

Wickwar Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council – Minutes

A meeting of the above Council was held on Wednesday 4th December 2019, at the Town Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

Attended:

- Councillor S Isaac
- Councillor A Carroll
- Councillor C Maidment
- Councillor G Fielding
- Councillor A Pennington
- Councillor M Harris
- Ward Councillor and Councillor P Trull

Clerk:

Mrs R Davis

Public time (20 minutes)

A parishioner praised the Parish Council for the quality of the monthly update in the Parish News.

A parishioner suggested that the Community Centre Committee should apply to the Chipping Sodbury Rotary Club for a grant for a defibrillator.

Two Councillors reported that they had attended the Cemex liaison meeting on 4th December. Cemex advised that the planning application for the quarry expansion should be submitted before Christmas and local Parish Clerks will be sent hard copies of the application for Councillors to view. Cemex has been approached to request that they top up the gravel in the Holy Trinity Church car park. The state of the road outside the quarry entrance was commented upon and Cllr Trull advised that she would report this to South Gloucestershire Council.

1.12.19 To RECEIVE and DECIDE whether to accept apologies for absence and reasons given.

No apologies.

2.12.19 To NOTE and RECORD Declarations of Interests relevant to this meeting.

No interests were declared.

3.12.19 To AGREE whether the minutes of the last meeting and the Extraordinary meeting should be signed as an accurate record of the meetings. (circulated)

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November and the Extraordinary meeting held on 15th November 2019. They were duly signed.

4.12.19 To RECEIVE the Clerk’s Report on matters arising from previous minutes/ not covered elsewhere on the agenda. (Attached to minutes Appendix 1)

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

The report was noted.

5.12.19 To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded.

No items required the public to be excluded.

6.12.19 Planning - For the Council to NOTE the following planning decisions

The following decisions were noted.

6a.12.19 P19/5258/RM Land South Of Horwood Lane Wickwar Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8NY: Erection of up to 90no. dwellings with access, parking, landscaping, public open space, drainage and associated infrastructure with details of the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale (Approval of Reserved matters to be read in conjunction with planning permission PK17/4552/O). **Decision - Approve with conditions**

7.12.19 Planning – For the Council to REVIEW and COMMENT on planning applications received before the meeting.

7a.12.19 P19/16304/NMA Post Office 72 High Street Wickwar Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8NP: Non material amendment to planning permission PK18/5515/F to include solar panels on the south roof slope.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to support this application. Wickwar Parish Council supports this application on the grounds that the solar panels will not be overlooked and the Council welcomes the use of environmentally friendly technology.

7b.12.19 P19/16610/F 1 Turnpike Gate Wickwar Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8ND Erection of single storey side extension to provide additional living accommodation.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to submit a neutral response.

7c.12.19 P19/16951/F 8 Turnpike Gate Wickwar Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8ND. Erection of a two storey front and single storey rear extensions to form porch and additional living accommodation, to include installation of flue and raised deck with steps.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to submit a neutral response.

7d.12.19 P19/17754/F Land At Little Shortwood Farm Wickwar Road Yate Bristol South Gloucestershire: Erection of a building for storage and indoor training facilities in respect of existing dog training business (sui generis) (Amendment to previously approved scheme PK16/3214/F)

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to submit a neutral response.

7e.12.19 P19/17829/TCA The Chimes 19A Station Road Wickwar Wotton Under Edge: Works to fell 1no. Ornamental Cherry (T1), 1no. Ash Tree and 1no. Hawthorn tree within Wickwar Conservation Area.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to submit a neutral response.

7f.12.19 P19/17624/TCA Gravesend Cottages 21 Station Road Wickwar Wotton Under Edge GL12 8NB: Works to crown reduce 1 no. Lime tree to be reduced by up to 9 metres situated within the Wickwar Conservation Area.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to submit a neutral response.

8.12.19 For the Council to REVIEW and, if required, COMMENT on relevant consultations.

8a.12.19 PT.6080 - Highways Act 1980 - Footpath LWR 21/10 at Croft Cottage, Horwood Lane, Wickwar PPDO. The consultation was noted, but no response made.

9.12.19 To RECEIVE a report from the Ward Councillor. (Attached to the minutes Appendix 2)

The report was noted.

