

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2022 AT 7.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr S. Packer (Chair)
Mrs M Shaw (Parish Councillor,
Mr I. Kirkham (Parish Councillor)
Mrs D. Davidson (Parish Councillor)
Ms K. Hudson (Vice Chair)
Mrs N. Bradley (Clerk)

In Attendance

Mr K. Tucker (District Councillor)
Ms C. Braun (District Councillor)
Ms L. Cohen (County Councillor) (video link)
Mrs N. Heming }
Mr S. Lane }
Mrs C. Irons } Playground Group
Mr P. Chamberlain }
Mr R. Watson-Greaves }
Mr & Mrs J. Pinch }
Mr N. Forsyth }
Mrs J. Kirkham (PCC)
Mr & Mrs J. Brown }
Mr S. Ponting }
Mr J. Luck }

Mr Packer opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

1) Apologies

Mr G. James (District Councillor)

2) DPI Declarations and Dispensations

There were no declarations.

3) Approval of Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26th October 2022

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting was proposed by Ms Hudson, seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. They were duly signed. (1/23)

4) Matters Arising From the Minutes

All matters arising are dealt with later in these minutes

5) Reports by County and District Councillors

Cllr Cohen's report is attached. (2/23)

The District Councillors' report is also attached. (3/23)

The new Town and Parish Councils' Charter needs to be discussed and adopted. It was agreed to do this at the next meeting after all have read the document. [Action All](#) (4/23)

The local Police Crime Report for the last quarter of 2022 has been received and is attached. (5/23)

6) Planning Matters

New Since Last Meeting

- S.23/0055/DISCON, The Ridings Wick Lane, discharge of condition 2 (enhancement of biodiversity) from S.22/0250/HHOLD (6/23)
- S.22/2700/FUL, Land At Parford Farm Wick Lane, temporary rural workers dwelling and erection of agricultural buildings with yard. Concerns have been raised by several residents about this application. Highways have recommended a refusal and there are six objections on the website. It was agreed that the Council will object on the grounds that the number of barns and large scale of farming will alter and be detrimental to the nature and landscape of the area; access is difficult and the increase of large vehicles on this narrow lane will be dangerous, especially in view of the plans to establish a children's playground at the other end; light pollution and increased noise will be detrimental to neighbouring properties; there are serious concerns about the lack of a waste management plan and the increase in buildings will lead to more excess surface water on land that is often boggy. [Action Clerk](#) (7/23)
- S.22/2702/FUL, Lorrige Farm Bristol Road, erection of new commercial building and Change of use to commercial yard area (retrospective) (8/23)

Decided Since Last Meeting

- S.22/2217/HHOLD, proposed replacement and resetting of roof tiles, repair of structure, addition of insulation at roof level, chimney stack revision. refurbishment of existing dormer windows. addition of front dormer window and addition of internal stud wall at loft level. Permitted. (9/23)
- S.22/2218/LBC, Lamport Court, as above (10/23)
- S.22/2471/HHOLD, Pentire, Wick Lane, erection of extensions and detached garage converted into annex & home office. Permission (11/23)
- S.22/2349/T5DAY, The Old School House, removal of dead Persian Iron Wood. Approval (12/23)

Still Undecided

- S.22/1462/FUL, land At A38, Bristol Road, Berkeley, construction of straw barn (13/23)
- S.22/0817/AGR, Land At Stinchcombe, erection of agricultural building. Prior Approval or EIA required (14/23)

Enforcement staff have checked on the work at Overdale House and found that the fence is at the correct height but one window is not as planned. This will be rectified with a retrospective application. (15/23)

The enforcement team has not yet reported back on the possible need for planning permission for the groundworks at the rear of Townsend Farm. (16/23)

7) Footpaths and Rights of Way

Mr Davidson will be invited to attend the next meeting for which he is available. [Action Mrs Davidson and Clerk](#) (17/23)

Mrs Shaw has reported the boulder on the bridle way on the Highways website. (18/23)

In March PROW contractors will be working on the Cotswold Way and the permissive path as part of a project to provide a wheelchair-accessible route between the public car park and the Stanley Tubbs shelter. (19/23)

8) Highways

The VAS has arrived and the Speedwatch Group has completed its indoor training to use it.

