possible. This month the Kingswood Parish Clerk and I met with the Highways Safety Team and the Think Travel Team to look at how we make the roads safer for children walking to KLB from Wotton and Kingswood as well as all the primary schools. We also discussed concerns in North Nibley. We will be considering initiatives which encourage a park and walk solution to keep cars away from the school entrance and minimise traffic where there are greatest concentrations of children. Discussions continue about school crossing patrols and alternative ways of groups of children walking to school together. We are undertaking speed surveys to push for additional VAS units and planning a glow in the dark campaign for when clocks go back.

OK path reminder – This path was put in to prevent a further tragedy, please can I ask that parents/ carers remind KLB pupils of the vital importance of using this route. Do not use the outer path. I will be arranging for signage as a reminder at the start of the term. The hedges will also be cut back. Sometimes the path does get muddy, dirty shoes are a small price to pay for safety.

Parking

I know that despite the frustrations everyone rather enjoyed the peace of some of our roads being closed during the works on Rushmire Hill but now it's open again it's time to remember what double yellow lines mean and the importance of parking sensibly to allow larger vehicles to get through – this of course includes fire engines and ambulances. If you're visiting St Mary's, please park considerately and don't park in front of the dropped kerbs with tactile paving – it's an offence. If you're dropping off at Synwell Playing Field for football, please park thoughtfully. My email is full of complaints from residents but also concern that the volume of traffic puts all the children attending for football or to use the playground at risk. I've been in touch with the PCSOs (police community support officers) and they will attend if we can't get this under control. The right-hand pavement as you head up Long Street is also not a car park. Please don't park outside the fish and chip shop.

Wotton Womble Sunday 17 August 10am – 12pm Chipping Car Park



In preparation for The Long Street Summer Social and because lots of you want to see a tidier Wotton. Bring gloves, a spade or hoe and dress up as a Womble if you must! Litter pick, weeding and refreshments in the Star. Don't forget they do a marvellous Sunday lunch, but you'll need to book to avoid disappointment www.starinnwotton.co.uk

Drains

Some residents have been horribly affected by the torrential rains, and we have new springs appearing across the county.

Where we have recurring problems, I am putting in place more major pieces of work, but these do take time.

Keeping our drains clear makes a huge difference to residents who live at the bottom of our hills, but this relies on everyone to keep drains clear of leaves. The dry summer means that we are already seeing drains clogged with leaves. Please clear any you see outside or near your property e.g clearing a drain on Ellerncroft Road can save a house on Ludgate Hill finding their cellar full of water.

County Council Children's Services judged Good with Outstanding elements by Ofsted

Gloucestershire County Council's Children's Services have been judged as Good with Outstanding elements in its most [recent inspection](#).

During the inspection, which took place from June 9 to 20 this year, the inspection team found the council's Children's Services to be Good in its overall effectiveness, with judgements of Outstanding in two of four categories, and good in the remaining two categories.

Services showed significant improvement since the last full inspection when they were judged to require improvement in 2022.

Ofsted found that 'children in care experience exceptional care and support' and that those who need help and protection 'benefit from high-quality, effective early help services'.

The experiences and progress of children in care was judged to be Outstanding by inspectors. They found that 'children enter care at the right time and live in stable homes where they are well supported, and their needs are met'.

Leaders were also singled out for praise, where their impact on social work practice with children and families was found to be Outstanding. Ofsted said that leaders 'have been relentless in their ambition to improve children's lives... systematically creating the conditions for success.', adding that, 'as a result, social work practice is now strong in all areas and the experiences and progress of vulnerable children are much improved'.

[Read the full inspection report](#)

Adult Social Care annual report published

A commitment to support individuals to thrive and live fulfilling lives is highlighted in Gloucestershire County Council's annual Adult Social Care report 'Making the difference that matters'.

