

## CLERK'S REPORT – MARCH 2025

### Highways

Potholes / Broken Road Surfacing / Drain Issues: I have reported 15 separate issues via FixMyStreet, on issues in Marsh Road, Lambs Triangle, Junction of Brockley Road, Bath Road and Junction of LMW.

Hedges – Reports of overgrown hedges have been reported to the Neighbourhood Warden. Also, correspondence received from a resident who relies on the use of a wheelchair to express their concern that clippings of hedges are not cleared up and this leads to punctures.

Temporary Road Closure: **Bath Road (between Lambs Triangle and the junction with The Street).**

These roads will be closed from 15/04/2025 to 31/12/2025 to allow gas main replacement work by Wales & West Utilities.

Notification of actual dates will be given on site, at least two weeks before.

Emergency and pedestrian access will be maintained.

Temporary Road Closure: **Church Road (between Priory Farm and the Junction of Bath Road**

This road will be closed from 21/04/2025 to 23/04/2025 to allow for a new water connection by Severn Trent Water.

Emergency and pedestrian access will be maintained

### Build Back Better Grant Funding – Village Hall

The Project Manager has conducted a site meeting to assess the project requirements and explore viable options that align with the allocated budget. Requests for Wi-Fi quotations have been initiated, and updated quotes are currently being compiled. The project is expected to move forward in the near future.

**National and Local Planning Update.** Please refer to the March Planning Report which provides a brief overview of changes that will affect Leonard Stanley.

<https://www.leonardstanley-pc.gov.uk/uploads/planning-report-march-2025.pdf?v=1740669929>

**Gloucestershire County Council** is undertaking a second round of stakeholder engagement on its Local Development Guide.

The purpose of the Local Development Guide is to provide information to local planning authorities, developers, and all stakeholders on the types of infrastructure where Gloucestershire County Council may seek funding to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development; to make it acceptable in planning terms.

A copy of the draft document and stakeholder survey can be access using the following link – [Local Development Guide \(LDG\) Engagement | Have Your Say Gloucestershire](#)

The aim is to seek adoption of an updated its Local Development Guide later in 2025.

The Local Development Guide needs to be periodically reviewed to ensure it reflects the latest published national and local guidance. The existing Local Development Guide was adopted in March 2021.

**This stakeholder engagement is open from Wednesday 26 February until Monday 24 March 2025, at 5pm.**

This is the second round of stakeholder engagement on the Local Development Guide following a 12-week consultation last year.

The further round of engagement was considered necessary due to the material changes proposed to the document within the updated document in response to the issues raised during the first round.

Summary of changes from previous consultation include:

- Amendments to the main body of the text to improve readability.
- New footnotes added to provide better links to supporting documentation
- Formatting changes including the merging of sections 2 and 3
- Section 2.10 – clarification of GCC’s Legal Charges and Monitoring fees
- Section 3.1 - more information on cycle infrastructure
- Section 3.2 – clarification of GCC role as Lead Local Flood Authority
- Section 3.3 – amendments to clarify GCC’s position seeking education contributions and an updated section on Biodiversity Net Gain
- New Appendix B – Introduction of a new M5 Junction 10 Scheme - Developer Funding Guidance Note outlining the apportionment methodologies specifically in relation to supporting growth around Cheltenham.

If you would like to comment on the updated version of the Local Development Guide ahead of formal adoption, please can you to do so by **Monday 24 March 2025** using the online survey link [Local Development Guide \(LDG\) Engagement | Have Your Say Gloucestershire](#)

**Strategic Planning Team**

**I've recently found myself living alone after the breakdown of my relationship. My council tax bill is due soon, and I'm worried I won't be able to afford to pay it on my own. I'm already struggling to cover the cost of my other bills. What can I do?**

You're not alone in worrying about struggling to pay your bills. It's a difficult time for people who are battling rising costs for food and essentials - as well as seeing their bills creep up. Fortunately, there are options available to people struggling to pay their council tax, but you'll need to find out if you're eligible first. You might be entitled to pay less, or not at all, depending on your circumstances, because councils offer discounts and other reductions.

Firstly, because you're the only adult living in your home, your council tax bill can be reduced by a quarter. For example, if your bill is £1,000 for the year, you'll only have to pay £750 now that you live on your own. You'll need to tell your council someone has moved out of your home and the date that they left. You're entitled to the discount from when they moved out - even if it was a while ago.