Permission was granted by the Parish Council for them to use the flagpole for the outdoor component of their training, providing it is protected from scratching and the PCC is given prior notice. (20/23)

The Village Gateways are being made this week. The contractor has not yet provided information on the dates for the work but it is hoped that installation of the gates and VAS posts will begin in the week commencing 27th February. (21/23)

Ms Hudson has received mixed messages about the possibility of placing warning signs on Tait' Hill at the site of the recent accident. Cllr Tucker will seek clarification at his upcoming meeting with the assistant PCC. Cllr Cohen will liaise with the victims' families about removal of the dead flowers from the site [Action Cllrs Tucker and Cohen](#) (22/23)

The speed survey on Tait's Hill is taking place this week but Highways have now decided not to do one at Berkeley road because the national speed limit is in place there. (23/23)

Mr Luck kindly offered to clear the plant growth which is blocking the footway outside Eaves Cottage and will liaise with Ms Hudson about this. [Action Ms Hudson](#) (24/23)

9) Facilities

A cheque for £100 has been received from the Matthew Tyndall Educational Foundation towards the cost of repairing the swings. Mr Pinch is willing to carry out the repairs and Mr Lane will help. The Clerk will write to thank MTEF and to Mr Pinch to arrange repairs. [Action Clerk and Mr Lane](#). (25/23)

New Playground

Ms Hudson explained that members of the Parish council had met to discuss its position further. It was agreed to move forward on the reduced design without staged development or planning permission so long as a Certificate of Lawful Proposed Use or Development (CLPUD) is obtained to confirm that the reduced design can be built on the Church Field under permitted development rights. Mr Pinch has this in hand. [Action Mr Pinch](#) (26/23)

As a condition, the Parish Council asked that the Playground Group support its plans to repair and enhance the existing play equipment next to the village Hall. This would involve discussion with the Rugby Club to establish what is possible and formalise a lease. Mrs Heming said that the group would be happy to support this though they have limited capacity. Ms Hudson suggested that representatives of the PC and Playground Group meet with the Club. Mr Lane offered to represent the Group and the PC will select a representative later. The clerk will write to the Rugby club to sort out a meeting. [Action Mr Lane and Clerk](#) (27/23)

The Council will also press for a reduction of the speed limit in the vicinity of the new playground to 20mph and asked that the Playground Group support this. (28/23)

In view of these changes, the PC had also asked the PCC to review its conditions for use of the Church Field. Mrs Kirkham explained that this has been done and the PCC will no longer require a phased development or planning permission so long as a CLPUD is obtained as above. The PCC also offered to send a rep to the Playground Group which Mrs Heming welcomed. (29/23)

Mrs Kirkham also said that the PCC has very limited funds to cover legal fees to draw up a lease. Ms Hudson will approach Scarlett Guy for advice and possible help on this. It was also agreed that members of the Playground Group would draw up suggested terms for a lease for agreement with

the PC and PCC. [Action Ms Hudson, Mrs Heming, Mr Lane etc](#) (30/23)

Mrs Heming added that the Group has produced an environmental statement although it is not required by the Planning Department. (31/23)

10) Environment

A litter pick is planned for Sunday 12th March at 10.30 am from the Village Hall. The Clerk will publicise this on Enews. [Action Clerk](#) (32/23)

11) Financial Matters

The precept request for £5,933.00 has been sent to SDC. (33/23)

Acceptance of the proposed budget was proposed by Mrs Shaw, seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. (33/23)

Donations totalling £6,000 have been promised towards the costs of the Village Gateways and the clerk will place an item on Enews asking if any more residents would like to contribute. [Action Clerk](#) (34/23)

The Statement of Payments and Receipts was signed by Mr Packer and Ms Hudson. (35/23)

Authorisation for payment of £73.00 subscription to SLCC was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Mrs Shaw and carried unanimously. (36/23)

The proposed change of bank account is ongoing. [Action Clerk](#). (37/23)

12) Councillors' Reports

Mr Kirkham has dealt with the ivy on the Avenue trees. (38/23)

Mrs Davidson was concerned about the litter in the bus stop at the Village Hall. She and Ms Hudson will clear it out. [Action Mrs Davidson and Ms Hudson](#) (39/23)

13) Proposed New Code Of Conduct

Discussion of SDC's document was carried over to the next meeting.

14) Possible Neighbourhood Plan

No comments have been received from residents. (40/23)

15) Concerns about current use of Prince of Wales Hotel

Several residents have made enquiries about the use of the Prince of Wales but in light of an email from SDC's Monitoring Officer, the subject was not discussed. This is a Home Office matter and there is strict guidance on discussing it. This information will be relayed to residents via Enews. [Action Clerk](#). (41/23)

16) Plans for the Coronation of King Charles

The Village Hall Committee has suggested a joint celebration with the PC and church similar to that

for last year's Jubilee. The PC is happy to take part but would not want the event to be a fund-raiser. A joint meeting will be held on Monday 20th February. Action all who can attend. (42/23)

17) Data Protection

There were no Data Protection issues.

18) Items for Website

The Clerk will post items about the litter pick, village gateways and the Prince of Wales Action Clerk (43/23)

Mr Lane will post an update on the current playground plans Action Mr Lane.(44/23)

Mr Davidson plans to post an item about footpaths.

