

County Council update – September 2025

Do contact me any time on:

Gary.Luff@Gloucestershire.gov.uk

And please report any Highways defects via highwayscouncillors@gloucestershire.gov.uk (for parish councillors & clerk use only) – feel free to copy me in if you'd like to – or via the Fix My Street app or <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

County News

Final 'cause for concern' at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service lifted

Following a visit by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS, the final cause for concern around promoting equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) has been lifted.

County council Children's Services judged 'Good' overall following Ofsted inspection

Gloucestershire County Council's Children's Services have been judged as 'Good' with some 'Outstanding' elements following its most recent Ofsted inspection. This represents a significant improvement since the last full inspection in 2022.

Have your say on pharmacies in Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board is inviting residents to take part in a statutory consultation on local pharmacy services. The survey can be accessed [here](#) and closes on Friday 29th August. Please share with your local residents.

Gloucester Library

Gloucester Library will be relocating from its current premises on Brunswick Road to a brand new, state-of-the-art facility at the University of Gloucestershire - City Campus.

Community celebrates return of vital bus link between Yate and Wotton-under-Edge

After a long campaign, the Y8 bus service from Yate to Wotton-under-Edge is to be reinstated.

Local Government Reorganisation Update

A series of in-person engagement events were held over July and August which provided the opportunity for residents to raise questions and share views on devolution, Local Government Reorganisation, and the future of council services in Gloucestershire directly with councillors. A survey through which residents could share their thoughts on how a unitary council – or councils – should be shaped was also circulated, receiving 3,112 responses. This information will be presented at full council in November where elected members will decide whether to submit a business case for one or for two unitary councils by the deadline in November.

The Minister for Housing, Communities & Local Government, Jim McMahon MP, has now been clearer about his intentions for LGR in relation to parish and town councils, in that:

- Government wants to “rewire the relationship between town and parish councils and principal Local Authorities, strengthening expectations on engagement and community voice”, but that

- “The government has no intention to require town and parish councils to deliver functions as part of local government reorganisation”, and that
- “Town and parish councils are independent of local authorities”, and that
- “We want to make sure that all local authorities have a way of working with people in their neighbourhoods, so they are not relying on town and parish councils to do it.”
- The “neighbourhood governance structures” set up by new unitary authorities (which are intended to be local partnerships run by the unitary councillors for a group of unitary divisions, with devolved budgets and roles) may include representation from parish and town councils, and finally,
- That guidance will come forward (we’ve been told to expect it may be a year or so off unfortunately) and that “guidance will say how neighbourhood governance structures can work well with town and parish councils”

This represents quite a major change from our initial understanding of LGR, in that it’s now clear Government do not see/want parish and town councils inheriting any significant roles from district councils. The fact that the guidance will not come out until after we have had to set up the neighbourhood governance is deeply unhelpful, but we will have to do our best with what we have. I (Chloe) am happy to go through it in more detail at a separate meeting if that is helpful

For more information, please visit the dedicated local government reorganisation site: <https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk/>

GCC Meetings

There were no Full Council, Cabinet or Scrutiny meetings held during the month of August. The next Full Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday 10th September**.

Gary is now the Chair of GCC’s Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee

Roads

Please continue to use and promote the use of [FixMyStreet](#) to report issues on the roads.

Consultation on Community 20s and Safer Roads Initiatives

Parishes and towns are being asked to express their interest on two issues:

1. Whether they would like any road in there area to be considered for ‘Community 20s’;
2. Whether there are other (higher speed) roads that would benefit from a reduction in speed limit.

Feedback is requested to be returned by **19thSeptember** with confirmation of the date and/or meeting at which the matter was considered.

Works were carried out on Mill Lane to help with drainage and I asked the local highways manager to accompany me on a site visit to Mill Lane so that I can show him the state of lane.