10.12.19 To RECEIVE verbal reports from Councillors who are Trustees or Committee members of the organisations listed below, and to take decisions are necessary:

10a.12.19 King George V Playing Fields

An ash die back risk assessment has been carried out on trees at the playing fields. **It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to invite the South Gloucestershire Council Tree Officer to a future meeting to discuss the Council's response to ash die back.**

10b.12.19 Wickwar Youth Club. No report.

10c.12.19 Wickwar Community Centre

There were no problems following the Wickwar Wanderers Football Club Comedy Night. A new bookings secretary has been recruited and the current bookings secretary will become secretary to the committee. Cllr Carroll is revising the hire agreement and fire evacuation procedures. The committee will be seeking funding for a defibrillator.

10d.12.19 Wickwar Town Hall. No report.

10e.12.19 Wickwar Cemetery

The Clerk has carried out an inspection and noted pots and vases are being placed on graves. These could be damaged during the mowing season so when the cemetery regulations are revised, they will state that pots and vases should be placed on the headstone/ plinth from April to October. Vases in place of headstones should be placed in line with adjacent headstones.

11.12.19 To RECEIVE the play equipment inspection for November.

The report for November was received.

12.12.19 Items for CONSIDERATION and DECISION

12a.12.19 To CONSIDER and take a DECISION on whether to instruct South Gloucestershire Council to erect a 'Single track road with passing places' sign at the junction of Frith Lane/Sodbury Road.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to instruct South Gloucestershire Council to erect a 'Single track road with passing places' sign at the junction of Frith Lane/Sodbury Road.

12b.12.19 To NOTE the ash die back risk assessment carried out by Councillors and take a DECISION on further action required.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

The risk assessment was noted. **It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to obtain three estimates for felling the ash tree adjacent to the King George V Play Area. It was further RESOLVED to check if the Council's insurance will cover any of the cost.**

12c.12.19 To NOTE the legionella risk assessment carried out on the pavilion and take a DECISION on further actions required.

The legionella risk assessment was noted. **It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to seek the opinion of a plumber with regard to work required to the cold water storage tanks. Three estimates to be obtained for any work required. It was further RESOLVED to approach T Gardner to remove the blind end pipe.**

12d.12.19 To NOTE progress on actions to ensure that the Council meeting room complies with the Equalities Act 2010 and take a DECISION on further actions required.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that Cllr Harris seek advice on the feasibility of fitting a lift and report back by April meeting..

12e.12.19 To CONSIDER whether the Parish Council wishes to investigate providing an additional parking place on land to the rear of 42 High Street.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the Clerk investigate the possibility of Wickwar Parish Council registering the land with the Land Registry.

12f.12.19 To CONSIDER and take a DECISION on a proposal to plant three small trees in the play area to provide additional shade.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that Cllr Carroll source tree guards to protect the three small trees and report back to the Council before planting.

12g.12.19 To CONSIDER whether to hold an open day for the Town Hall Clock and take a DECISION on actions required.

This item was deferred until a fire risk assessment of the Town Hall has been completed.

12h.12.19 To CONSIDER the briefing note on CIL funding and take a DECISION on the process for identifying and consulting on potential projects.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that each Councillor bring forward six CIL project ideas to the next meeting. It was further RESOLVED to schedule a working party meeting to develop the list into a set of priorities, following the budget working party meeting.

12i.12.19 To CONSIDER and take a DECISION on the revised cemetery fees proposed by the working group.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to adopt the proposed cemetery fees from 1st January 2020 and amend the Cemetery Regulations to include the new fees.

12j.12.19 To CONSIDER the draft Village Welcome Pack and take a DECISION on its content and distribution.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to obtain estimates for printing 100 copies, to be distributed to residents on the Bellway Estate by Cllr Trull.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

12k.12 .19 To AGREE a date for a budget working group meeting to consider the 2020/21 budget.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to hold the budget working party meeting on Weds 15th January at 7.30pm.

13.12.19 Items for Information only

13a.12.19 To RECEIVE the register of correspondence received.

The register of correspondence was received.

13b.12.19 To NOTE the consultation on the Stroud Local Plan.

The consultation was noted.

13c.12.19 To NOTE the Doing More Together brochure from South Gloucestershire Council which details the commercial services offered.

