

Wendy Thomas, County Councillor, Dursley Division
Report for Leonard Stanley Parish Council, March 2025

Highways

Safer routes to schools scheme

I can confirm that the Leonard Stanley C of E school is ranked in the top three of priority schools to be included in this scheme. This should involve traffic/parking restrictions being put in place around the school. I will let you know when I know more.

Transport

The Berkeley Vale Robin

GCC has published some updates and statistics on the Robin. Scroll to the bottom of this [page](#) to see the growing usage of this service in our area; the Berkeley Vale Robin is becoming one of the more popular routes.. The link to The Robin homepage is [here](#).

Devolution update

GCC was not successful in asking to go forward towards a unitary authority in the first tranche of councils. Therefore, elections will go ahead as scheduled on 1 May; new councillors will be elected to two-year terms. GCC has formed various workstreams with the chief executives of the district and borough councils to formulate the next proposal.

The local devolution timetable now looks like this:

- 21 March: submit interim proposal with options for size/boundaries of a new council
- March – November 2025: feedback from government; opportunity to refine proposal
- 28 November: final proposal/implementation plan to be submitted for approval

GCC News

Council approves 2025/2026 budget

The budget includes significant investment into the council's priority areas of Highways, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Adult Services, Infrastructure, and the Environment:

- An ongoing £10 million towards delivering on the council's £100 million four-year commitment to go on improving Gloucestershire roads, with a greater focus in 2025/26 on tackling rural roads.
- A total £22.2 million towards increasing capacity and improving school buildings and facilities of schools across the county, including £12.8 million towards a new 200 place special school.
- Young people with SEND and their families will be supported with an extra £2.1 million.
- £7.5 million towards the future construction of three new adult care homes is being set aside in 2025/26, with further investment planned in future years.
- Household Waste Recycling Centres in the county will see improvements with a £1.3 million injection.

Unfortunately, a Labour group amendment to include continuation of the Build Back Better councillors' fund was rejected. Going forward, county councillors will not have an allocation of £40,000 to support community projects.

Links:

GCC Highways Fix My Street: www.fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Highways info on planned road works, planned resurfacing, patching and pothole repairs: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/>

Watch Council meetings: [Home - Gloucestershire County Council Webcasting \(public-i.tv\)](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/webcasting)

Submit questions to County Council meetings: stephen.bace@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Members of the public may submit written questions about matters within GCC's powers and duties. The deadline for this is usually 10 days before the meeting date.

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