Norton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 17th July 2024 at 19:30 in Norton Village Hall

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Present:

Cllr Richard Page - Chairman
Cllr Anne-Marie Delaney - Vice Chairman
Cllr Helen Costin
Cllr Martin Griffiths

In Attendance :

Clerk of the Parish Council
County Cllr Paul McClain
Borough Cllr Mark Williams
39 Parishioners
Conor Flanagan representative from Black Box Planning Ltd (CF)
John-Rhys Davies representative from Wain Homes (JRD)

24/0025. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Jennifer Richardson
Internal Auditor

24/0026. Declaration of Interests in items on this agenda

There were none.

24/0027. Public Participation

The chairman addressed the meeting to advise that the public participation would not be restricted to 15 minutes for this meeting, but to maintain order the public participation would be divided into 3 elements. First regarding agenda item 14a - Land at Brookelands, Norton - proposal for 45 dwellings on the site, with questions and answers from the 2 representatives present.

The second item will be parishioners' comments relating to agenda item 14b - 24/00331/FUL - Land south of Lime Close, Norton. With the final part being any other questions or issues as per the standard agenda item.

He reminded parishioners that this would be their only opportunity to comment on the agenda, with the planning agenda items being wholly for the council's consideration.

Public Participation in relation to Brookelands

The chairman introduced Conor Flanagan (CF) of Black Box Planning and John-Rhys Davies (JRD) of Wain Homes to the meeting.

CF explained this is a historic planning reference for permitted works. An application is yet to be submitted to planning and in the meantime the consultation is live online for residents to respond to. JRD added that Wain Homes completed a development in Twigworth of 74 homes at Fallow Fields, which the private family-owned company are proud of.

CF said any feedback received will be taken on board, there has been a pre-planning meeting with Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) that was positive. So far there have been 282 engagements with the consultation and 30 responses. They appreciate that the Parish feels bombarded with proposals for housing development, but they feel that the site is suitable as there is already consent for 9 houses. They recognise the jump in numbers, but planning pressures mean that green field sites should be used more efficiently, and this is the reason to intensify the site. Norton is a service village with a good bus service from Tewkesbury to Gloucester. The frequency of the service was increased due to a recent contribution, meaning that the village will be targeted by developers and TBC. He added that this is not to say that all proposals will be appropriate, but this application should be considered. They feel that this is a good application because of the history of the site. When reviewing the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) they can see that the important viewpoints will not be impacted by this proposal.

The chairman thanked CF and JRD for the introduction and welcomed parishioner questions.

Parishioner 1

- How this can be seen as a good location given that the small village school is full, there is no shop, there are no spaces at the local doctors or dentists. The only thing here is the bus route

- If the school was to close then the village hall would close too, as the school are the main hirer

- Not able to complete the consultation without stating the number of bedrooms they would want to be offered in the proposed houses – wants to be able to select none

JRD responded to say that comments can be sent to the email on the consultation leaflet. He said that rural areas can benefit from the development, such as with Twigworth. There will be strategic facilities.

CF added that there are issues with facilities – if the school provision cannot be met then the development should not go ahead, this would be looked at by the Education Department.

Parishioner 2

The email provided with the consultation documentation does not work, so has had to send a hardcopy of their response.

JRD said that there have been emails received so they will investigate this, adding that they will share the correct email with the parish council to make public.

Parishioner 3

- All planning applications state that the transport is "good"
- A38 is a 50mph road with no good footpaths or safe crossing areas

- The nearest supermarket may well be 1.5km, but there is no way to get there safely on foot

CF there will be offsite highways works that take place, and they would propose improvements that would be dictated by Gloucestershire County Council Highways (GCCH). He asked that the community also raise these issues with them as the developers.