19) Dates of Next Meeting

Wed 15th Mar 7.30pm

Wed 3rd May 7.00pm, Parish Assembly
7.30pm AGM

Wed 7th June 7.30pm

Wed 19th July 7.30pm

Wed 6th Sept 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF 1ST FEBRUARY 2023
STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS AND AUTHORISATIONS

Building Society balance on 14th December £17,158.82

Receipts since 14th December

Donation from Matthew Tyndell's Educational Foundation (repair of swings) £ 100.00

Payments since 14th December

Elan City (VAS) £ 2,640.00

Clerk's salary, Nov/Dec/Jan £ 336.50

Building Society balance on 1st February £14,282.82

Authorisation is sought for

SLCC Subscription £ 73.00

Prepared by

Approved by

E.N. Bradley
Clerk & RFO
February 2023

S.Packer
Chairman

K.Hudson
Vice Chairman 1st

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

BUDGET 2022-23

	Actual 2022-23	Predicted 2023-24
INCOME		
Parish Precept	£5,650.00	?£5,750.00
Building Society Interest	£14.56	c£20.00
VAT Refund	£174.21	*£210.11
Grants & Windfalls (CIL)	£1,610.17	
Donations towards costs of village Gateways	c£6,000.00	
TOTAL	£13,448.94	£6,163.11
EXPENDITURE		
Clerk's Salary (full year)	£1,465.00	c£1,550.00
<u>Regular expenditure paid</u> (to 1 st Dec 2021)		
Insurance	£507.71	c£550.00
Playsafety	£84.00	£84.00
Audits	£110.00	£110.00
Subscriptions		c.£200.00
Village Hall	£300.00	£300.00
TOTAL	£2,466.71	£2,794.00
<u>Regular expenditure still outstanding</u>		
Subscriptions	c.£200.00	
<u>Other expenditure</u> (to 1 st Dec 2022)		
Notice board	£1,176.70	
<u>Other planned expenditure</u>		
Village gateways, including all installation costs	£4,248.36	
Vehicle activated signs, including all installation costs	£11,027.77	
Payment to SHT (Village Green mowing)	£300.00	
Contribution to traffic calming equipment		£2,000.00
Training		£50.00
TOTAL	£16,952.83	£2,050.00
<u>In reserve</u>		

Avenue trees contingency	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Contribution to improved play equipment	£500.00	£500.00
TOTAL	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
TOTAL	£21,419.54	£4,844.00

* To end 1st Dec 2022

Notes

(1) Subscriptions still to be paid:-

GAPTC 22-23 £130.00 approx

SLCC £ 73.00

Remaining income = - £3,622.43

Current reserve = £17,658.82 (at 1st Dec 2022)

Stinchcombe Parish Council County Councillor's Report

Prepared by Cllr Linda Cohen – January 31, 2023

Stinchcombe Items

- Highways Local – I had hoped to be able to confirm an allocation of budget for Wotton but the new draft GCC budget for 2023/24 includes the proposal that £10k of my Highways Local budget is returned to the general pot. We are lobbying to maintain the full allocation. I will know more in February.
- Potholes – I have reported a major pothole on Echo Lane which will be repaired this week.
- Build Back Better Fund – This money has been almost exhausted. I have ring fenced a small amount of seed funding for the community playground and community space on the basis that progress is now being made.

General Update

- Potholes

Post the snow fall and poor weather pot holes have been opening up across the county. Where I am made aware of significant damage that poses a serious risk I am asking Highways to attend, fix in 2 hours and then provide a safety inspection.

I would ask that residents report any issue related to: potholes; lights, signals and signs; damage to pavement or kerb; road markings and stud issues trees, hedges and vegetation; drainage and flooding; spillages or obstructions on the road; Winter Maintenance - Grit and PROW - public footpaths & bridleways (not pavements).

issues can also be logged here:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>

- Claims

I have been asked by residents whether they can claim for damage to their tyres and cars as a result of hitting a pothole. There is a process, which allows you to make a claim. However I have been advised that if a pothole appears and Highways are notified, attend and repair the pothole within 28 days (or in a couple of hours as happened before Christmas), then it is very unlikely that the insurance company would pay out on the claim.

I think this background is useful to save residents spending time on unsuccessful claims.

If any resident wants more information they can email me:

Linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk

- Have your say on healthy lifestyles service

Gloucestershire County Council wants to hear your views on their proposed changes to the healthy lifestyle service.

As part of the council's legal duty to improve the health and wellbeing of local people and reduce health inequalities, they provide a [healthy lifestyles service that supports people to make changes like quitting smoking or losing weight](#).

The current contract comes to an end in March 2024 and the council wants to hear your feedback on their proposed changes for the new service starting on 1 April 2024.

Since the healthy lifestyles service was first put in place in 2017, there has been an increase in lifestyles support available to every adult in the county including the [NHS digital weight management programme](#) and the Community Wellbeing Service.

With this in mind, the council is proposing to change the weight management offer (currently a referral to Slimming World) to more bespoke, targeted support for those people who find it most difficult to benefit from mainstream services. The aim is to continue to work with community organisations to deliver personalised support alongside activities already available in their local community.