The report highlights the vast range of care and support delivered across the county over the past year, showcasing the impact on individuals, families, carers, and communities. It provides an update on how the council is performing, including feedback from people who use social care services, how the adult social care budget is spent, and celebrates key achievements. It also outlines progress towards the council's strategic goals for adult social care in Gloucestershire.

At the heart of Gloucestershire's approach is a clear and compassionate vision 'We make the difference that matters.' The council is committed to enabling people to help themselves and each other, fostering resilience, and supporting individuals to thrive and live fulfilling lives.

The report celebrates the council's skilled and dedicated workforce, strong partnerships with the NHS, care providers, voluntary organisations, and the strong sense of community in the county. These collaborations are central to driving positive change for people who need adult social care and ensuring that the voices of those with lived experience are heard, as the council transforms its services now and in the future.

The report also sets out how the council is planning for the future, including:

- New services tailored to evolving needs

- Enhanced support for unpaid carers
- Expanded initiatives to help people remain independent and well in their own homes.

It includes a range of inspiring stories of resilience, innovation, and care. From award-winning social workers and thriving community groups to new strategies supporting the county's ageing population. These case studies reflect a shared commitment to dignity, safety, and independence.

Read the [full report](#) and learn more about Gloucestershire's Adult Social Care services. An [online version](#) is also available on the council's website which can be translated into other languages by using the menu at the top of the page.

[Watch a video message](#) from Sarah Scott, Executive Director of adult social care, wellbeing and communities.

Fire safety advice when cooking

As part of the Fire Kills campaign, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service is encouraging parents and carers to make any kitchen activities a chance for children to learn about cooking safety.

With the summer holidays fast approaching, many children across Gloucestershire will be spending more time in the kitchen.

Whether they're lending a hand or simply seeking a snack, it's important to make sure that they know the hazards of a hot hob.

The Fire Kills campaign's top tips for staying safe in the kitchen this summer are:

- Take care if you need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking. Take pans off the heat or turn them down to avoid risk.
- If a pan catches fire, don't take any risks – Get out, stay out, and call 999.
- Double check the hob is off when you've finished cooking. Remember halogen / induction hobs remain hot. Don't touch them until they're cold.
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob.
- Take care if you're wearing loose clothing – this can easily catch fire. Avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone when cooking. Keep matches and saucepan handles out of their reach to keep them safe.
- Take care with electrics - keep leads and appliances away from water and place grills away from curtains and kitchen rolls.
- Keep your equipment clean and in good working order. A build-up of fat and grease can ignite a fire.
- Don't cook after drinking alcohol.
- Hot oil can catch fire easily - be careful that it doesn't overheat.
- Never throw water on a chip pan fire.
- In the event of a fire, have an escape plan in place.

- Don't take risks by tackling a fire. Get out, stay out and call 999.
- Get at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home and test them monthly.

Further information about 'CookSafe' at: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/glosfire/your-safety/safety-in-the-home/cooksafe.

For advice specific to you and your home, or the home of someone you care for, complete an online home fire safety check at www.ohfsc.co.uk.

Gloucestershire launches Family Hubs

Gloucestershire County Council is proud to launch its Family Hub networks – a brand-new way to make sure every family can access the right support, at the right time, in the right place.

Family Hubs are welcoming, one-stop spaces for all families with children and young people aged 0–19, or up to 25 for those with additional needs. Whether you're looking for advice, activities, or just a friendly face, Gloucestershire's network of Family Hubs are here to help.

Designed to give children and young people the best start in life, Family Hubs connect families with their communities and the services that can help them thrive. They offer opportunities for co-location with health and other partners, as well as to work more closely with community and voluntary services. We are connecting services in communities, making it easier for families to access support when they need it.

From baby clinics, early years support and parenting advice to help with childcare, finances, and more — your local Family Hub will make it easier to find support in your area.