Parishioner 4

- Improved footpaths are not enough, would not want to walk to the garden centre or further because of the road

- No one will walk from Brookelands to the School or Village Hall due to safety concerns

Parishioner 5

- 45 houses will mean approximately 90 vehicles pulling on to the A38 each day

- They live on an estate with only 9 homes and it already takes 4-5 minutes to get onto the A38 everyday

- There is nowhere to cycle due to the road speed

- This development is not safe or feasible, and feels that the area has lost its rural character

- The developer is targeting the wrong demographic with the type of houses that they are proposing

Parishioner 6

- It is already impossible to get out of Wainlode Lane, with people taking risks to do so

JRD asked if this was due to the volume of traffic and speed, the parishioner confirmed adding that at 8 am it is extremely busy, adding their 23-year-old does not want to live in Norton, they want to be in town, so again the demographic is wrong.

Parishioner 7

- No secondary schools are being built in response to new houses.

- Secondary school students must travel 11 miles to Tewkesbury everyday

CF explained that they are restricted on what they can do. A cycle route would improve the environment for current and future residents.

He acknowledged the road concerns, any changes would be dictated by GCCH

The parishioner added that the volume of traffic is also the problem.

Parishioner 8

- Has 2 relatives who have been involved in serious accidents on the A38, in Norton, in the last 2 years

Parishioner 9

- Concerns over the impact on the village, the more houses there are the more the dynamic changes
- It is a rural village, but the developments being imposed are creating a suburb of Gloucester

Parishioner 10

- Lives in Norton because it is a village, all the developments are meaning that the people who live here no longer want to

CF service villages will take on required growth. TBC are working on their Strategic Local Plan, this takes time, and with the National Planning Policy Framework it means that if TBC aren't providing the required housing numbers, then speculative applications will happen.

Parishioner 11

- Does not want ribbon developments
- These issues were all raised when the original Lime Close development was in planning

CF there is no end to planning, as it's a cyclical process.

Parishioner 12

- Asked why they are only developing green field sites
- Cheltenham and Gloucester are dying towns with space for development

JRD there is only 1 Brown Field site in Gloucester, he agreed that there are sites that look as if there might be a space for development, but this is dependent on the land owner wanting it to be developed.

Parishioner 13

Asked why this is not being considered for Apperley which has more of an infrastructure in place than Norton.

CF, Norton is closer to the city, which is one reason. If land is available in Gloucester City, they would be interested. The interest is due to the success of the Twigworth development.

Parishioner 14

Stated that they understand that there is already subsidence at the Twigworth site and issues with drainage there.

Parishioner 15

Asked what the plans are for the drainage, as the area is often flooded.

CF advised that they must meet a green field run off rate, and they recognise that the make up of the land means that it is not quick to absorb, and therefore a larger balancing pond than anticipated will be required.

Parishioner 16

Advised that there is a major problem with foul drainage in the area.

Parishioner 17

State of the foot ways and hedges are not acceptable for 3 further developments.

Parishioner 18

Consultation is only open until Friday, but they can only opt for houses, not the fact they do not want any houses on the site. Therefore, had to select a 1 bed house to be able to respond.

Parishioner 19

Asked if a consultation has taken place with the Doctor's Surgeries, as Churchdown are already at capacity.

CF no not at this stage.

Parishioner 20

Longlevens Surgery will not take any more patients on either.

Parishioner 21

The school are oversubscribed, where will the children from the new development go to school.

JRD there would be S106 provision for Norton or another school, there is also a new primary school at Twigworth Green.

Cllr Griffiths, thanked the parishioners for the valid points that they raised.

The chairman addressed CF reference his email where he stated that this is not a new application, just an intensification of the site, and he has doubts about the sustainability of this. He asked where the demonstration of need for this development is, as he feels that this just speculative to benefit both Wain Homes and their shareholders.

JRD agreed that it is a benefit financially, there is however a need for TBC and Gloucestershire Country Council (GCC) across the next plan period to provide housing, this site has been identified by TBC.

CF said that when looking at housing, whether residents and the parish council agree or not, Norton is seen as a service village. Therefore, there will be development in the parish, and it is necessary to assess the best options for Norton, as there will be a degree of development.

The proposed site is surrounded by development and screened behind hedges, so it is necessary to consider where development is best placed. CF feels that this is infill between existing developments, and they would want to work with Norton.

County Cllr Paul McClain asked in terms of 40% of affordable housing, who are they partnering with and what is the model.