It was announced in September that [£3.6 million would be invested into a separate bespoke service for children and families](#), as recent data shows a significant increase in the number of young people that have obesity since the start of the pandemic. Without intervention, childhood obesity tends to carry on into adulthood and can cause serious health complications like heart disease and diabetes. The support for children is therefore not part of this consultation.

The consultation runs from Monday 30 January to Sunday 16 April. You can have your say by [taking part in the survey here](#).

- New campaign to save energy costs and cut carbon

An energy-saving campaign has been launched by Gloucestershire County Council today, aimed at helping residents to save money and carbon this winter.

The campaign, called 'Cutting costs and carbon', encourages people to see what they can do to reduce energy usage and make their homes more energy-efficient.

In the UK, around 22 per cent of the country's carbon emissions come from our homes - including emissions from heating, lighting and appliances.

According to the Energy Saving Trust (EST), the average household could save about £280 a year on its fuel bills by being more energy-efficient. This equates to more than a tonne of carbon emissions per household every year.

The campaign aims to save residents money by helping them reduce the amount of energy consumed in their homes by making simple changes or investing in low energy solutions.

It will run until the middle of March and focus on three different areas - measures which involve no cost, low cost and some cost. Some of the ideas include:

No cost:

- Turning boiler flow rates down - save an average of £100 a year
- Switching appliances off rather than leaving them on standby - save an average of £70 a year
- Turning the oven off 10 minutes before your food is ready - it will retain heat and continue cooking

Low cost:

- Radiator reflectors
- Draught excluders - save an average of £60 a year
- Secondary glazing

Some cost:

- Switching to LED lights - save up to £55 a year
- Renewable opportunities - save up to £455 a year
- Home insulation - save up to £355 a year

All costs taken from <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/energy-saving-advice/>

- Have your say on how to reduce Gloucestershire's transport emissions

Gloucestershire County Council wants your views on how transport can be decarbonised. The council, along with all other Gloucestershire authorities, declared a

climate emergency in 2019 and the county council adopted a Climate Change Strategy. This strategy saw the council set out the following carbon reduction targets:

- The county council's own operational emissions to be net zero by 2030
- Emissions from all sources across the county to be net zero by 2050
- The county to work with partners to deliver an 80% reduction in emissions by 2030, relative to 2005.

In 2020, the county council strengthened its targets further, committing to reaching net zero emissions from all sources across the county by 2045.

The council, in partnership with UK100, held the Gloucestershire Decarbonising Transport Forum 2022 – Journey to Net Zero in July 2022. The forum's aim was to bring together key stakeholders and experts to discuss Gloucestershire's journey to net zero.

The council wants to hear from its residents, businesses, and community groups, to understand what they think are the best methods for reducing the emissions and tackling the climate emergency.

For more information and details on how to have your say, visit <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/journey-to-net-zero>.

A public survey will run from Friday, 13 January until Tuesday, 28 February 2023

- Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) urge making fire safety a New Year priority

As part of the Fire Kills campaign, GFRS is advising residents to fit smoke alarms on every level of their home and to test them regularly.

Latest statistics reveal that one smoke alarm may not be enough to provide you with the best chance of escaping a fire in the home.

Despite the majority of homes (90 per cent) having at least one working smoke alarm,

smoke alarms alerted householders to a fire in England in only 45 per cent of cases. The most common reason it failed to activate was because the fire was outside its range.

GFRS is encouraging people to follow these smoke alarm tips:

- Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home
- Fit your smoke alarms in the right place – the ideal position is on the ceiling, in the middle of a room or on a hallway or landing
- Consider fitting extra alarms in other rooms where there are electrical appliances and near sleeping areas
- Don't put alarms in or near kitchens and bathrooms, where smoke or steam can set them off by accident
- Replace your smoke alarms every ten years
- Do not ignore a neighbour's beeping smoke alarm

GFRS is also advising carers and people who keep a close eye on less able relatives to check their homes have enough smoke alarms and are in the right places.

Mark Preece, Chief Fire Officer, said: "We must all make sure that we have enough smoke alarms to cover our whole homes. If you don't have enough, or they're not in the right place, you might not be alerted in time.

For advice specific to you and your home, visit www.ohfsc.co.uk and complete your own home fire safety check. For further information, visit: fireengland.uk/fire-safety and or [Smoke Alarm Advice - Glosfire \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](http://Smoke Alarm Advice - Glosfire (gloucestershire.gov.uk))

- No Person is an Island; Director's debut report published

Gloucestershire County Council's Director of Public Health, Siobhan Farmer, has published her first annual report which highlights how important connecting with others is for good health and wellbeing as well as ways to prevent loneliness.

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022, entitled 'No Person is an Island; Social Connections in Gloucestershire', also reflects on the challenges everyone faced to maintain their social connections during the pandemic, and how this led to an increase in isolation and loneliness.

