

Wendy Thomas, County Councillor, Dursley Division

Report for Leonard Stanley Parish Council, September 2021

Build Back Better Market Towns Fund

GCC has a new fund to support local communities as we emerge from the coronavirus pandemic by supporting the delivery of community events. The goal is to bring back some fun and entertainment after the lock period.

The Build Back Better - Market Towns fund is about helping to remove the financial barriers that may be preventing a community event taking place, by providing some additional funding that could allow local events to take place. The purpose of the grant funding is to boost the economy of Gloucestershire's Market Towns and local High Streets.

This grant is available to support non-commercial community events only, e.g., Christmas fairs, spring shows, summer fetes, vintage car shows, music festivals and farmers' markets. The event must take place by the end of August 2022.

Parish and town councils, voluntary and community organisations and other incorporated bodies may apply. The fund is intended to focus on Market Towns, rural communities and those that live on the edge of urban areas.

The total funding pot available is £500,000; GCC invites bids ranging from between £1,000 to £25,000. This will be a competitive process with the final decision to award funding being made by a panel of elected members.

Deadline for bids is midnight of the 26 September 2021. No applications will be accepted after this date. Outcomes will be informed on 4 October 2021. All funding must be used by August 2022.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/market-towns-fund/>

Highways

I have asked Highways about cutting the grass on the field (land near LS school on Bath Road).

Bus timetables

The new Stagecoach timetables started on 29 August. There were major cancellations in the first few days, leaving many residents stranded and unable to get to work etc. The 66 service for the Stanleys appears to have had only minor changes.

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/west/stroud-service-changes?fbclid=IwAR3LW78Wb349GozgqwE-l4allJmifEH0N7kzg6EfqrGUhUDC4p1w2kFotu8>

Bus service improvements survey

GCC, like all local authorities, is developing a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). This will involve a full consultation but an initial survey seeking feedback on what bus improvements residents would like to see is available now and through 24 September:

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagemthq.com/gloucestershire-county-council-bus-service-improvement-plans-initial-engagement>