CF confirmed that TBC prefer affordable renting. The Twigworth development is partnering with Sovereign, where there are 18 affordable homes which will be split between social rent and intermediate homes. The final decisions are not made yet, but there may also be some first homes.

County Cllr Paul McClain asked if there were any plans for retirement homes.

JRD advised that there are some developments in Wiltshire currently, a demonstration of need would be required for this to be considered here.

The chairman thanked CF and JRD for their time, and they left the meeting.

Public Participation in relation to Lime Close Phase 2

Parishioner 1

As you turn into the current Lime Close development the road is too tight, and there is no raised pathway, so pedestrians must walk on the road.

Parishioner 2

There will be more accidents on Wainlode Lane with more residents trying to access the road

The chairman added that infrastructure must be sustainable and appropriate, in terms of both roads and footways.

The parishioner added that they have a real concern with regards to safety around this proposal.

The chairman reassured them that this issue will be a cornerstone to the response the council submits.

Parishioner 3

- The Cooks Lane pumping station was built for 13 houses
- Now used by 46
- Cannot flush toilets or run water in winter due to poor drainage
- Last winter tankers were onsite for 2 weeks to remove the waste and disperse elsewhere

- Why are new developments not installing their own pumping stations

The chairman explained that the planning application submitted to TBC shows that there would be a pumping station for the development. Surface water would be pumped at night to the pipe beneath the A38. For this to happen a rising main would need to be laid across the playing field and Norton Village Hall Car Park. The Parish Council would need to grant an easement for this rising main, which if they were to, could then restrict the potential development of the site and restrict parking. Therefore, this easement will not be granted, and consequently the developer will need to submit a new proposal to address this issue.

Parishioner 4

The flooding is already bad, what will happen when there are a further 45 houses.

The chairman agreed that more houses could potentially mean more and worse flooding.

Parishioner 5

Added that when there are floods that parishioners are trapped.

Parishioner 6

If Centaur Homes were to offer the Parish Council money, would this change their minds.

The chairman said that this would not be the case.

Parishioner 7

- Lives in the lowest house in the Lime Close development
- The field floods to the level of their garden, more houses will mean higher flooding to the house
- Heard rumours about the pumping station and wants to know who would be responsible for it
- With the current development a management committee was setup between the 22 houses, they had to manage all non-residential private land
- Will the new development be added to this or will a new committee be setup

The chairman said that he did not know the answer to this.

The parishioner said it needs to be clarified, as they did not sign up for 70 houses and a pumping station.

The chairman agreed adding that the planning application is light on information relating to these issues.

Parishioner 8

Stated that they do not believe half of what the developer says as they were told was "their" land by Centaur is not.

They feel that TBC are trying to turn Norton into one large housing estate.

Parishioner 9

Asked as the school are to receive land, what are their thoughts on the development, do they support it.

The chairman confirmed that the developer intends to transfer a piece of land to the GCC Education Department for the benefit of the primary school. He confirmed that the Head Teacher has met with the developer and GCC Education Department to discuss this.

Parishioner 10

As the land is not connected to the school how useful will it be.

The chairman said that this is a question for the school, if they were able to get access to it then they could develop the site to meet their needs.

Parishioner 11

It would be good to have an understanding from the school of their thoughts on the development.

The chairman said that it would be unlikely that the school would want to comment, this would be more appropriate from GCC Education Department.

Parishioner 12

There are over 500 pages of information in the planning application, is this an attempt to bamboozle people.

The chairman stated that the application seems to be more quantity than quality as not all the information is strictly relevant, with a lot of the information seeming to have been a copy and paste exercise.

Parishioner 13

Was interested in the entrance to the site office and working plan for the building site that it has been said will not disrupt current residents.

The chairman said that he is aware that phase 1 did cause disruption. He has been assured by the developer that the parking and deliveries will be on a plot of land designated for public open space. This would be accessed without using the current access road.

Borough Cllr Mark Williams stated that the best challenge the parish have is in relation to the foul waste drainage. He added that for the 160 houses near to Norton Garden Centre, TBC have said that they are not happy for them to be connected to the mains waste.