During the pandemic, a million more adults across the UK had become chronically lonely,

disproportionately affecting young people, people living alone, people on low incomes or unemployed and people with mental health conditions. The report looks at how tackling social isolation and loneliness is not the responsibility of just one organisation or group of people – everyone can play their part in supporting people who may be at risk of experiencing loneliness and enabling communities to have the social connections they need and want.

Siobhan, said, “This year my report reflects on our learning from the pandemic and the importance of connecting with others for our mental and physical wellbeing. We know that having good-quality relationships can help us to live longer, happier lives with fewer mental health challenges. Support from our social networks, for example family and friends, can strengthen our ability to bounce back after stressful situations, and as a result we believe tackling social isolation is something everyone can do. One thing we can all do is check in on someone, be that a friend, family or a neighbour”.

The report also showcases some of the projects and groups working to bring people together in Gloucestershire and provides recommendations of actions that individuals, communities and organisations can take to make sure Gloucestershire is a place which connects people.

The Digital Hubs project has been showcased for its innovative approach to tackle digital exclusion across Gloucestershire. Developed by Forest Voluntary Action Forum and The Adult Transformation Team at Gloucestershire County Council, the project’s aim is to increase digital inclusion across the whole of Gloucestershire in a rolling programme between April 2022 and April 2023. Volunteers meet with people in local venues, from community centres to cafés and pubs, to improve their digital skills. Residents can learn how to use a computer for ordering groceries online or how to video call their families, helping people to get confident with technology and connect with those around them. Find out more and watch their video [here](#).

This year, video case studies have been added to the online version of the report. Hear from Siobhan Farmer and a selection of projects taking place in Gloucestershire online at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/public-health-report-2022/ Read the pdf version online via https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2120817/annual-public-health-report-2022_23.pdf

What you can you do to create a more connected Gloucestershire?

The report highlights how important social connections are for our physical and mental

health, and there are steps everyone can take to help prevent loneliness:

- Take time each day to reach out to family and friends. This could be arranging to go for a walk together, a telephone call or text, or a video call with loved ones who you cannot meet in person.
- Join a local community group, sports team, or hobby group to find other like-minded people with similar interest to you.
- Volunteer for a local charity to meet new people, support others and your local community.
- Build up digital resilience to help recognise and manage the risks you may come across when you socialise, explore, or work online. This could look like pausing before you respond to a social media comment, setting yourself a time limit for certain apps or talking to someone you trust about something which has caused concern.
- Reach out to those that may be at increased risk of isolation and loneliness, this could be offering a neighbour a cup of tea or checking if they need help with anything.
- New Executive Director of Children's Services appointed

Ann James has been appointed to the role of Executive Director of Children's Services at Gloucestershire County Council and will take over the role in 2023.

Chris Spencer, the current Executive Director of Children's Services, will leave his post with Ann set to takeover from the start of April.

Ann joined the council as Director for Safeguarding and Care at the end of January 2022. Since then, she has been part of delivering improvements designed to take Children's Services from an OFSTED rating of 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good'.

The new role will oversee all aspects of Children's Services, including education and safeguarding to ensure the delivery of consistently good services for all children and families, particularly the most vulnerable.

Ann joined the county council having worked successfully in senior positions in Bristol's

Children's Services and Community Safety. She has extensive knowledge and experience of safeguarding, as well as improving the quality and performance of services.

Throughout her 30-year career in Children's Services, Ann has a proven record of delivering family focused, cost effective, integrated services that improve outcomes for children and young people.

This has been achieved by taking a collaborative approach that brings partners together to deliver for children and young people. Taking a collaborative, integrated and early interventionist approach is critical at a time when our families and public sector services are facing the significant challenges brought about by COVID-19 and the rising cost of living.

Ann James said: "I am thrilled to be able to lead our improvement journey as the Executive Director of Children's Services.

"We know that investing in children today, pays dividends in the future. My commitment in taking this post will be to build a county that works for all children.

"I am looking forward to continuing to work with the incredible team we have in Children's Services as I take on this new role in 2023.

"I can't think of anyone whose role in the council or amongst partners doesn't in some way contribute to delivering great outcomes for children and young people, to building resilient families and communities in which children can thrive and go on to live remarkable lives".

- Climate Action

Nearly 3,000 young people from schools and youth groups across Gloucestershire responded to a Climate Action Survey.

The survey, carried out by the InterClimate Network, ran from July to October 2022 and received 2,778 responses from 11 to 25-year-olds.

It was conducted in collaboration with Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group, Creative Sustainability, Planet Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, and was supported by Gloucestershire County Council.

The findings showed that:

- 8 out of 10 young people are concerned about climate change
- 3 in 4 are already choosing to act on climate change
- 86 per cent support council action

It also highlighted that young people want more joined-up action and to be better represented at all levels, with systemic change as well as individual action, and for responsibility and action to be shared fairly across society.