The brochure was noted.

14.12.19 To CONSIDER and take a DECISION on the application for a donation to the Poppy Appeal.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to make a donation of £150 towards the Poppy Appeal.

15.12.19 To CONSIDER the application for grant aid from Wickwar Youth Club.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to award a grant of £3000 to Wickwar Youth Club for the financial year 2020/21. It was further RESOLVED to advise WYC that Wickwar Parish Council is unlikely to be able to increase the grant to £5000 in 2021/22.

16.12.19 To CONSIDER and take decision on how the agreed £2000 grant to Wickwar Village Hall will be funded.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to pay the £2000 grant to the Village Hall from CIL funding.

17.12.19 To NOTE the interment and placement of memorial (cremation) IRO Griffin.

The interment and placement of memorial was noted.

18.12.19 To NOTE the monthly bank reconciliation for October 2019, and the Councillor check of the bank reconciliation. Chairman to sign as a true record.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to accept the bank reconciliation for October 2019. It was duly signed.

19.12.19 To APPROVE accounts for payment and NOTE additional payments made in line with Financial Regulations. (These are listed in the attached payment schedule).

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the payments in the schedule should be paid.

20.12.19 To NOTE the budget monitoring report to 31st October 2019, prepared by the Clerk. Chairman to sign as a true record.

The report was noted.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

The meeting was closed at 9.50pm.

Wickwar Parish Council

Expenditure transactions - payments approval list 01/04/19

Start of year

Tn no	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net Invoice date	Details	Cheque
326	BACSMERE DITHS_5454	£140.00	£23.33	£116.67 01/04/19	MEREDITHS - 4 x Town Hall hanging baskets Summer 18	£140.00
327	BACSMERE DITHS_123	£150.00	£25.00	£125.00 01/04/19	MEREDITHS - Town Hall Christmas Trees 2018	£150.00
317	BACSSLCC 130276	£174.00	£29.00	£145.00 31/10/19	SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS - Cemetery legal compliance course 9/10/19	£174.00
318	BACSDANT EK45727	£384.00	£64.00	£320.00 31/10/19	Dantek Environmental Services - Pavilion Legionella Risk Assessment	£384.00
323	D/DPLUSNE T19_11_03	£28.20	£4.70	£23.50 03/11/19	PLUS NET - D/D Oct Town Hall Broadband	£28.20
321	BACSDBISA ACNov19	£82.80	£13.80	£69.00 06/11/19	D B ISAAC & PARTNERS - KGV autumn hedge trimming Nov19	£82.80
319	D/DOCTOPU SP19_11_08	£24.30	£1.16	£23.14 08/11/19	Octopus Energy - D/D Pavilion electric Nov19	£24.30
322	D/DTESCO1 9_11_08	£11.70	£0.00	£11.70 08/11/19	TESCO MOBILE - Mobile Nov bill	£11.70
320	D/DOCTOPU STH19_11_11	£9.54	£0.45	£9.09 11/11/19	Octopus Energy - D/D Town Hall electric Nov19	£9.54
324	BACSEdgel T33898	£242.40	£40.40	£202.00 11/11/19	Edge IT Systems Limited - AdvantEDGE finance Y1 (5 year contract)	£242.40
325	BACSHPInk _Oct19	£9.99	£1.67	£8.32 17/11/19	R E DAVIS - HP instant ink Oct19	£9.99
328	BACSMERE DITHS_2133	£140.00	£23.33	£116.67 25/11/19	MEREDITHS - 4 X Town Hall hanging baskets summer 2019	£140.00
329	BACSMERE DITHS_2019	£150.00	£25.00	£125.00 25/11/19	MEREDITHS - Town Hall Christmas trees 2019	£150.00
330	BACSTGAR DNER_1627	£65.00	£0.00	£65.00 28/11/19	TONY GARDENER - Repairs to pavilion guttering	£65.00
331	300015	£22.50	£0.00	£22.50 29/11/19	P TRULL - P Trull Nov expenses poppy wreath Confidential	£22.50
		£1,139.89	£0.00	£1,139.89		
Total		£2,774.32	£251.84	£2,522.48		

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

Appendix 1 Clerk's Report to the Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 6th November 2019

