

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 12 February 2020
PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

1. Questioner's name: Nigel Adcock	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>I am very concerned about traffic arrangements on Cleeve Hill. Obviously a drain collapse is serious and merits immediate repair. My worry is that traffic will use Gambles Lane and Stockwell Lane in both directions. This is a serious incident waiting to happen. There will be traffic jams, cars going onto verges and quite possibly bad behaviour or worse from drivers. The verges to the sides of Gambles Lane are very carved up anyway. Would the council please give urgent consideration to making Gambles and Stockwell Lanes one way; either up or down?</p>	<p>We looked at this option – and there were serious road safety concerns that pursuing it would increase speeds on the roads – putting road users such as cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians at increased risk.</p> <p>We strongly recommend vehicles use the signed diversion which is suitable for all road users and will help avoid local congestion. We appreciate some road users will choose not to follow this advice and will use local routes away from our diversion.</p> <p>The council will continue to monitor traffic in the local area while we repair the road, and adjust the signs in the area if needed.</p>
2. Questioner's name: Nigel Adcock	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>Further to my previous email I have a couple of supplementary questions. Why was the drain problem not noticed when Cleeve Hill Road was recently resurfaced? What bus provisions are being made for vulnerable people who rely on their bus service? How much is this costing? My final question is not a criticism as I comprehend the situation regarding our old drains; I am however curious.</p>	<p>In September 2019 a serious defect was reported in the carriageway - an underlying drainage issue was suspected but in order to pinpoint the problem and identify a solution it was necessary to carry out a survey and subsequent analysis. The road was put under single lane usage to allow the continued safety of the travelling public whilst we could fully assess the situation. The surrounding lanes are subject to an existing weight restrictions, which lorry drivers should adhere to (this includes the bus companies). Bus companies were informed as</p>

	soon as the road closure was approved and have made their own arrangements for the duration of the closure. The overall anticipated cost of the works is £69,000.
3. Questioner's name: Chloe Turner	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
I understand that the Budget Consultation comments show double the number of residents calling for investment in foot paths, cycle routes and public transport as those focussing on highways improvement, so my fellow residents have quite clearly demonstrated their demand for the these crucial measures to combat climate change. We don't want M5 junction upgrades to drive growth, we want to cut our carbon emissions and, specifically, to be able to go to work and about our lives without using a car. So why has no substantial investment in rural public transport been budgeted for, other than some minor and localised adjustments to cycle ways?	Today's budget proposals include £10m to support buses and community transport, which remains an important priority for the council. Making sure we have enough houses for people in the county, is also an important priority, as is making sure the council has the green growth that will be necessary to support employment and fund decarbonisation in future.
4. Questioner's name: Sebastian Field	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
When will Scott Avenue, Podsmead, be resurfaced?	Work from our £150m investment in roads is prioritised on the basis of road condition, and higher priority roads will be resurfaced first. Scott Avenue hasn't reached the threshold this year – but there are 3 more years of the planned programme.
5. Questioner's name: Sebastian Field	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
What is the cost of the work being done on Podsmead Road in February?	Approximately £66,000.

6. Questioner's name: Sebastian Field	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
Why is the county council only allocating £100K to cycle tracks in the next budget?	We're spending significantly more. The draft budget includes over £917k of spending on cycle routes, alongside the money that we will spend as part of routine maintenance. That's not including the anticipated £1.6m investment into cycle routes between Gloucester and Cheltenham.
7. Questioner's name: Sebastian Field	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
What progress is being made on new road surfaces such as those containing recycled materials?	We use a minimum of 10% recycled aggregate in resurfacing schemes – rising to 30% in some cases. We've also recently tailed use of waste plastic, and are currently conducting a trial using waste rubber. We also recycle all old surfacing material removed from our sites when it is safe to do so.
8. Questioner's name: Sebastian Field	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
The new system of feedback has told me several times now that repairs have been completed when they haven't. Are there some teething troubles?	I'm very happy to look into any specific examples that you can forward. It's a new system, and there will be bugs, but any help in addressing them would be much appreciated.
9. Questioner's name: Jessica West	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
In 2018, Cllr Nigel Moor stated that "Climate change is one of the most serious threats we face as a nation." How, then, does Gloucestershire County Council justify allocating just £1 million out of a total budget of £468.2 million to its climate change action fund?	Addressing climate change is a key priority across the council – the £1m Climate Change and Air Quality Action Fund is only one part of that. It will enable us to target future funding effectively to help bring about the changes required, and comes alongside a range of other measures, including, most importantly, this