The parishioner added that the statement document shows 4 vehicles, however if there are more than 2 cars per house when visitors are present then there is no pavement.

- Entrance and exit to Lime Close is too narrow for 2 vehicles
- If permitted will this force highways to maintain verges for visibility

- What was sold as the "turning spot" is now the main access to the new development and is 4m from their home
- Even if the A38 speed limit is 40mph, it is not suitable for cyclists
- Any wheelchair user would have very limited access to the village

Parishioner 14

The access to the site offices will be the other side of Lime Close, does this mean another access.

The chairman said that there may be but he does not know.

Parishioner 15

Does the parish have data for all the accidents and flooding?

The chairman confirmed that he has been collecting data for 18-24 months, as in February 2023 NPC began investigations into getting the speed limit lowered, this data collection will continue.

Parishioner 16

Centaur brought diagrams with them to the consultation, Severn Trent have said no and now NPC are saying no, what will be their next move.

Parishioner 17

Believes that the access to the site is via a gate to the farmers land, this will be there for the next 3 years. Centaur have claimed that this will cause "moderate" pollution, but 300 vehicles per day as the development grows, this will not be moderate pollution.

Parishioner 18

Added that it is too close to the Cook Lane development access, and that there will be months of heavy lorries parking there.

The chairman assured them that this will not be the case, as they should only be using the allocated construction parking on the open public space.

Parishioner 19

Encouraged residents to respond to the applications and complain to TBC, keeping to the important points. They asked if NPC could give information to help parishioners with this.

The chairman agreed, confirming that the responses NPC submit will be on the website and the planning portal. There will also be some prompts in Norton News.

Parishioner 20

There are 7 households in attendance from Lime Close, they've lived in Norton for 4 years and it's the happiest that they have been. They would like to keep Norton as it is.

The chairman said that Norton only needs to take its share of the developments, and not everyone's, and there must be the services needed in place. He has counted the houses in Norton - there are 129 from the A38 to the Village Green and in Old Tewkesbury Road and its side roads. There are applications in circulation for 164 new houses in the parish.

Parishioner 21

Asked if NPC would be willing to sacrifice Lime Close to this development so that it is not on a development directly effecting the A38.

Parishioner 22

Restated that they feel that Centaur Homes cannot be trusted, due to the misrepresentations they have made to current Lime Close residents.

The chairman thanked all parishioners for their valuable feedback, and reminded them that the deadline to respond to the Phase 2 planning application is 29th July 2024.

Public Participation any other questions

Borough Cllr Mark Williams highlighted the proposed name change for the Borough Council, asking if parishioners were aware. He also asked if parishioners receive the borough news magazine, with no parishioners confirming receipt. He was going to investigate.

Parishioner 1

Asked if it was possible to add closers to the new Village Hall pedestrian gates as they are often left open. The chairman advised he would raise with Norton Village Hall Management Committee (NVHMC).

They also asked if there was an option to display Neighbourhood Watch signs.

Parishioner 2

Norton News stated that the bus shelter was completed and thanked the contractor, but this is not the case.

The chairman advised that the Norton News announcement was premature and apologised for the inaccuracy.

24/0028. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meetings held on 8th May 2024 record any related actions not covered in this agenda

The minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meeting held on 8th May 2024 were resolved as a true record. Proposed by the chairman seconded by Cllr Costin, and were signed as a true record by the chairman.

24/0029. To review and adopt Norton Parish Council's Standing Orders Jul24.V1

The chairman explained that this review was being completed in line with the latest revised specimen produced by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). All councillors received a copy of the revised document prior to the meeting, there were no questions.

The chairman proposed that Norton Parish Council's Standing Orders Jul24.V1 be adopted, seconded by Cllr Delaney, all councillors voted in favour and they were adopted.

24/0030. To receive reports:

a. County Councillor

County Cllr Paul McLain referred to his report appendix I of these minutes.

With regards to additional verge maintenance raised in the parishioners' questions, there is not enough money to cover this. There is a maintenance cut due now, with a visibility cut later in the year.

He has also raised the condition of the pavements in the parish with Max Kelly from the Highways team.