1. Please see progress against outstanding action points/ resolutions from previous meetings, below.

	Agenda Item	Action/ Description	Who	Progress
1.	03/04/19& 05/06/19 5.Clerk's report	Community infrastructure levy – Clerk to arrange meeting between Councillors and Greg Evans (South Glos) on a Weds evening.	Clerk	Awaiting outcome of Dec agenda item
2.	03/04/19 &05/06/19 5. Clerk's report	Cemetery noticeboard - Confirm cost of oak noticeboard with K Bateman and organise a plaque to read: Handmade in Wickwar by Kevin Bateman 2019	Councillor A Carroll/ Clerk	Ongoing
3.	03/07/19 11. CEF feedback	Trading Standards have raised concerns that rogue traders have been targeting vulnerable people in their homes. They advised that for any work costing over £42 there is a cooling-off period. - Advertise on the Wickwar Forum Face Book page.	Councillor Carroll/ all	To be completed
4.	03/07/19 13k, wildflowers	Research possible verges for reduced cutting/ wildflowers and bring proposals to a future meeting.	Clerk/ Councillor s Carroll & Trull	Clerk to put on Spring agenda
5.	04/09/19 13a. KGV Consultation	Research CCTV provision at an isolated site like the Playing Field to get an idea of cost and issues.	Clerk	Put on Jan agenda
6.	04/09/19 13d KGV pitch maintenance	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to approach Wickwar Wanderers Football Club to request that the Clerk organise pitch maintenance for the 2019/20 season.	Councillor Fielding	Completed – discuss with Lease Agreement (Jan agenda)
7.	04/10/19 11b KGV Play Area	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that two additional quotes for the three pieces of proposed play equipment be sought and presented to the Council, before funding for the three pieces is approved.	Councillor Carroll	Moved to Jan agenda
8.	04/10/19 11c KGV speed bumps	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to approve funding for five speed bumps, one warning sign and post, plus fitting. Order speed bumps and arrange fitting.	Clerk	In progress
9.	04/10/19 11g climate change	Develop proposal for an environmental policy on climate change to be considered by the Council.	Councillor Trull	Moved to Jan agenda
10.	04/10/19 11n	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to consider what further action could be taken to enforce the weight limit through the village, at a future meeting. Await feedback from S Glos Chief Exec ward walk on 30/09.	Clerk	Put on future agenda
11.	06/11/19 12b Town Hall Equality Act	It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Trull and Harris would investigate solutions to make the town hall	Cllr Trull Cllr Harris	Put on April agenda.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

	Agenda Item	Action/ Description	Who	Progress
		compliant with the Equalities Act, reporting back to the Council by April 2020.		
12	06/11/19 12e Health and safety/ risk management	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the clerk will draft a health and safety policy and carry out risk assessments of the Council's activities with support from Cllr Maidment. It was further RESOLVED to obtain three estimates for independent fire risk assessments and electrical testing of the town hall and pavilion.	Clerk Cllr Maidment	Risk assessments scheduled for Dec. Put on Jan agenda.
13	06/11/19 12i. closed and open cemeteries work ivy clearance	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to accept the estimate of £400 subject to the Clerk having sight of the original written estimate, and the relevant insurance documents belonging to the contractors.	Clerk Cllr Fielding	Requested and awaiting response
14	06/11/19 12j.VE Day	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to consider a proposal for a small grant scheme for community VE Day celebrations at a future meeting.	Clerk	Put on Jan agenda