When the council works out how many people live in a property, there are certain people that don't count - they're called 'disregarded people'. This includes under-18s, full-time students, long-term hospital patients, people with severe mental impairments, and many more. You can check our website ([www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)) for more information on disregarded people. In some situations, everyone living in a home is disregarded. If this is the case, the council tax bill will be reduced by half. If everyone in a home is a student or severely mentally impaired, there'll be no council tax to pay.

If you live with an adult who isn't disregarded, but who is on a low income or receives certain benefits, you might be able to get a discount called a 'second adult rebate'. You can find out more about getting a second adult rebate on our website.

If you or someone you live with is disabled, this can also affect your council tax banding. If your home has been adapted, you can ask to be placed down one band. For example, if you're living in a band C property that has been adapted for a disabled resident, you should only be charged council tax for a band B property.

There's also something called Council Tax Reduction, which is designed for people on low incomes. Your council will ask for details about your income and circumstances, to check if you're eligible. If you are, they'll reduce the amount of council tax you have to pay. When it comes to Council Tax Reductions, different rules apply depending on whether you've reached State Pension age.

And lastly, if you're struggling to pay for essentials, your council can reduce your bill further, or cancel it altogether, under what's known as a 'discretionary reduction'. This usually only

happens if you can provide evidence that you're suffering severe hardship and can't afford to pay council tax. If you're in this situation, ask your council for help.

If you're not given a discretionary reduction, you might be able to appeal to a valuation tribunal. If the tribunal agrees with you, they can order your council to reduce or even cancel your council tax bill.

Whatever circumstances you're in, if you're struggling with your council tax payments, it's important to let your council know. Citizens Advice is also here to help you find a way forward, should you need our support.

### **Guided walks with Cotswold Wardens near Stroud, Tetbury, & Malmesbury for March 2025**

**Wednesday, 5th March, 2025** – Start: 10:00 am

Coffee Morning Walk, 'Harbingers of spring'

Difficulty: **EASY** Duration: **3.5 HOURS** Distance: **5.5 MILES**

Start point: Community shop in Coaley. Coaley lies about 3 miles NW of Dursley. There is a car park behind the village shop.

Meet at 10:00 for coffee. The walk, which starts at 10:30, takes us first to Silver St. then to the impressive 13th century tithe barn at Frocester Court. With luck there will be new born lambs to see. There is a good pub in the village for lunch after the walk, if required.

**Friday, 7th March, 2025** – Start: 10:00 am

“Shorter and Steadier at Crickley Hill”<sup>1</sup>

Difficulty: **EASY** Duration: **2 HOURS** Distance: **3 MILES**

Start point: the café at Crickley Hill country park, GL4 8JY. Note that there is a £2 charge for car parking.

This walk takes in the magnificent views and searches out the wildlife.