The A38 from Combe Hill to Norton has been flagged as a stretch of road with concerns in relation to incidents. He agreed that there is an issue, and that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and funds received from developers should be used towards improving safety. He confirmed that the Road Safety Forum are looking at the A38, and he will push this, but advised that there is a long legal process for any changes.

He's been in contact with Norton Rugby Football Club (NRFC) and the Civil Service Club, and is looking at a "wrap around" for initiatives to support both.

b. Borough Councillor

Nothing further to report

c. Chairman

The chairman presented his report, appendix II of these minutes.

d. Members

There were none.

e. Norton Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The clerk read out the report, appendix III of these minutes.

f. Neighbourhood Watch

The clerk read out the report, appendix IV of these minutes.

24/0031. Norton C of E Primary School update

The chairman advised that work on the front of the school was due to commence on 22nd July. NVHMC have approved for the construction team to use 5 car park spaces on the right of the carpark as you enter, this will last for approximately 2 months.

24/0032. Norton Rugby Club

None

Signed

24/0033. Norton Village Hall – Update from Parish Councillor on Norton Village Hall Management Committee

The chairman confirmed that there had been several successful social events run by the committee, including one for the Euro Cup Final, with Polo Gin who provide the bar giving an element of their takings back to the hall.

The landscaping and lowering of the fence along the hall frontage are due to commence on 22nd July.

The hall and the committee room are to be redecorated during the school summer holidays. The known damage to the changing rooms is in hand.

Cllr Griffiths asked for confirmation of the date for the fence to be lowered, it was confirmed that this is part of the landscaping work due to commence on 22nd July. The chairman said that there is no additional feedback from the council as the matter needs to be discussed with NVHMC, not Norton Parish Council (NPC), as NVHMC are responsible for the maintenance of the village hall site. It was also confirmed that TBC are aware of NVHMC's plans.

24/0034. Gloucestershire Airport Consultative Committee – Update from Parish Councillor on the committee

Cllr Delaney advised that there has been a lot of change, with more updates due after the mid-August meeting.

The recent noise from aircrafts overnight has been military aircraft. The airport is no longer under special measures, and have implemented a new website for complaints.

24/0035. Speeding concerns – application to reduce speed on the A38 – progress update

The chairman referred to the update provided in County Cllr McLain's report, only adding that a feasibility study for a Traffic Regulation Order was completed in February and the decision from this is still awaited. Although it appears that this will be overtaken as there is now a designated hotspot highlighted, with GCC sending this to the Road Safety Team for investigation which will inevitably take time.

He also highlighted that the work around this was very much a joint effort between the two parishes and not solely Down Hatherley Parish Council (DHPC), with NPC starting the process 6 months prior to DHPC involvement.

24/0036. Norton Nurturing Nature

a. Update from the Norton Nurturing Nature council lead

Cllr Griffiths advised that there are young moorhens and ducks in the pond, which is rich in wildlife.

He thanked the editor of Norton News for their support, referring to his call in there for more wild areas in the parish. He understands the need for visibility and pathways, but wild areas are also needed.

The triangle of land near the school is perfect for moths, butterflies, and insects. Orchids are currently in flower there.

24/0037. Norton Play Space

a. Maintenance inspection plan – update

The clerk thanked the volunteers who are completing the weekly checks, and reported that a check was completed by the external inspectors Gordon Playground Inspections in June with no issues raised.

24/0038. Planning Matters

a. Land at Brookelands, Norton – To consider a proposal for 45 dwellings on this site and to agree a response to the online consultation being held by Black Box Planning Ltd on behalf of Wain Homes

The chairman confirmed that just as residents are able to, the council can also comment on applications. A lot of helpful information was presented this evening by parishioners, and the concerns raised are to be taken onboard when NPC drafts its response.

He asked if councillors had anything further to add, Cllr Griffiths said that there should be a strong representation in regards to issues with sewerage.

