

County Councillor's Report

North Nibley Parish Council

Prepared by Cllr Linda Cohen

July 2nd 2025

STOP PRESS

- Rushmire Hill

The road opens this Friday (4th July) at 5pm. Please can all road users observe speed limits and remember that pedestrians have been used to using this road without thinking about cars for the last few months. Consider walkers, cyclists, riders and wildlife. I would ask pedestrians to take particular care and also to not release children and dogs from cars onto the road without supervision.

My thanks to all the residents that have been affected by these closures for their patience.

We will be conducting a review of the condition of all minor roads and looking at reparatory works. I will be consulting with residents.

Thank you to the highways team for delivering on time and for effective communication and separately to Wessex Water for literally moving heaven and earth to fix the sink hole in record time.

- Y8 Bus

We have a bus to Yate! The Y8, operated by Big Lemon, serves Charfield, Cromhall, Wickwar, Yate, Chipping Sodbury, Horton, and Hawkesbury Upton in South Gloucestershire.

Under the plans, the Y8, also known as the Yate Link, is due to extend its route into Wotton-under-Edge in Gloucestershire starting from August 31.

The extended service Y8 will also include stops in Alderley, Hillesley, and Kingswood, as well as an additional stop in Charfield at the Railway Tavern.

20mph

The cabinet member of the new Liberal Democrat administration Roger Whyborn has written to all parish councils about an initiative that Gloucestershire County Council is undertaking to enhance the safety and quality of life in our communities. Over the next three years, we are seeking to implement lower speed limits, across rural and urban areas of Gloucestershire where there is public support and where they are appropriate for the location. This will include 'Community 20s', 20mph limits where communities live and work. The benefits of reduced speed limits are well documented. They contribute significantly to improving road safety, reducing the number and severity of accidents, creating a safer environment for vulnerable road users and encourage more cycling and walking. Additionally, lower speed limits have been shown to enhance the overall quality of life by reducing traffic noise and pollution, promoting healthier lifestyles, and fostering a greater sense of community. To ensure the successful implementation of this initiative, we will be assessing requests for speed limit reductions so we can plan their delivery over the three-year period. It is essential that requests have the support of parish councils, or district councillors in unparished areas, and county councillors. •

Tidy Up

Thanks to the hot weather weeds have been on the march and this coupled with dusty conditions means that everything is looking less lovely than it should.

I'd like to work with each parish or town council to have a tidy up 'day' and I am going to try and mobilise resource from Stroud District Council for a deep street clean and to schedule lengthsman hedge cutting and tidying (much of which can't be done until the nesting season is over). I'll update on proposed dates which will include stream clearance.

Local Government Reorganisation

Your chance to shape the future of local government.

The national government wants to change how local councils work. You currently have one county council and six smaller district councils in Gloucestershire. The plan is to swap them for fewer, bigger councils that look after all services. These are known as 'unitary' authorities and have existed across the UK in many places for several years. The government produced an official document at the end of 2024, making clear their plans for all English councils to become 'unitary'.

You can have your say here:

[County-wide local government reorganisation survey | Have Your Say Gloucestershire](#)

North Nibley

Priorities to be agreed

Playground funding – awaiting new community funding offer

Road safety initiative – letter received from new Gloucestershire County Council leader Lisa Spivey confirming intention to prioritise safety. Continue to work on data plans and safety patrol.

News

Book free activities for children this summer through the Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Activity booking for Gloucestershire County Council's summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) opens at midday on Monday 30 June.

Nutritious food and free activities are on offer to help keep children in Gloucestershire happy, healthy, and entertained. Children in reception to year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals can take part. Gloucestershire County Council is also extending holiday activities to all children in the county through its Holiday Activities Programme (HAP) using grant funding.

Both the HAF and HAP programmes run during the school summer holidays which begin on Monday 21 July. Activity dates may vary slightly between schools.

Families are encouraged to visit the new Family Hubs booking system: <https://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>.

To book activities, families must:

- Create an account
- Add a profile for each child taking part in activities
- Make sure emergency contact details are up to date

This summer, there are lots of exciting options to choose from including drama and science workshops, sports and games, art and crafts, music and dance. More information about the programme is available at: <https://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf>.