2. The Clerk has spent time this month liaising with South Gloucestershire Highways on the traffic management consultation. She has also completed a draft of the Village Welcome Pack for new residents (on the agenda), drafted new cemetery regulations and completed a first draft of the 2020-21 budget. Work planned for December includes drafting a Health and Safety Policy, carrying out risk assessments of Council services, and completing a final draft of the new cemetery regulations.
3. Downs Road - The third and final new sign proposed to go on the land opposite the entrance to Hill House, will warn traffic exiting the village, of the turning for Westend. The Clerk has met with SG Highways to confirm the best location for the sign, so that it will not obstruct visibility for traffic exiting the playing fields access lane. The Clerk has written to the owners of Stable Cottage to request permission to erect the sign on their land.
4. Pavilion – The guttering was partially vandalised so the clerk engaged Tony Gardner Property Maintenance to repair/ replace the damaged section, at a cost of £65.
5. The Clerk sent off a form instructing closure of the Natwest account following the last Council meeting. It has not been actioned by Natwest, so it may be necessary for two signatories to visit the branch. The Clerk will advise.
6. Once the bank accounts have been transferred, the sum of £15,000 will be transferred to a one-year fixed term savings bond with Hampshire Trust Bank, as agreed at the July meeting.
7. The Clerk's appraisal is booked for December and will be carried out by at least one member of the Staff Committee. The Staff Committee will meet after the appraisal to consider the outcome, and will report back to the next appropriate meeting of the Council.
8. Annual leave – The Clerk would like to take Annual Leave from Friday 20th December to Weds 1st Jan (four days plus two additional statutory days' leave as per contract).

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

Appendix 2 - Report from the Ward Councillor

Report December 2019

An analysis of the English Indices of Deprivation 2019 for South Gloucestershire

Brief overview

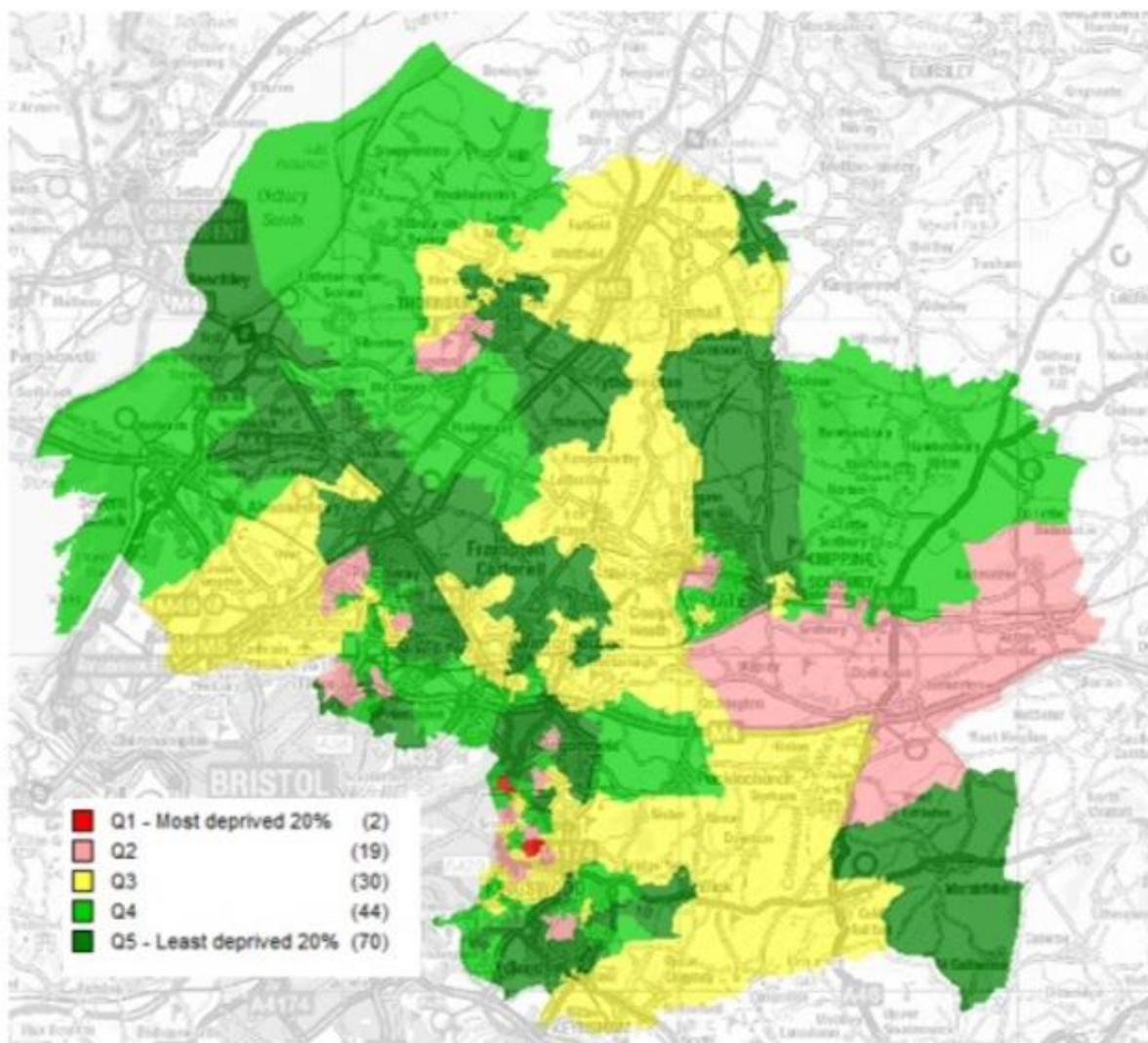
This report presents the findings of the English Indices of Deprivation 2019 (ID 2019) for South Gloucestershire

