

District & County Councillor report for Newland Parish Council 24th June 2025

Gloucestershire County Council

The **Council** is currently getting through its councillor induction programme so that each councillor is able to take a full part in the positions and responsibilities they have been elected to undertake.

Discussions on Local Government Reorganisation continue. GAPTC are looking into how local parish councils will be involved in the devolution programme – this is an ongoing conversation and worth engaging in.

I am researching the situation of congestion along the A48 into Chepstow and up through Hardwick hill. I have begun discussions with the Local Transport Plan Officers and transport cabinet members, and intend to follow up a round table meeting with Monmouthshire County Council to see what options are available for now.

The council received a response to my letter to the Transport ministers regarding the condition of the M48 bridge. The response indicated that they would be monitoring the safety of the structure for 6 to 18 months, and would be keeping people updated with a monthly newsletter.

I am waiting for responses from the new road safety cabinet member to look at the potential of reducing speed limits on a number of roads locally and in the statutory Forest. I will explore the option of a 20mph speed limit in places where people and vehicles mix, following the successful roll out of this scheme in Wales and other authorities.

I am working with Nathan Choat, Highways manager, to work through the highways maintenance issues that have been on the 'to do' list for a while. For pothole issues please continue to use FixMyStreet, it does work, and for other highways issues, please send them to the clerk to liaise directly with Nathan.

NPC CAWG report for NPC meeting on Tuesday 24th June

No full meeting this month but Nicky and Richard met with Sabrina Dixon from the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) Community Development team to discuss how to move forward with the GRCC Climate Action Plan pilot that NPCC has been offered to take part in.

From the meeting, a decision was taken for Nicky and Richard to put together a written action plan for the process which would be envisaged for communities, individuals, families and businesses to take part in measures they could implement and make a contribution to reduce the parish's overall carbon footprint. This could involve using the questionnaire (based around 'The Great Collaboration' toolkit) that the CAWG has already designed – but with an improved presentation.

The action plan would be created with SMART targets so that the rationale for the rolling out of the pilot is clearly explained and so that participants are clear about what they are taking part in.

The responses to the questionnaire would be analysed by the CAWG and presented to the parish council in the form of a report, probably twice or three times a year.

The plan after more consultation with Sabrina would be presented to the NPC meeting in July so that things can get started probably in September.

Other things to mention are the interest in the use of the thermal imaging camera and possibilities for involvement with Sam Clarke from the district council's climate action team who is offering retrofit consultations to people in our area.

A lend-out form for the camera is being produced so that people in the community can start using it. Users will be encouraged to report back with their results and any plans they have to improve insulation in their homes or offices. Richard and Nicky will liaise with Sam Clarke to get the retrofit consultations arranged, report back about these in July and promote these via the Facebook page.

Richard Henson 23.0.25