

County Councillor report for St Briavels Parish Council 12th June 2026

County News

[County council's new supported lodgings service receives Ofsted registration](#)

Gloucestershire County Council is looking for hosts for its new supported lodgings service after receiving Ofsted registration.

Similarly, this month, Green councillors also visited the Gloucester [Nightstop](#) centre, a UK-wide network of same-night emergency accommodation services that support young people at risk of homelessness. Nightstop is continually looking for new hosts, so do share with your networks. More information can be found [here](#)

[Three county council children's homes rated 'Good' by Ofsted](#)

Three children's homes run by Gloucestershire County Council have been rated as 'Good' by Ofsted following recent inspections.

[New A435 Cheltenham to Bishop's Cleeve Cycleway to officially open](#)

Gloucestershire County Council is inviting residents to celebrate the official opening of the new A435 Cheltenham to Bishop's Cleeve Cycleway at a free, drop-in event.

[Improved road safety as new traffic enforcement measures set to go live](#)

Residents across Gloucestershire will benefit from improved road safety and reduced congestion as new powers to enforce moving traffic offences are introduced at 15 locations across the county.

[New report highlights how housing shapes health in Gloucestershire](#)

A new report from Gloucestershire County Council shows that the quality, cost and security of our homes have a major impact on people's health and wellbeing across the county.

Consultations

[Have your say on the future of SEND in Gloucestershire](#)

Gloucestershire County Council wants to hear your views on the future of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision for children and young people.

[Have your say on the future of transport in Gloucestershire](#)

People in Gloucestershire are being invited to help shape the future of transport across the county.

[Views sought on plans to make Cheltenham's roads safer](#)

Gloucestershire County Council is asking people to have their say on proposals to improve road safety and support healthier communities in Cheltenham.

GCC Meetings

Full Council

During this month's Full Council meeting, **a new Chair of the Council for 2026/27 was elected**. Cllr Steve Robinson (Labour), who was Chair for 2025/26 was replaced by Cllr Sarah Hands (Lib Dem), with Cllr Robinson elected as Vice Chair.

Cllr Joe Harris (Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Communications) informed Council that he was resigning his seat and that this was his last Council meeting. Members from across political groups paid tribute to Cllr Harris for his long years of service and wished him well in his new role. He will be replaced in his Cabinet position by his father, Cllr Mark Harris (Lib Dem).

Three motions were also debated. The first was brought by the Conservative group concerned house building numbers. The motion called for a reduction in overall house building targets, a cross-council, county-wide strategy and an infrastructure first approach.

The **Green group proposed an amendment to emphasise the need for truly affordable and social housing and to broaden the infrastructure-first approach to include physical (e.g. transport, health facilities) and social (e.g. community hubs) infrastructure.** An additional amendment was also tabled by the Lib Dems. Both were accepted as friendly and the motion passed unanimously.

The **second motion concerned the disproportionately high suicide rates among men in Gloucestershire** and called for greater support and preventative strategies. **The third motion concerned fairer funding for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) education,** following the Government's recently published [White Paper](#). Both motions also passed unanimously.

Links to the full motions can be found [here](#), with a full recording of the meeting can be found [here](#).

Cabinet

Two key decisions were discussed during this month's GCC meeting of the Cabinet. A recording of the meeting can be viewed [here](#).

1. Tailored Learning and Adult Skills Programme for 2026/2027

Cabinet resolved to delegated authority to the Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, to enter into a funding agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) for the purpose of funding the delivery of Tailored Learning and the Adult Skills Programme during the 2026-2027 academic year and then to procure and award a number of contracts for the provision of adult learning services.

2. Allocation of Substance Use Grant Funding (Public Health Grant) 2026

Cabinet approved the allocation of the ringfenced substance use element of the Public Health Grant (issued by the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities) for the period 2026–2029, enabling the continuation and enhancement of drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services in Gloucestershire in line with national grant conditions and local priorities.

Committee Meetings

Also held this month were meetings of the Environment Scrutiny Committee, Planning Committee, Adult, Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee, Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Committee, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Economic Strategy Scrutiny Committee. Full recordings can be found [here](#).

Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund

The scheme is delivering funding to community initiatives which are making a positive impact on health and wellbeing, access to nature, digital inclusion, community cohesion, and reducing inequalities. Each Councillor was allocated £20,000 to support projects in their division. **I have £4000 left for projects that fit the above issues.**

More information about the new scheme is available on the dedicated [webpage](#). Watch this space for news on projects funded by Green and other councillors.

Roads

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

Library Challenge 2026

Gloucestershire Libraries Library Challenge 2026 is nearly here!

The Library Challenge will be running in July and helps children stay connected to reading over the school holidays, when literacy levels can often dip.

The challenge is simple, free and open to all children through their local library. Children sign up, borrow books, complete fun tasks and work towards Bronze, Silver and Gold awards — all designed to keep reading enjoyable and help families visit libraries regularly.

This year's theme is Tales Through Time, celebrating history, imagination and discovery. Each library will bring the theme to life in its own way, with eye-catching displays and activities throughout the summer holidays.

Library staff will be taking the message into schools with around 100 assemblies planned before summer, alongside online resources and in-library promotion.

But Gloucestershire Libraries are also asking councillors (at all levels) to get behind the campaign: Please encourage schools in your area to take part, celebrate the value of libraries, and help us raise the profile of reading across Gloucestershire.

Please do get involved on social media too: visit your local library, take a selfie, and share it alongside our campaign content to help spread the message further. A visible show of support from councillors will make a real difference!

Greener Gloucestershire News

NEW Library of Things!

Gloucestershire Libraries offer more than books! On Tuesday 5 May, [The Library of Things](#) launched at two new locations: Quedgeley Library and Up Hatherley Library. These two new locations are an addition to our first Library of Things in Charlton Kings Library. Last year, from this one location alone:


 482 items were loaned

 16.74 tonnes of Co2e were avoided

 £53,490 was saved by our service users

If you're looking for tools or equipment for a one-off project or event, why buy when you can borrow?? It's FREE to join! Just make sure you're a [library member](#) so you can access the service.

Community climate change fund success stories

The third round of community climate change funding has now been completed and there have been some fantastic projects undertaken with the grant money. [Take a look at the case studies on the website](#) to see what impact the grants have had on local communities and their carbon footprints 

Applications for the next round of projects have now closed with the successful projects to be announced shortly.

District News

At the Full Council meeting of 21st May, a motion was tabled on the future of the Biosphere bid, that said “ it is clear that there has not been full consultation and on further consideration (and) we propose that a delay of 6 months in the process is now implemented so that a full and proper consultation exercise is undertaken”

An amendment to limit the delay to 4 months and allow submission of the bid on 30th September was lost by the chair’s casting vote.

As the cabinet lead on Biosphere designation, I have agreed to continue with consultations for a further 6 months and see where we get to at the end of the year.

I would also welcome any form of endorsement of support for the Biosphere initiative that the council could express.

I am always more than happy to take questions and queries in areas that I can help.

chris.mcfarling@fdean.gov.uk

chris.mcfarling@gloucestershire.gov.uk