The county council funds the Gloucestershire Climate Youth Group (GYCG) to ensure that young people have a chance to be involved with the work towards the county being carbon neutral by 2045.

Support is provided for GYCG by Creative Sustainability, a not-for-profit Community Interest Company, to provide opportunities and events for young people to build skills, develop teamwork and offer feedback on the county council's climate actions.

Their views, together with the findings from the Climate Action Survey, will inform the county council's approach to responding to the climate emergency.

- Contact

Happy New Year. My contact details are [Linda.cohen@gloucestershire .gov.uk](mailto:Linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk), telephone: 07791 110906. If you would like to discuss any of the items included here or have any other issues or ideas please get in touch.

Stroud District Councillors' Report – January 2023

Report of meetings during December 2022

All Stroud District Council and Committee papers can be found here:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings> Recordings of meetings are available via the Committee meeting webpage on the Council's You Tube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeH_AmF0s-TShcYIM8Stweg

Council meeting – 15 December

Parish and Town Council Charter – Council adopted the Charter which has been developed through six working groups with representatives from Parish and Town Councils in the district, in relation to five themes: consultation, communication, working in partnership, engagement, and resources.

The Charter will provide a clear and mutual understanding of roles and expectations of officers and members of both SDC and Parish and Town Councils. It promotes partnership working and co-operation between SDC and Parish and Town Councils beyond statutory frameworks and will assist with developing improved working relationships between councils.

It is hoped that the Charter will help councillors in partnership working to better address the challenges faced by local communities and to strengthen local decision making and improve local engagement.

The Charter is being circulated to all Parish and Town Councils and we hope that all will adopt it. A new online hub (website) for Parish & Town Councils has been set up to improve collaboration and communication. An annual schedule of events has also been developed to provide a useful resource that outlines key events and training opportunities relevant to Parish and Town Councils over the course of the year. Link to the Charter:

<https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s7030/Appendix%20A%20-%20Parish%20and%20Town%20Council%20Charter.pdf>

Member Champion roles – Council approved a framework and role descriptions for existing and new councillor roles:

- Mental Health Champion (Cllr Bennett, Cllr Gray and Cllr Watson)
- Armed Forces Champion (Cllr Robinson, Cllr Patrick)
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Champions (Cllrs Bennett, Brown, Drury-Layfield, Kay, Oxley)
- Migrant Champion - a new role, to champion the rights of migrants, advocate for migrants' rights, and be a point of contact for migrant residents and organisations supporting migrants ensuring their needs are considered and voices heard (Cllr Cornell).

Canal Project – Council supported a committee recommendation to increase the capital budget for the Canal Project by £10 million to meet a funding gap caused by Covid delays and increasing costs due to inflationary pressures for construction and materials. The project team have planned for the £10m additional funding to come from the following sources:

- Grants (£4 m - applications in progress)
- Lock Sponsorship (£1m over the next three years)
- Sale of excavated materials (£1m)
- SDC contribution (£1m – approved by Strategy & Resources Committee)
- Partners (£1m – over next three years)
- Fundraising (£2m – over next three years).

Financial regulations – regulations in the Council's constitution were updated to reference the latest job titles and to update the regulations on reserves and monetary levels.

Housing Committee – 6 December

New Homes and Regeneration Programme Update

Officers provided an update on the programme which can be found in the appendix [here](#). SDC has a strong track record of delivering affordable housing within the district, and since 2014, has built 280 new council homes. The latest new homes to be built have achieved an EPC-A rating which meets the Council's 2030 commitments on carbon reduction. The New Homes Programme is funded from capital receipts, external funding (from agencies such as Homes England) and borrowing (which is paid back through rental income).

The programme was set to deliver a further 65 homes by 2025, but given the escalating costs that are being experienced by all housing providers, the current budget for these schemes is no longer sufficient. Housing Committee voted to remove the Orchard Road site in Ebley (5 homes planned) from the programme as delivery costs for this site were much higher than others, and to support an additional budget of £5m (to be funded from capital receipts and borrowing) to enable the rest of the programme to continue.

The remaining sites in the programme are Gloucester Street/Bradley Street, Wotton-under-Edge (8 homes), Glebelands, Cam (23 homes), Cambridge House, Dursley (13 homes) and Queens Drive, Cashes Green (7 homes). The acquisition of three additional council homes at Symn Lane in Wotton partially offsets the 5 homes that would have been delivered at Orchard Road in Ebley.

The report appendix also includes an update on the two sites in Wotton:

- **Gloucester Street/Bradley Street**, Wotton-Under-Edge - has full planning permission for the construction of eight new affordable rented homes. The site includes four empty properties, two located on Gloucester Street and two on Bradley Street. The existing

homes would have required significant investment to improve the standard of accommodation and during the exploration of options for the homes; an opportunity arose to provide additional new affordable housing on the site. The site is currently fenced off and several ecology and ground investigation surveys have been ongoing. Unfortunately, there was a fire at one of the empty properties on Gloucester Street, which has now been made safe and EW Beard Ltd. will be demolishing all four of the properties in March 2023. In the meantime, the New Homes and Regeneration team are de-risking the project by progressing detailed design and liaising with statutory undertakers to develop the drainage and road designs. A start on site is forecast in Q2 of 2023 with completion anticipated in Summer 2024.