Family Hubs
Gloucestershire

Meet the Family Hub team

freebies join in the fun interactive activities everyone welcome

Gloucester and Forest of Dean

- The Lanett, Matson
7 August - 10am–2pm
- Sebert Street Park, Kingsholm and Kaleidoscope Children and Family Centre
15 August - 10am–2pm
- HAF Festival, Kings School
21 August - 1–3pm
- HAF/FVAF event, Severnbanks Primary School and River Children and Family Centre
27 August - 10am–2pm

Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

- Party in the Park at Pittville Park
6 August - 10am–7pm
- Brockworth Children and Family Centre Family Fun Session
7 August - 1–4pm
- Gardners Lane Children and Family Centre Family Fun Session, Cheltenham
8 August - 11am–2pm

Stroud and Cotswolds

- Go Wild HAF event, St Michaels Park, Cirencester
7 August - 2–5:30pm
- Treetops Children and Family Centre, Dursley
13 August - 11am–3pm
- Cotswolds Children and Family Centre, Impact Centre, Lewis Lane
28 August - 11am–3pm

To celebrate the launch, the council is hosting six fun-filled Family Hub events across the county and everyone's invited. Join us for family-friendly activities, expert advice, free resources, and a chance to explore what your local Family Hub has to offer.

Visit www.familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk to find out more

Other activity of note...

- Liaison with neighbourhood police to deal with antisocial behaviour on Blue Coat Fields
- Letter being sent to residents of minor roads affected by Rushmire Hill closure to get information about issues that have arisen as a result.
- Various highways issues including: arrange for signage to be removed following re-opening of Rushmire Hill. Follow up road issues post resurfacing carried out from Tresham to Alderley. Investigate other areas reports of road problems. Please also remember to report on [FixMyStreet](#) Parking issues Synwell Playing Field taken up with football club
- Collate lengthsman work to clear pavements and verges to take place after nesting season
- Bear Street Road closure November – look into rescheduling to a better time
- Plans to visit all schools in my area
- Surgeries to be held in autumn

Parish and Town Priorities for 25/26

Parish/Town	Priorities for 25/26	Action
Wotton under Edge TC	1. Urgent recruitment of a new cohort of town councillors 2. Symn Lane Car Park 3. Town Hall 4. Old Town Toilets 5. Youth Services 6. Market Town Revitalisation 7. Wotton Tidy Up	Work with Clerk Developer to complete works within time frame to avoid losing bond. Open car park to public. Monitor. Planning agreed, waiting to award works contract. Expecting a public works loan. Target completion December. Monitor. Outline design done. Proposals to going to WTC. Monitor. Review other council offerings with Kingswood - youth worker at Chipping solution. Do we need a green space? Research donation of a container Attended meeting 15 July Wotton Womble August 17 th 10am – 12pm. Work

		with WTC, support and publicise
Kingswood PC	1. TRO Parking Restrictions Tubbs Turf 2. VAS siting agreement and implementation 3. Crossing patrol 4. County position on 20mph	Ongoing Ongoing As report Ongoing
Alkington PC	1. Make Swanley junction safer 2. Speed on A38	Discuss September PC meeting
Ham and Stone PC	1. Children's play area – funding and repairs 2. Church/community hub toilet fund £15k needed 3. Village Hall repairs/upgrades 4. Path and road repairs Court Meadow 5. School Support 6. Use of Thornbury Recycling Centre	 Email to South Glos cabinet member to discuss.
Hillesley and Tresham PC	1. Road Safety Initiatives inc cyclist speeds into Hillesley, village gateways, Community 20's 2. Outstanding Broadband connections (Gigaclear)	Support Council to implement Assist with getting remaining properties and Hopkins Hall connected
North Nibley PC	1. Playground – funding initiative 2. Road Safety initiative – data plans and safety patrol	Speed survey commissioned
Stinchcombe PC	1. Taits Lane Development 2. Village of the Year entry 3. Playground	Support entry Attend opening 7 September

Linda Cohen

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I aim to answer emails within 24 hours if your matter is urgent call. If I don't answer do leave a detailed message as my phone thoughtfully converts it into text.