Cllr Ben Evans, cabinet member for children's safeguarding and care at Gloucestershire County Council, said: "There's a huge variety of activities on offer for children this summer. I encourage families to visit the website and create an account, so they are ready to book. "School holidays should be a time of fun and discovery for every child. We're supporting families by offering engaging activities, encouraging active lifestyles, and helping young people build confidence and friendships that last well beyond the break."

Gloucestershire Libraries unveil new strategy to lead climate action

Gloucestershire Libraries have launched their new Greener Together Strategy, outlining how their services will lead the response to the climate emergency.

Climate is one of Gloucestershire Libraries' five core themes, alongside Reading, Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing, and Communities. The Greener Together Strategy reaffirms a commitment to protect the environment and sets out how services will be more sustainable. The strategy also outlines how residents will be encouraged to take action, to create a greener Gloucestershire.

Since 2021, the library service has taken significant steps to reduce its carbon footprint, promoting sustainable behaviour and supporting communities in adapting to a changing climate. Eighty-nine per cent of library service users who responded to a recent survey said they were concerned about climate change.

The Greener Together Strategy focuses on three key areas:

- **Leadership:** Libraries will act as green leaders in their communities, pursuing partnerships and funding, supporting staff to develop sustainability skills, and sharing best practice.
- **Operations:** Sustainability will be used in everyday operations, including energy use in library buildings, waste and recycling systems, digital services, and the transition to a fleet of electric vans.
- **Engagement:** Libraries will act as community hubs for climate knowledge and action - offering books and digital resources, alongside hosting climate conversations and events including community gardening, share and repair projects or energy-saving workshops.

The Greener Together Strategy is a key step in ensuring that libraries continue to serve as forward-thinking spaces and supports the county council's net zero targets.

You can view the [Greener Together Strategy](#) here.

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, cabinet member for libraries at Gloucestershire County Council, said: "Libraries are trusted community spaces where people come not just to read, but to learn, connect with others and take action. This strategy puts our libraries at the heart of

Gloucestershire's response to climate change - helping residents gain the knowledge, skills and tools they need to live more sustainably and make informed choices as the climate changes."

She's Electric rolls into Gloucestershire: free events to empower women on E-Bikes in 2025

She's Electric, the national campaign from Loud Mobility, is coming to Gloucestershire in 2025 bringing free events, expert support, and electric bike test rides to empower more women to cycle confidently and safely.

In partnership with Gloucestershire County Council, She's Electric Gloucestershire will host a series of family-friendly, free events across the county. These events will provide women with the chance to build confidence, receive hands-on guidance, and experience the freedom and practicality of electric cycling.

Why now?

Cycling UK data reveals that the gender gap in cycling has widened over the past seven years. Women are more likely to face barriers, with 58 per cent citing safety concerns and 36 per cent feeling that roads are unsafe. A lack of dedicated infrastructure continues to deter many.

"A separated cycle lane is a game-changer for women and families who want to ride but don't feel safe sharing the roads. Our goal is to help women discover these new routes and show them just how freeing and practical e-cycling can be," – **Caz Conneller, Programme Lead, She's Electric Gloucestershire**

Gloucestershire County Council is already addressing these issues. The Gloucestershire Cycle Spine, a new walking and cycling route running from Stroud to Bishop's Cleeve, aims to make active travel safer, easier and more appealing. The initiative supports the council's wider commitments to climate action, public health, and road safety.

Cllr Lisa Spivey, a keen cyclist and Gloucestershire County Council's first woman leader, said: "Anything we can do to encourage residents to use more sustainable transport is welcome. It's a real shame that women are put off cycling for so many reasons but I'm hopeful that investments like the Cycle Spine, along with events like She's Electric, will help break down those barriers."

Event dates and locations

- **Saturday 13 September** – 10am to 4pm Orchard Square, Gloucester Quays
- **Cheltenham** – Date to be confirmed

Tickets and further information: Visit [She's Electric Gloucestershire 2025 – Eventbrite](#)

CONTACT

If you need to contact me: email linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk or if it's urgent call or text 07791110906. If you leave a detailed message my phone now turns the message into text so I can action immediately even if I am not able to call back by return.