- **Symn Lane**, Wotton-Under-Edge - the council have reached commercial agreement to acquire three new homes, subject to contract, under a Section 106 agreement. This was to ensure their delivery with no other Registered Providers interested in acquiring them. This will provide three additional homes, comprising two affordable rent and one shared ownership property. Completion of the homes is due later this year with the contracts due to be completed around the same time.

Budget for 2023/24 - The Committee agreed that from 1st April 2023 that social rents and affordable rents for council homes will increase by 7%, in line with national rent guidance. Garage rents and landlord service charges will also increase by 7%. This increase will not cover the council's increase in costs for managing council homes. It will be possible to maintain a balanced budget for 2023/24 by using reserves, but significant savings will need to be found for future years to bridge the gap between expenditure and income for the Housing Revenue Account. The General Fund Housing revenue and capital budgets were also approved, which covers homelessness and temporary accommodation as well as grant funding to address fuel poverty in private sector housing through energy efficiency programmes.

Environment Committee – 8 December

Litter – There was a public question from local litter collector Eric Torrington, who has been working with officers to encourage the council to be bolder in its pressure on retailers - in particular local supermarkets - on litter in and immediately around their premises. Members requested an information report from officers in six month's time on progress re litter and officers will write to Siobhan Baillie MP for her support in pressing for faster regulatory change to force the hand of retailers on litter and waste packaging generally.

Ubico - Ubico Managing Director Beth Broughton and her Chief Financial Officer provided an update on the Teckal company's strategy. Ubico is seeking to reduce its climate impact and help partners to achieve their own carbon neutral goals.

Budget reports for Q2 2022/3, and the initial budget for 23/24 were shared. An amendment was proposed (by Cllr Drury-Layfield, seconded by Cllr Hynd) and then approved, for an increase in the Walking & Cycling capital budget of £250k.

The primary item of business was then the Community Infrastructure Levy allocations. Members voted to follow the officer recommendation and to propose to S&R that the following projects are funded:

- SGS Stroud College '14-16 Create Centre' - £25k
- Dudbridge to Ryeford Cycle Trail Surface Improvements - £75k (plus £75k from the Walking & Cycling budget)
- Berkeley Town Improvement Project - Preliminary Design - £20,239 (plus £20k from the Walking & Cycling budget)
- Wotton Community Sports Foundation The New Barn - £75k (£25k more than requested)

A feasibility bid for accessibility works on Dudbridge steps is being supported by the Walking & Cycling budget instead. Of a total available CIL budget of £1.1 million, £930,921 is retained in recognition of the strategically important projects that have expressed an interest in CIL funding but are not yet in a position to deliver.

Other reports presented to the Committee:

- Strategic Planning Advisory Board
- Stroud Regeneration Committee
- Performance Monitoring
- Update on the Stroud Valley Natural Flood Management Project Information Sheet
- A Strategic Action Plan for the River Frome by the Severn Vale catchment Partnership Information Sheet
- Climate Leadership Gloucestershire group

Development Control Committee – 13 December

The Committee considered the committee budget, and one application:

68 Thrupp Lane, Thrupp, Stroud, Gloucestershire, S.22/1503/HHOLD (Pages 19 - 30) Erection of second storey extension and erection of detached garage and car port. Committee supported the officer recommendation to permit the application.

Community Services & Licensing Committee – 1st December

Taxis - Committee approved an Interim Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Emissions Policy as proposed by the Task and Finish Group and to approve it prior to formal consultation.

Committee agreed that it would not be proportionate to impose mandatory CCTV in Stroud licensed taxi and private hire vehicles.

Reports were discussed on Performance Monitoring Q1 and Q2, Budget Monitoring Q1 & Q2 and Committee Revenue Estimates.

Reports were also presented as follows:

- Museum in the Park (Cowle Trust)
- Police and Crime Panel
- Citizens Advice
- Mental Health Champions
- Homestart
- Woodchester Park Mansion
- Progress update on Stroud Lido
- Progress on Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) – for SDC leisure centres.

Other issues

More affordable homes than ever are being enabled by Stroud District Council

The number of new affordable homes enabled by Stroud District Council has doubled in the past year. The district council plays a key role in working with partners to facilitate much-needed new affordable homes for rent and shared ownership, and usually runs at an average of 120 per year. However in 2021/22 the council has had its best year of affordable housing completions - 245. These are mostly completions with housing association partners and represent a mix of housing sites such as Great Oldbury at Eastington, and more rural sites such as Chalkwood at Chalford.