The chairman said that there are essentially 3 categories to the response –

- Traffic concerns
- Sewerage / surface water
- The number of houses proposed being overdevelopment of the land

All councillors agreed that to jump from 9 houses to 45 was unproportional.

b. 24/00331/FUL - Land south of Lime Close, Norton (also known as Lime Close phase 2)

The chairman confirmed that he has written to councillors with proposed objections to base the council's response upon. The council have now seen the application, and he has read the key documents. He asked the council for their views on the response that should be submitted.

Cllr Delaney said that she felt the email from the chairman covered all the relevant points, and that the proposals had "heart" as well as covering the technical information. She asked if she was correct in her belief that turning to Cook Lane did not flood prior to the Lime Close development. This was confirmed as the development resulted in the drains being blocked with debris from the development.

The chairman thanked residents for the information that they have been providing with regards to flooding, especially the photographs which will form part of the response to the application. He will circulate the response to the council for comment prior to the end of the following week, for review and approval.

Cllr Griffiths added that the response from parishioners this evening were aligned with the council's and it is therefore important to continue with a strong response.

The chairman proposed that the council should also re-record their objection to the suggested easement across the playing field, stating that the council are not prepared to grant an easement for a rising main to be constructed. All councillors confirmed this as per the 8th May 2024 minutes.

c. Update on a proposed review of the Down Hatherley, Norton and Twigworth Neighbourhood Development Plan

Following his meeting with TBC, the chairman advised that the conclusion was to consider a review, with the first stage being to review the current plan and prepare a matrix highlighting the sections that needed to be revised.

There is no timeframe for this to be done, with the chairman to circulate a draft after the current planning considerations are complete.

d. Update on Stormwater and Flooding reporting process for Norton

The chairman confirmed that there is now a form up and running to collate the information from parishioners, with further details available under "Projects" on the NPC website.

He thanked the clerk for putting the process in place, and encouraged residents to use the form and designated email to continue to report issues so that the council can use the information when replying to planning applications, and to report issues to the relevant bodies.

e. GRCC Housing Needs Survey

The chairman has received further correspondence from GRCC, who would like the opportunity to present their survey proposals to the council. He asked if the council were happy to invite the representative to the September meeting, or if they would prefer a separate meeting.

Cllr Griffiths asked if this was needed as the council have the written information already. The chairman explained that GRCC would like to discuss it with NPC, and the turnaround for the actual findings is approximately 2 months. It was asked if the findings would be publicly available, the chairman said that these are the types of questions that could be asked when meeting with them. It was agreed to meet with GRCC, the chairman will get a date arranged.

24/0039. Finance

a. To receive the finance report

All councillors received a copy of the report prior to the meeting and there were no questions. The report was proposed by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by the chairman. All councillors were in favour of the report and it was recorded as a true reflection of the parish council's current accounts.

b. To approve payments in accordance with the finance report

The following payments were **authorised** by the full council after they were proposed by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by the chairman -

Recipient	Amount	Details	Legal Note
Clerk – Monthly Salary *(Standing Order)*	£351.00	*July 2024*	*LGA 1972 s.112(2)*

Clerk – Monthly Salary (Standing Order)	£351.00	*August 2024*	*LGA 1972 s.112(2)*
Glasdon UK Ltd	£393.02	*Cost to purchase a "Norton" sign for the Wainlode entrance to the village*	*LGA 1972 s.144 (1a)*
Gordon Playground Inspections Ltd	£96.00	*Inv 0704 – June Operational Inspection*	*Open Spaces Act 1906, s.9-10*
PATA Payroll	£31.05	*Inv 23/1133/PPS – Payroll Services Q1 2024*	*LGA 1972 s.112(2)*
Scribe Accounts	£414.72	*Inv 6116 – Annual charge for Scribe Accounts*	*LGA 2003 s. 22*
Total	**£ 1,636.79**		

c. Record completion of audit requirements for 2023-24

The clerk confirmed that the requirements for the 2023-24 audit for Norton Parish Council have been met.

24/0040. Matters arising not on this agenda to be considered at the next meeting

Cllr Costin advised that the NVHMC have been approached about a potential firework display, this is to be added to the September agenda.