This report will also be available via SGC website: <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/statistics>

The report gives an in-depth overview of South Gloucestershire.

The map below gives us an instant overview. I have a copy via e mail if you contact me I will e mail you a

Map 1. English Indices of Deprivation 2019 – Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)



copy.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

High Street woes mount as 85,000 jobs feared lost

High Streets have been at the heart of our communities for centuries. However, as the way in which we shop changes High Streets have struggled to keep up. According to the Office for National Statistics online sales have increased by 600% in the past 12 years whilst in-store sales have struggled to maintain pace. Indeed, in the first half of 2019 2,870 shops closed across the UK, this amounts to 16 units being vacated every day.

At the High Street Regeneration conference delegates will hear of the strategies put in place by central and local government and the third sector to regenerate town centres across the country. Whilst significant effort has already been expended on high street regeneration, with many excellent examples of town centre revival, December 2018 was reported to be the worst year on record for in store sales. Indeed, the Government's announcement of the expansion of the Future High Streets Fund to cover 100 towns and provide £1 billion of support, was a welcome one.

The expansion of the Future High Streets Fund complements ongoing initiatives such as the Open Doors Programme, the use of big data to understand consumer needs, business improvement districts and creative uses of the planning system. These combined efforts share the goal of reducing the vacancy rate which now sits at 10.3%, protecting jobs and breathing new life into high streets.

This event will provide an invaluable opportunity for attendees to gain updates on the future of support for high street regeneration from senior policymakers and hear the latest funding opportunities available. Participants will also engage with a range of best practice local authorities who are implementing innovative solutions through a series of insightful case studies and discussions.

For further information please contact lily.southall-owen@governmentevents.co.uk

We are surrounded and live in small towns and villages. We must try and support local business if we can. For instance, the Buthay Pub (Wickwar) has started up a village shop. Use it or lose it.

New Waste Contract to Cut Costs and Litter

Following an in-depth review and negotiations with SUEZ, who operate waste and recycling vehicles in the area, improved terms have been agreed for the final five years of the PFI (Private Finance Initiative) that governs how kerbside collections are managed in South Gloucestershire.

As part of the ongoing Council Transformation and Savings Programme, we have been exploring the potential to make savings by renegotiating or potentially even withdrawing from the PFI arrangements with SUEZ. The review found that while savings were possible by bringing the service 'in-house', these were largely off-set by the costs associated with early exit from the contract.

By discussing with SUEZ our need to be as efficient as possible, while implementing ever-improved services to residents, reducing litter and further driving up recycling rates, we have reached agreement that means we can reduce our spending on the service in a way that will not impact kerbside collections.

As part of the new arrangements, which will retain the current contract with SUEZ until its end in 2025, the company have agreed to invest to improve the quality of the service, on top of savings of £1m per annum. SUEZ have agreed to make several changes to improve the quality of the service and value for money including:

- Installing CCTV cameras on all waste collection and recycling vehicles to provide better monitoring data, reduce littering and promote improved health and safety. SUEZ will also employ staff to review the footage to resolve any service issues.
- Buying additional recycling vehicles, which will improve collection round sizes and ensure that rounds are completed each day.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

- Using a 70/30 'split-back' vehicle at Christmas and Easter to collect the additional cardboard and mixed plastic and cans put out for collection at these times of year.
- Increased frequency of vehicle cleaning to help prevent avoidable equipment failure.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Toby Savage, said: "We recognise that as one of our most high-profile services, used by all residents and our business community, the quality of our waste and recycling services are hugely important.