Affordable housing, which can be for either rent or sale, is for those whose needs are not met by the market. It includes different tenures, including social rent, affordable rent and shared ownership, among others. To find out more about homes for rent, visit www.homeseeckerplus.co.uk and for shared ownership homes: <https://www.helptobuyagent3.org.uk/>

Cost of Living Emergency – warm spaces mapped across the district

Stroud District Council has been working with community partners to map more than 40 warm spaces across the district where volunteers are stepping up for their communities in response to rises in the cost of living. Most offer hot drinks, free Wi-fi and charging facilities, as well as a warm and friendly welcome. Some host activities such as art and crafts, film nights and pay-as-you-feel community cafes.

Interactive map: <https://cscic.org/community-hubs/warm-spaces-in-stroud/>

To add a warm space to the map, contact communityhubs@cscic.org.

There are also resources for volunteers on this website and people are able to make a donation. SDC is funding a warm spaces coordination team, which draws on the expertise and insight of

local groups and partnerships. They are working together to create online cost-of-living resources, signposting materials, marketing materials and ensure that warm spaces and their volunteers are supported, and have access to appropriate training.

For further information www.stroud.gov.uk/costofliving (on money, energy and water, food, family and childcare, mental health support, and warm spaces). For anyone in immediate need of food or fuel and who has no money, SDC can refer them to the Foodbank where they can provide emergency food parcels and a small amount of credit for household fuel. Contact Stroud District Council on 01453 766321 or customer.services@stroud.gov.uk and ask to be referred.

Gloucestershire County Council also has support for households experiencing financial hardship. Apply to their Household Support Fund online or by calling 01452 425000.

For those who are not online, SDC Neighbourhood Wardens are helping to deliver leaflets with cost of living support telephone numbers to parish and town councils. SDC is printing copies of the GCC support phone number, the Worrying About Money leaflet and a Mental Health signposting leaflet and will be sharing electronic copies of these with parish and town councils.

Bath Place, Cheapside, Stroud– redevelopment site

In December SDC completed the purchase of land at Bath Place, Cheapside in Stroud town centre from Newland Homes, as a regeneration site linking to the Wallbridge area. This is a 0.9 acre brownfield canal side plot, which has stood empty for decades, and includes a fire-damaged Grade II Listed former canal warehouse. The land already has consent for development, but the Council will be looking to prepare new site plans over the next year, to improve connections between the canal and the town centre, and to rebalance the size and types of housing.

Climate disclosure project results

Climate change experts have rated SDC's work to tackle climate change as better than last year and on the way up. The 2022 Climate Disclosure Project (CDP) results awarded a 'B' for SDC work. More than 1,000 cities, states, regions and districts across the globe submitted data to the CDP which then independently rates them on their environmental transparency, leadership and action.

In the area of mitigating and adapting to climate change (which includes flood defences and retrofitting_ SDC was given an 'A' grade. That compares to a regional average of 'C' and a global average of 'D'.

For more information: <https://www.cdp.net/en> and follow #StroudDistrict2030 on social media for the latest updates on the council's climate work.

Stinchcombe parish Police report Oct - Dec 2022

Your Dursley & Cam Neighbourhood Policing Team



Garrett Gloyn
Police Sergeant



Abbigail Barker
PCSO



Simon Greenfield
Police Constable



Elizabeth Ward
PCSO



Tony Martin
PCSO

Recorded crime

Period : 01OCT2022 - 31DEC2022 Compared With 01OCT2021 - 31DEC2021
Stinchcombe

HO Band	Crime 01Oct22 31Dec22	Crime 01Oct21 31Dec21	+/-	% Crime Diff
Violence	3	2	1	
Sexual Offences	0	0	0	
Robbery	0	0	0	
Burglary - Residential	0	1	-1	
Burglary - Business & Community	0	0	0	
Theft	0	0	0	
Fraud	0	0	0	
Criminal damage	1	1	0	
Drugs	0	0	0	
Other notifiable	2	0	2	
=	6	4	2	

Observations on the above statistics: Stinchcombe crime rate is one of the lowest in the district.

Proactive work this quarter in the Dursley and Cam policing area (parishes of Dursley, Cam, Coaley, Stinchcombe and Uley;

- PcsO Ward completed Speed checks with the community speed watch group in Cam during December.
- NPT officers assisted with the annual Christmas drink drive campaign during December in Cam and Durley.
- NPT attended and supported the Christmas Light switch on in Dursley / Cam
- PcsO Martin has continued to work with staff from the DOOR project to lower ASB IN Dursley
- NPT officers Investigated reports of a burglary / thefts from a property in Coaley. They identified the offenders and achieved a RJ resolution to the victim's satisfaction.
- Partnership working with Stroud Neighbourhood wardens to investigate reports of fly tipping / anti social behaviour in several Parishes.
- In total 6 vehicles have been removed from the roads during this quarter for either no insurance or tax.