

Gloucestershire County Parishes Report–Feb2026

County News

Council votes to approve £698.4 million budget

Gloucestershire County Council has approved the £698.4 million budget for 2026/27.

Public consultation on local government reorganisation now open

Gloucestershire councils are encouraging residents and communities to take part in a new government consultation on how local government in the county could be organised in future.

Gloucestershire's landmark Local Nature Recovery Strategy goes live with school celebration

Gloucestershire County Council has published its first Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and interactive map. The plan – a statutory obligation from government – suggests measures to restore nature, boost biodiversity and create a healthier future for everyone who lives, works and plays in Gloucestershire. The Green group will push the administration to implement the promised improvements.

Fostering Service celebrates debut novel of young person in care

Gloucestershire County Council has celebrated the achievement of a young person in care as he published his debut novel at 17-years-old.

Council celebrate a year of Youth Hubs for supporting young people across Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire County Council is celebrating over a year of impact from its commissioned Youth Hubs, delivered in partnership with three not-for-profit organisations working across the county.

First project announced under Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund

Gloucestershire County Council has announced the first award from the Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund, with £3,000 granted to support the Youth Manager role at Brockworth Link Youth Club. **Please continue to send applications to your local councillors (see below for details).**

Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund

The Grassroots Neighbourhood Fundscheme is continuing to seek applications from eligible groups. The scheme delivers funding to community initiatives seeking to make a positive impact on health and wellbeing, access to nature, digital inclusion, community cohesion, and reducing inequalities. Each Councillor is allocated £20,000 to support projects in their division.

More information about the new scheme is available on the dedicated [webpage](#). Guidance for how to apply is available [here](#).

GCC Meetings

Full Council

As highlighted above, this month's meeting of Full Council saw members vote on the budget. While the Greens voted in support, they also made clear that they would push the Lib Dem administration to go further on prevention and commit sufficient resources to environmental issues.

Cllr Craig Horrocks (Rodborough) said: "This is not a bad budget. But it doesn't match the council's own stated ambition to invest in prevention. Our borrowing is well within safe limits, and we have room to do more. Using that space to invest in the future is a brave but sensible choice — and I don't think this budget

takes it far enough."



Cllr Craig Horrocks speaking in the chamber

Leader of the Green Group Cllr Beki Hoyland (Blakeney and Bream) added: "The best way to tackle long-term problems is to invest early in our communities. Spending on prevention today means spending less on fixing things tomorrow".

Cllr Beki Hoyland introducing Green amendments

The Greens managed to secure £390,000 worth of amendments to the budget, including:

- ☑ £110,000 to expand the Cam & Dursley Green Way cycleway
- ☑ £80,000 to improve access to Public Rights of Way
- ☑ £80,000 to sponsor care leavers through youth worker apprenticeships
- ☑ £100,000 to restore the Community Climate Grant
- ☑ £20,000 for air pollution monitors at high-risk schools

The Greens also seconded a Labour amendment to use £10,000 to help young people access work, training and education. Amendments from Reform UK and the Conservatives were rejected.

Reform UK's proposals, which included scrapping funding for climate action, cutting the council's nature budget and spending money on mass dredging were strongly condemned as unscientific by the Greens.

In her speech, Cllr Chloe Turner (Minchinhampton) said: "Dredging is exactly the opposite of the 'slow the flow' approach that experts have shown to be the most cost-effective and nature-friendly way to manage floods, and which has been championed by county Greens in the past."

"Reform's proposal to cut our already stretched ecology team, at a time when nature is under more pressure than ever, is also genuinely alarming. We already face damage from the Labour Government's attacks on nature — and Reform show exactly the same ignorance about how vital nature is to our economy, our health and our safety. This is a party that doesn't understand the science, doesn't grasp the economics and doesn't give a toss about the natural environment that so many in our county care about"



Cllr Turner speaking in the chamber



Cllr Luff speaking in the chamber

Cllr Gary Luff (Bisley and Painswick) highlighted ecosystem degradation as a national security issue, drawing on the UK Government's recent National Security Assessment: "The threat from the nature crises to our national security couldn't be clearer", he said. "However, Reform UK is more interested in siding with billionaires, the fossil fuel industry and Putin rather than protecting British citizens."

Other meetings

Also held this month were meetings of the Police and Crime Panel, the Economic Strategy and Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Pensions Committees.