Actions following meeting –

Detail	**Owner**
Review and update disclosable interests as and when required	All Councillors
Continue to chase the completion of the bus shelter	Clerk
Respond to planning application 24/00331/FUL - Land south of Lime Close, Norton	All Councillors / Clerk
Complete a review matrix for the Neighbourhood Development Plan	All Councillors / Clerk
Confirm a date to meet with GRCC	Chairman
Make payments in accordance with the finance report	Clerk

Date of the Next Meeting: Wednesday 18th September 2024.

Meeting Closed 22:03

Signed – Dated –

Appendices

Appendix I.

County Cllr Paul McLain report

As colleagues will appreciate, decisions and announcements by both GCC and TBC were put on hold during the General election purdah period, so I'm afraid there's not a lot to add to previous comments. My GCC report is copied below.

Just for noting –

A bobcat pothole repair machine will be operating in Twigworth and Innsworth this week with a Roadmender also working the district.

As members will have seen, the A40 longford – Over was closed for an extended period on 1oth July. GRFS have advised me that they attended a Road Traffic Collision involving two cars.

Two crews from the Gloucester Fire Stations attended alongside colleagues from other emergency services. One 80 year old female was extricated and conveyed to hospital by air ambulance, with life threatening injuries, another 76 year old female had minor injuries and was able to extricate herself from the vehicle.
One male was arrested by Police under suspicion of driving under the influence of drink and drugs.

Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) activities are being rolled out over the Summer Holiday - for families who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. This summer, using grant funding, GCC is once again able to extend fun, enriching holiday activities to all children and young people through its Holiday Activities Programme (HAP).

Both the HAF and HAP summer programmes are running across four weeks during the school holidays and families are encouraged to check their local district HAF webpage to see what's happening near them. Activity booking opened at midday on Monday 1 July.

Once again, there are lots of great options to choose from including drama and science workshops, sports and games, art and crafts, music and dance, indoor and outdoor activities, as well as the ever-popular ticketed attractions. More information about the programme is available at: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf.

If they haven't done so already, families are encouraged to:

· Register for the Children's Activities Booking System (CABS) now to make sure they can view the activities which will be available in their district, and select their choices

· Follow their district lead on social media to see what is happening in their area.

Families who require additional support to choose, book or attend HAF activities, can receive support from six HAF Community Connectors, one for each district of Gloucestershire.

We have now had the outturn from 2023/24 budget which has had an underspend of £10 million. This is partly made up of £4.41 million of additional electricity income

generated by Javelin Park. From this £4.41 million we are putting an extra £2 million into Highways projects, these are:

£500k to maintain 8 Find and Fix gangs throughout the year
£500k for refreshing lining across the network
£300k to fund Cheltenham Spa access ramp
£200k for further vegetation (grass and tree) cutting gangs to improve safety on the network
£200k towards maintaining footways in our town centres
£100k increase to the schools safety programme
£100k to refresh zebra and other crossings across the network
£100k to deliver the Merrywalks bus station resurfacing

There will also be an allocation of £2.41 million to address some financial risks arising within the current year's budget including, but not limited to, the cost of children's placements, additional expenditure required to support the forthcoming CQC inspection and the introduction of the Procurement Act. The remaining £5.59 million will be put into general reserves.

The ZEBRA 2 joint bid (with operators) to DfT for up to 58 electric buses has been 100% successful. It means just £1.5 million from GCC has released £6 million from DfT and will now release a further £22 million from operators (£29.5 million in total). This is amazing news for Gloucestershire and will mean that 20% of the County's bus fleet will be electric zero emission by 2026.

Our three new Robin services are now all up and running. Tewkesbury's started on 3rd June; South Cotswolds on 10th June, and Berkeley Vale on 17th June. We've had some good early feedback from satisfied residents.

As referenced in previous reports the new discretionary fund for Homes for Ukraine to continue to provide support Ukrainian refugees fleeing from war has now been signed off and is in place.

Work well advanced to procure a new care provider for five care homes where care is delivered by Gloucestershire Care Partnership. GCC own the estate for The Combs (FoD), Rodley House (FoD), Henlow Court (Stroud), Grevill House (Chelt,) and Paternoster (Cots).

No change at this time for Staff and residents.