**Thursday, 20th March, 2025** – Start: 10:30 am

'Third Thursday Walk' - Hills and Hillforts

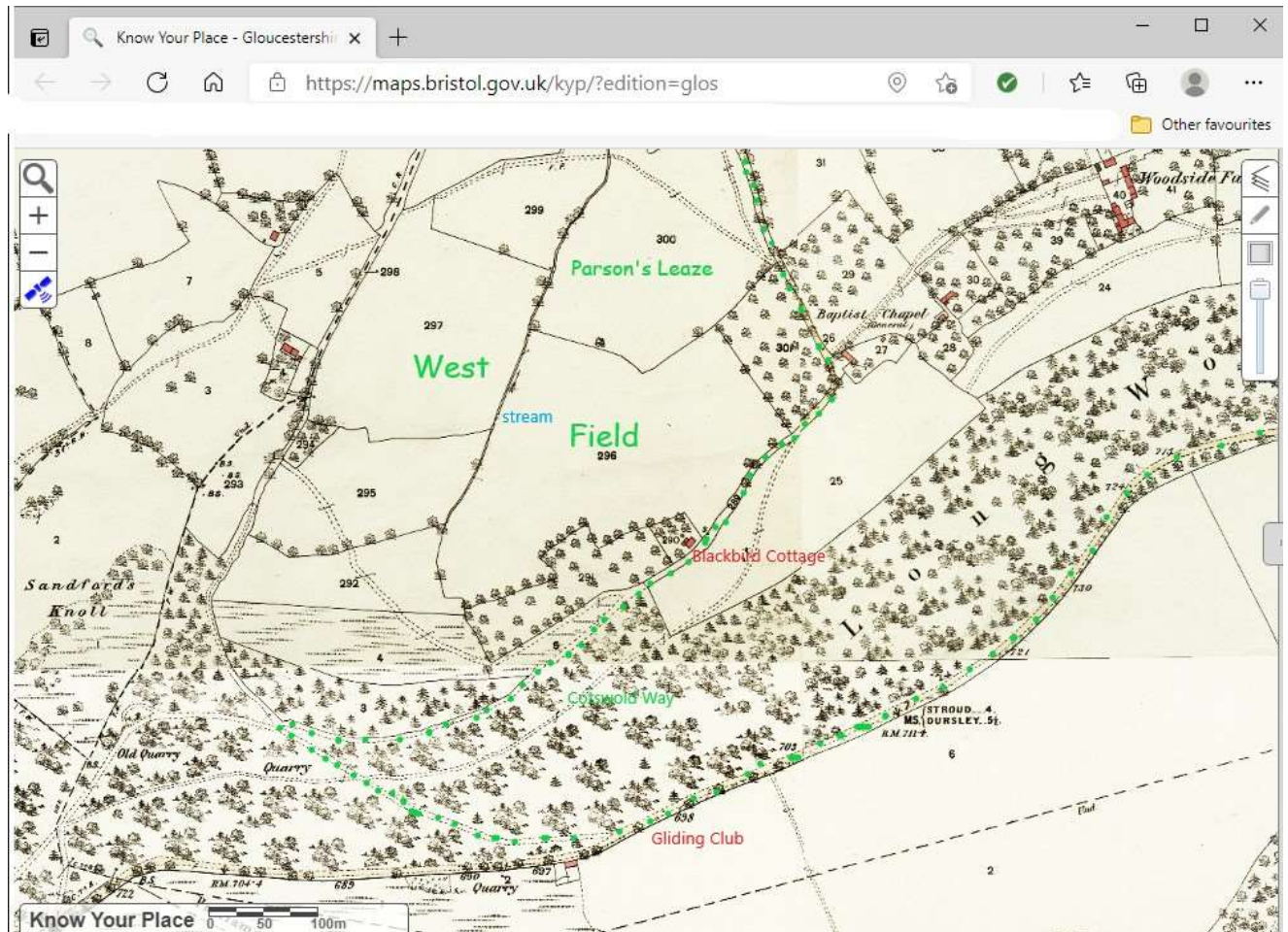
Difficulty: **MODERATE** Duration: **2.0 HOURS** Distance: **5.0 MILES**

Start point: Vestry café, South Street, Uley GL11. **PLEASE PARK CONSIDERATELY NEARBY.**

Every month, the Voluntary Cotswold Wardens offer a two-hour walk on the third Thursday starting at 10.30am from a café or pub, where there is an optional opportunity for refreshment at the end of the walk. Come and enjoy the glorious Cotswolds National Landscape with us every month!

### **Local history in maps 1**

If interested in local history, there is a website of old maps for this area. It is free to use and is useful to keep alongside when reading Peter Griffin's book on the Stanleys. The website is "Know your place". Tythe maps & maps of field names are also available.



Woodside Lane is really interesting. In medieval times the village had a 3 field system in which all villagers had strips, mixing the good land with poorer areas. The "West Field" was part of this, and lay north of "Blackbird Cottage." This cottage was once an ale house where considerate wagoners felt obliged to rest their horses before tackling the climb up to the Nympsfield Road.

The early editions of the OS maps record a Baptist Chapel at the corner near "Blackbird Cottage," This was built for a benefactor who wanted to bring Christian values to the rough & godless residents of Woodside Lane. Clearly, this worked well and the redundant chapel became a house. The 1830 map of field names records "Parson's Leaze" which may be the land given with the chapel to produce an income for the minister.

The stream which flows down this area forms the boundary between Leonard Stanley & King's Stanley parishes. It is named on later maps as "the Brimley Ditch"