	council's significant success in reducing its carbon emissions.
10. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
Why has the formula for school need been so significantly underestimated in Bishops Cleeve?	The need for a new school to meet the numbers arising from new housing in the Bishops Cleeve area is not new and we have been highlighting the need to secure a new school site for some time. The county has recently completed an independent assessment of the pupil yield from new housing developments across the county. The latest information reveals that the number of children arising from new housing developments and affordable housing is significantly higher than previous trends. The latest pupil yield figures are to be included in the Councils Local Developers Guide.
11. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
Why was this not shared with the affected Parish and Borough Councils immediately and why were they not worked with to identify potentially suitable sites?	The demand arising from new housing and the need for a new school site has been shared with Borough Council previously and through our responses to the Local Plan. It is unfortunate that some of the developments in the area have been approved on appeal, without fully considering the cumulative impact on the demand for school places. We have been working with Borough Council officers to identify a suitable location but this has not been successful so far.

12. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>Why was the first site for Bishop's Cleeve immediately settled upon, even though it is located on the south side of the settlement and the new housing is all in the north which is contrary to the County Council's policy aim of locating new schools in the heart new developments where the need has arisen from new housing.</p>	<p>No decision has yet been taken on the site for the new school.</p> <p>A series of meetings were held in 2018 and 2019 with officers from GCC Education and representatives of the primary schools in the planning area to explore opportunities for meeting demand by expanding existing schools further. Following consultation with the schools it was accepted that only one primary school was prepared to consider expanding by 1FE. However, this would still leave a need for a further 2FE provision to be found elsewhere. In addition to this, none of these primary schools have sufficient site area to facilitate a permanent expansion beyond their current capacity. So whilst one of the schools is willing to look at expanding they would not have the required capacity to meet the demand for a larger school.</p> <p>The only option currently available is to extend the age range at Cleeve School. This is the only land currently available to the Council in the area. The Cleeve School site has the capacity to accommodate a 3FE primary school (630 places), either by way of a separate primary building on the Kayte Lane site or by including primary provision with shared facilities on the site accommodated by the secondary school.</p> <p>In October 2019 the Council was informed that Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council were not renewing their lease on the site known as Norttenham allotments. This land is owned by the Diocese of Gloucester. The Council has been in discussion with the Diocese about the land however we have advised that they are duty bound to secure the best possible price for any disposal of the land and that they are currently seeking residential planning permission on the site.</p> <p>We expect that a decision on the location of the school will be</p>

	made as soon as possible during this academic year.
13. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>What assessment and planning has been undertaken on the proposed site, which is both Greenbelt and protected playing fields; particularly with reference to the potential loss of the site for the community? For example, the suitability of the land use by an existing or potential academy, the effect of the disposal on sports, whether the land is used by the community, and whether there are children with disabilities who are going to be adversely affected.</p>	<p>The land at Kayte Lane is currently part of the Cleeve School site, which is a Foundation school and the Trust owns the land. The availability and use of the site for a school will require the approval of the Regional Schools Commissioner.</p> <p>A site assessment has been undertaken to ensure there is sufficient capacity for the additional school places, without having a detrimental impact on sports and playing field provision. Any new school design will be in accordance with accessible design standards and building regulations.</p> <p>The land is in Green Belt and as part of any planning application the Council will have to demonstrate 'special circumstances' that any potential harm to the green belt is outweighed by other considerations.</p>
14. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>Why is this site being considered when we now have a site which is not protected and is available for development? Is cost the determining factor rather than the sites suitability?</p>	<p>If you are referring to the former allotment site, that's owned by the diocese who have told us it isn't available. Schools across the county look to the council for financial support – so financing of any project is always a consideration.</p>

15. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>How many houses have been built based on the out of date formula across Gloucestershire County Council? What is the potential total shortfall of school places (Primary and Secondary) and what is the value lost from applying the correct formula to developers for Section 106 contribution to school places?</p>	<p>All housing development planning applications are considered in accordance with the pupil product ratios at the time of the application, and not necessarily at the time the development is built out. That's not something we have any control over. These are regularly reviewed and amended as appropriate. There has been an increase in the number of children arising out of new development more recently, however in order to provide robust evidence of the increases, the Council commissioned an independent review in collaboration with housing developers, and the latest figures are now in use.</p> <p>Every application is subject to a negotiation with developers about the extent of financial contributions required. However the final decision on the levels of contributions agreed, rests with the Local Planning Authority.</p> <p>GCC has been successful in securing s106 contributions for many years to fund essential education infrastructure across the county, but this only goes part of the way to meeting the full cost of provision.</p>
16. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>What are GCC now doing to ensure they secure the appropriate site or sites for schools in Bishop's Cleeve? What other sites aside from Kayte Lane and POS3 have GCC identified? What work have they done to identify other sites?</p>	<p>The council does not own land in Bishops Cleeve, and although the former allotment site has been highlighted as a possible location for a school, the site is currently in 3rd party ownership and not available for education use.</p>

	<p>GCC has made representations to the Draft Tewkesbury Local Plan objecting to the current proposal of allocating the site referred at POS3 for additional housing and recommending it is reallocated for a mix of education/ residential development. The decision will rest with Tewkesbury BC as to whether they decide to amend their proposal.</p> <p>Despite a review of land in the area, no other sites have been identified at this time.</p>
<p>17. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux</p>
<p>What work is being undertaken to identify other appropriate sites for other communities affected if this is a County wide issue? Are GCC just looking for the first available site or are they actively working with communities?</p>	<p>The Council is working with all of the District Councils to highlight areas where a similar situation may arise as a result of new housing and the need to ensure suitable land for a school is identified as part of any new proposals coming forward.</p> <p>Officers have had very positive meetings with local councillors to discuss the challenges in Bishops Cleeve and in other areas. The plan is for these local discussions to continue.</p>
<p>18. Questioner's name: Richard Stanley</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux</p>
<p>What additional funding will be needed to purchase land and develop schools without the appropriate level of Section 106 from developers?</p>	<p>The Local Authority does not have capital funds available for the purchase of new school sites, particularly if they are at residential land value. There is no funding mechanism from central government as there is an expectation that sites and contributions will be provided by developers.</p>

It is not possible to clarify the amount of funding required as each application is considered individually.

19. Questioner's name: Sarah Lunnon

Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne

To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne

Yes, depending on any conditions.

Would this authority accept extra money from central government to fund action mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate heating and loss of our natural world?

20. Questioner's name: Dr David Willingham

Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith

Could the Cabinet Member please provide details of all street lights in Cheltenham, that as of 1st February 2020, were known by GCC to have been defective for over six months, with details of why they have not been repaired and when they will be repaired?

According to our records we have 2 street lights in Cheltenham that, as of the 1st February 2020, have been defective for over six months. These street lights are:-

- 1) LP4 Albert Place – A replacement street light is required. This has been attempted on three occasions and has not been actioned due to resident's parked cars (despite letter drops and parking boards being put up to advise of the works). We will arrange for a further letter to be hand delivered to all residents in the street detailing a new programme date. The work will be arranged and reattempted within the next six weeks.
- 2) LP54 Princess Elizabeth Road – This requires a lantern head to be fitted following replacement, which was due to an RTC. This work will be completed within the next ten days.

21. Questioner's name: Dr David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>On 15th November 2018, I reported that the Grade II listed lamp post on the roundabout of B4633 Gloucester Road and Queen's Road (column ID 38_1) was not working. Despite numerous emails to GCC about this, over a year later, it has still not been repaired. Could the Cabinet Member please explain why this listed structure is being neglected by GCC, why this street light has not been repaired, and when GCC intends to get this street light repaired?</p>	<p>Although this light isn't required to light the area around it we are keen to repair the lamp. We have been out 3 times to try and fix it but it's age and listed status meant that didn't succeed. The head will now need specialist refurbishment and we are awaiting quotes to find out how much that will cost.</p>
22. Questioner's name: Dr David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>A number of the grass verges in St Mark's and St Peter's division have been churned up due to being driven on. Given the competing desires of keeping green verges and facilitating parking, as well as keeping drains free of mud, would the Cabinet Member look at asking GCC Highways to trial the installation of grass protection mesh in the worst affected zones?</p>	<p>The areas in question are a mixture of highway and amenity land. We will work with colleagues at the Borough Council to identify potential sites for such a proposal.</p>
23. Questioner's name: Dr David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>The Cheltenham and Tewkesbury alternative provision school at the St George's Centre on Alstone Lane, is currently adjacent to unused school playing fields. Given the potential for delivering improved provision of outdoor sports opportunities for the pupils who attend this school, could I ask what consideration has GCC given to seeking licence to use this land?</p>	<p>We've already asked Clifton Diocese, who own the field, to consider this, and we're waiting for their response.</p>