"We are very pleased that having had constructive discussions with SUEZ over the past year, we have reached an agreement to not only improve the collection service, but also to achieve savings to our budgets and better value for money, this is a win for all.

"The collection crews work extremely hard, in all weathers. Their commitment, along with SUEZ and our achievements together with the public in driving up recycling rates and reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill, means we have a service that we can all be proud of. We can always do more, which is why we are working hard to update our Waste Strategy for the coming years, but the new vehicles and CCTV cameras to be installed will give us all increased confidence that we will achieve our objectives and ensure that South Gloucestershire remains a great place to live and work."

If you have any issues with refuse collection, please contact Ward Councillor Pat Trull

NEW SERVICE – The HandyVan team now offer a School and Commercial Building minor works maintenance service.

You may well know about this service, but it is worth having a reminder.

Our Handyvan team can offer an extra pair of hands to make your life easier, carrying out both small and larger jobs around the home and garden.

The services are available to all residents of South Gloucestershire. There are subsidised rates for home owners and private tenants who are over 60 years old and/or registered disabled for Home Maintenance.

Home security

A free home safety and security service is available to homeowners, occupiers and private tenants on request or referral. Improving the security of your home will reduce the risk of burglary and help make you feel safer in your home.

All information is on the SGC web site, along with a list of the many jobs that can be undertaken by the handy van service.

Contact phone number 01454 863857

Local groups are being encouraged to apply for Avon and Somerset Police's Road Safety Fund as part of this year's Road Safety Week.

The theme of the week is 'Step Up for Safe Streets', calling on individuals and organisations to play a part in helping to create a safer environment for road users. A good way to do this is through the Road Safety Fund, which gives grants of up to £5,000 to support local road safety initiatives.

The Road Safety Fund is part of the Police Community Trust and is generated through speed awareness courses before being invested back into the community to support projects that are tackling road safety. The fund is to support community and voluntary organisations who are working hard to keep their road safe.

A group that has already benefited from the fund is the Taunton Area Cycling Campaign (TACC) who last year received over £4,400 to implement a series of measures to raise awareness of 'safe pass' and improve local cyclists' confidence on the roads.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

Mike Ginger from TACC said: “We used the Road Safety Fund to create hi-viz vests and backpack covers with the message ‘1.5m please’ to emphasis the distance vehicles needs to be from cyclists. We have distributed 300 vests and covers and received plenty of positive feedback from local people who would recommend the equipment to other cyclists.

“We also used the fund to partly support training for group members who wanted to become ‘Bikeability’ instructors. The instructors meet nationally approved standards and now provide confidence training on a one-to-one basis to local cyclists. So far, over 30 local people have received training and many now have the confidence to cycle to work.

“Applying for the Road Safety Fund is straightforward, and we would certainly urge similar groups like us to look into the fund.”

The grant criteria for the Road Safety Fund is:

To support local communities to increase road safety and become safer, better places to live To increase improvements in road safety to reduce accidents and casualty figures in Avon and Somerset

To improve education and training for children, young people, learners, inexperienced drivers and older drivers

To reduce the economic and the personal costs of fatalities and serious injuries

To improve awareness and educate drivers about non-vehicle road users including horse riders and cyclists

The next application deadline is Sunday 1st December.

Trevor Simpson, Avon and Somerset Police Road Safety Manager, said: “Local people are often unsure how speeding fines are spent and we want to let residents know that this money is being reinvested back into communities to tackle road safety.

“The Road Safety Fund allows Avon and Somerset Police to support local people on projects they are passionate about to ensure all road users – motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to name a few – feel safe.

“Local people can make a huge difference to road safety and they know better than anyone what the road safety issues are in their area. I encourage local people and community groups to apply for the fund and help keep our roads safe.”

For further information, please visit: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/services/police-community-trust/road-safety-fund/>

If you or someone you know has been involved in a near miss incident on the road, it can be reported here: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/accident-on-the-road/#/video-footage>

For further information about the work of Taunton Area Cycling Campaign, visit: <https://thetacc.org.uk>

Councillor Pat Trull – pat.trull@southglos.gov.uk

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a healthy 2020.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date