Market Position Statement(MPS) for Adult Social Care Services 2024.

With consultation and data the evidence is that the growth in the older population and in particular the older age groups within the older population, means that the demand for ASC will grow rapidly in the next 10 years.

Adults of working age with social care needs are not growing significantly in number. However the demand for bed-based nursing and dementia care shows a significant increase and will out strip supply if we do not address the shortfall.

Over the same period the working age population will relatively static, which has an impact on Social care workforce as there will be a need for more but with a limited growth in supply.

GCC have now installed 200 EV chargers across the county towards a target of 1,000.

We recently had a Western Gateway sub-national Transport Body visit to the A417 missing link to review progress with National Highways. Construction is cracking on at pace with major works for preparation completed, including a lot of archaeology, the subject of recent press coverage and an exhibit in Gloucester. https://cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/a417-missing-link-unveils-gloucestershires-hidden-treasures/

Approved funding for the continued development of plans for the J9/A46 M5 junction improvements and a Mass Rapid Transit scheme. Still several years away so no short-term changes.

J10 continues its development, including seeking commitments from land owners and developers towards the costs of the scheme, the great majority of which will be covered by central government funding via Homes England. Landholders will see substantial uplifts in the value of their land as a result of the delivery of the scheme.

Appendix II.

Norton Parish Council

Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 17 July 2024

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

(1) Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan

The administration team for the Strategic and Local Plan has announced that it will shortly be publishing the results of the recent public consultation on the draft plan, to which the parish council contributed.

I will submit a report to the parish council on the consultation results when they are published.

(2) Martyn's Law update

The previous government's proposed legislation on Martyn's Law didn't proceed because of the dissolution of Parliament for the general election.

However the new government's election manifesto promised to "bring in Martyn's Law to strengthen the security of public events and venues" and it's expected that legislation on this subject will be included in the King's Speech for the next session of Parliament.

Guidance will be issued to local councils when the terms of any draft legislation are known.

(3) Launch of new planning Design Guide

I attended the launch of the English Rural Housing Association's new Design Guide: "Building tomorrow's rural communities" last Friday, 5 July. The aim of the Design Guide is to encourage the building of homes rather than houses.

This gave me the opportunity to discuss current planning issues and the future of affordable housing with planning professionals, architects, conservationists and developers.

(4) Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils

GAPTC will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 20 July 2024 at 10.30am in the Highnam Community Centre. The guest speaker will be Jonathan Owen, the Chief Executive of NALC. All councillors are invited to attend.

Richard F N Page
6 July 2024

Appendix III.

Norton PCC Report

We are finalising plans for the celebration of the new bells on 25th August. We're hoping to make it a real community event with lots of activities including tower tours, joining in with handbell ringing, sharing picnics as well as other family activities. The new bells will also be rung.

July events include:

Friday 12 July 7pm prayer gathering
Wednesday 17 July 10:30 until midday church coffee morning including a bring & buy table
Sunday 21 July 10am holy communion service

Appendix IV.

Norton Neighbourhood Watch Report - Norton Parish Council meeting 10th July 2024

There are **105 members** of the Norton Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp Group.

Andrew Mason has been added to the WhatsApp Neighbourhood Watch group as a joint admin.

May 2024

Wainlode lane closed for tree cutting
Village activities noted – car boot sale and Coffee morning
Request from Norton Primary school for donations for the preschool
Additional Post Office services available at the Co-op
Lost cats & dogs
Dog(s) barking causing annoyance
Various requests for help posted
Lost/mis-delivered packages

June 2024

Theft of a John Deere tractor (Ashleworth)

Family Rural Crime Day (Berkley)
Lost child near The Red Lion (resolved without any further details known)
Early morning noise from the village hall car park (Rugby mixed ability outing)
Car driving at high speed in Lime close
Request from Norton School Gardening club for volunteers
Door to door sellers in Norton
Man taking photos of cars in early hours of the morning (Lime close)
Reminder to keep wireless remote car keys secure (use faraday pouch)
School door left open (resolved quickly)
Reminder of the Norton and Leigh History meeting at the church

PP
Christine Williams, Norton Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

Signed