24. Questioner's name: Dr David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
Could the Cabinet Member please explain why progress has still not been made by GCC Highways to deliver the closure or junction modifications at the junction of Alstone Croft and Alstone Lane?	There is no straightforward solution to a reconfiguration or a closure at Alstone Croft as most options identified have implications for larger vehicles such as refuse lorries or emergency vehicles. However, proposals for an experimental scheme are being progressed including the requirement for before/after monitoring to assess the success of any measures put in place.

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COUNTY COUNCIL – 12 February 2020
Members' Questions

<p>1. Questioner's name: Cllr Kate Haigh</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</p>
<p>Can the Cabinet Member please give me an update on the petition from parents at Finlay Rd School for a road crossing on Tredworth Road? There was an accident involving a child today and parents and governors are increasingly concerned about safety crossing this busy road.</p>	<p>Following the petition, officers looked at the amount of pedestrians and traffic in the area, and reassessed both a signal controlled crossing and a crossing patrol. That didn't meet the threshold for either, but officers are continuing to work with the school to improve road safety, particularly around crossing locations.</p>
<p>2. Questioner's name: Cllr Eva Ward</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>In view of the current organisational changes within the County Council can we be assured that the Chief Executive will arrange a briefing for Members to explain any new Officer appointments and any alteration in current roles and responsibilities?</p>	<p>Yes, of course, I will ask for something to be circulated in Members' matters.</p>
<p>3. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</p>
<p>In the late summer last year I asked parking officers to look at how a step change in extra parking enforcement could be provided in Bourton on the Water for the coming tourist season due to increasing issues with the volume of tourists in the village and regular abuse of the parking regulations. I was told at the time that this was possible and that someone would come back to me in the autumn. Since then I've had to chase regularly and have now been told that an answer may not come back until April. This will be too late as the new tourist season will have already started. Can you please facilitate some action on this so that Bourton residents can be assured that extra parking enforcement arrangements will be in place by the end of March?</p>	<p>We've already taken action here. In January, parking wardens made 29% more visits, delivering 38% more hours of patrol, than was the case in July. In April we are changing our provider for traffic wardens – and using it as an opportunity to get even more enforcement capability.</p>

4. Questioner's name: Cllr Ben Evans	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>The state of Winston Road in Churchdown is appalling. Repairs have been made but seem to be of poor quality - one resident has reported the last repair 'lasted days'. And much more work is needed. Is the Council happy with state of Winston Road's surface and the quality of repairs when they are needed?</p>	<p>No, I'm not very happy with it. We reviewed Winston Road and the safety repair carried out in December did not last in the way they should. The site was revisited on 30th January and 8 potholes were identified that are now scheduled for repair - we will be monitoring these to ensure we are satisfied with the quality. I have arranged for the Local Highway Manager to visit to assess whether any more substantial repairs are required.</p>
5. Questioner's name: Cllr Ben Evans	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
<p>Which ex-stations will the Council be prioritising in application for the recently announced funding to re-open Beeching-closed stations? Will one of them be Churchdown?</p>	<p>The Government has recently set out plans to re-open rail lines and stations closed in the Beeching era cuts of the 1960s and 70s. The Department for Transport (DfT) is inviting local authorities and community groups to propose how they could use funding to reinstate axed local services. There is a £500M fund to develop these proposals.</p> <p>The DfT has stated that it will hold events providing advice on how to bid for funding. The County Council looks forward to receiving further details as to how to bid for funding.</p> <p>Any future proposals to (re-)open new rail lines / stations will be considered in the emerging review of the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan, which is currently out on public consultation until 26th March 2020.</p> <p>It is worth noting that previous proposals for a Parkway station between Gloucester & Cheltenham stations were strongly opposed by Cheltenham Liberal Democrats.</p>

6. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>In devising plans for the location of an additional primary school in Bishops Cleeve, what consultation will be completed with relevant stakeholders, councillors and residents and can you guarantee this feedback will inform the final decision?</p>	<p>No decision has been taken on this issue yet. An initial consultation took place in November 2018, and then again in June 2019, with all the schools in the area. Further consultation has taken place with the borough and parish councils on the identified need for school places in the area. Consultation will also take place by the Academy Trust on any proposal to locate the school to the south of Bishops Cleeve. There will also be a statutory consultation as part of a subsequent planning application. All responses to consultations are taken into account prior to a decision being taken.</p>
7. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>When devising plans for the location of an additional primary school in Bishops Cleeve, what consideration is given to the council's declaration of a climate emergency in May 2019, including the commitment to reduce the county's total greenhouse emissions by 80 per cent?</p>	<p>As part of the design of any new school provision we will ensure that it complies with and supports the council's commitment to and promotion of carbon reduction.</p>
8. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>Were the additional primary school in Bishops Cleeve built on land to the south of the village, what impact does the cabinet member believe this would have on greenhouse gas emissions?</p>	<p>A highways and traffic study has been commissioned to assess the current road network and the potential impact of a new school in this area. I'm happy to share that when it's available.</p>
9. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>What conversations has GCC had with Diocese of Gloucester about locating a primary school on its land, formerly Nortenham Allotments on Evesham Road?</p>	<p>The County Council was first made aware of the allotment land by the Parish Council in October last year. We approached the diocese promptly to discuss acquiring it for a school – but, their</p>

	positions is, that, as this is glebe land, they are unable to make it available, which is a shame. It is a better site, but we don't have any power to compel the Church of England on this.
10. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
What consideration does GCC give to the location of current and future students when determining the location of a new primary school?	When considering the location for a new school, we consider first whether existing schools in the locality can accommodate the additional children or whether they can be expanded further to meet the growth. If the housing development in question is of sufficient size as to require a new school to meet the demand created by that development, then the council would seek a new school site as part of the planning process. If this is not possible consideration is then given as to whether the council owns appropriate sized land in the area, that might be available to accommodate a new school.
11. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
What consideration does GCC give to the existing traffic conditions between the location of current and future students and the potential site of a new primary school	As per Q8, a highways and traffic study has been commissioned to assess the current road network and the potential impact of a new school in this area. The results of the assessment will be considered when a decision is made on the location of the school site.
12. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
What consideration does GCC give to the ability to safely walk and cycle to a site when determining the potential location of a new primary school?	As per Q8, a highways and traffic study has been commissioned to assess the current road network and the potential impact of a new school in this area. The results of this assessment will be considered when a decision is made on the location of the school site. This will include information

	on safe walking and cycling routes.
13. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
What is the farthest distance from a new development / new house in Bishops Cleeve and the potential new school on the southern site of Bishops Cleeve	Some of the housing developments to the north of Bishops Cleeve have yet to be built out, however a general assessment of the distances to the development sites, is that they are all within a 2 mile walking distance of the potential school site to the south.
14. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
How much money is being invested in our county farms this year? Please provide a breakdown of how much investment and where it is going.	Revenue maintenance on regular upkeep of the estate £290k Capital investment on replacement of time expired buildings/windows/doors/upgrades to meet statutory regulations etc. £220k
15. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
We are in a climate emergency - do you really believe that £1million is enough to turn the ship on carbon emissions in Gloucestershire?	Addressing climate change is a key priority across the council – the £1m Climate Change and Air Quality Action Fund is only one part of that. It will enable us to target future funding effectively to help bring about the changes required, and comes alongside a range of other measures, including, most importantly, this council's significant success in reducing its carbon emissions.
16. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
When will we see a fully developed methodology being used to calculate the carbon impact of decisions taken by this council?	This will be developed in 2020/21 as part of year 1 of the 5 year rolling action plan.

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