Full recordings of all County Council meetings can be found [here](#).

Roads

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

Local Government Reorganisation Consultation

The government has opened its consultation on proposals for LGR in Gloucestershire, today, Thursday 5 February. This will be open for seven weeks. As you know, it follows the submission of three proposals to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government last November.

What will the consultation cover?

The consultation will ask for views on all three proposals submitted:

- One single county-wide unitary council
- Two unitary councils (east/west split)
- Two unitary councils (Greater Gloucester and Gloucestershire Unitary)

Respondents will be asked to what extent the proposals:

- Are based on sensible geographies and economic areas
- Will deliver the outcomes described in the proposals
- Are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity, and withstand financial shocks
- Will deliver high quality, sustainable public services
- Have been informed by local views and will meet local needs
- Will support devolution arrangements
- Will enable stronger community engagement and give the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment

Additionally, there will be a question in relation to the Greater Gloucester and Gloucestershire unitaries proposal, asking to what extent consultees agree or disagree that it sets out a strong public services and financial sustainability justification for boundary change.

Consultees will also be able to leave free text to explain or expand on the answers they provide or leave general comments.

How will people be able to take part and get more information?

The consultation will be via an online survey. Additionally, we are arranging for hard copies to be made available in all council-owned user centres (i.e libraries, area centres, offices etc).

MHCLG has made provision for consultation responses to be made by post and email. Details are on the consultation page, linked below.

A link to the consultation is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-gloucestershire>

Details on all three proposals are available at: [Future Gloucestershire : Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire](#)

You are encouraged to share the information and links with your own networks and contacts.

Who will be consulted?

In notifying councils that the consultation will start on Thursday, MHCLG confirmed the list of stakeholders that it will be consulting directly. We have added those organisations or contacts that MHCLG will not consult with directly to a local list, to ensure we leave no stone unturned in reaching out to every corner of your communities over the coming seven weeks.

Although this is a government consultation, we are activating a thorough communications and engagement plan to ensure we reach as many stakeholders and residents as possible, and encourage them to share their views. To achieve this, we will be engaging town and parish councils, community organisations and partners across the county, sharing materials that they can use to promote the consultation, while leveraging our own online and offline channels.

What happens after the consultation closes?

As a recap, feedback from the consultation will help the government assess which option best meets its criteria for effective local government.

A decision is expected in summer 2026, with elections for the new unitary authority or authorities planned for May 2027. Any new structure will come into effect no earlier than April 2028.

Greener Gloucestershire News

Just SUST festival

A brand-new celebration of pre-loved clothing, creative community and sustainable living for Stroud.

A vibrant day of workshops, sustainable textile browsing, clothing talks, demos and a film premiere. Plus, a community runway show of the preloved clothing and pay-as-you can food, music & dance! 🎭

- Saturday 28 February 2026
- 11:00 - 21:00
- BrimscombeMill, Brimscombe Hill, Stroud, England, GL5 2SB.

For more information [visit the website.](#)

Heat pump demonstrations - discover the future of home heating 🔥 ❄️

Join for a 30-minute live demonstration showcasing how heat pumps work and why they're a key solution for low-carbon heating. Whether you're curious about switching from gas, exploring energy-efficient upgrades, or simply want to understand the technology better, this session is designed to inform and inspire.

Book onto a demonstration [here](#).

'Warm and Well' energy support

Need some simple steps to manage your energy bills or stay warmer at home without pushing up costs?

Gloucestershire residents can get free support through the Warm & Well service, run by energy charity [Severn Wye](#). They can help you better understand and manage your energy use and bills. You can get help with switching your energy tariff or supplier, advise on renewables and check if you are eligible for any grants or funding schemes.

Their advisers are on hand to answer all your questions and may be able to offer you a free home visit to provide in-depth advice specific to your property and needs.

📞 0800 500 3076

✉️ energyadvice@severnwye.org.uk

[Website](#)

Bikeability sessions 🚲

The Think Travel team are offering Bikeability courses during upcoming school holidays. 🌱

The courses are designed for children aged 9 to 14 and consist of 2 x 2-hour sessions, held at the same time on consecutive days.

All instruction is provided by fully qualified, experienced instructors who are Enhanced DBS checked and First Aid trained. Courses are run in small groups with a 1:3 instructor-to-child ratio to ensure personalized attention and safety. The cost for the course is £10