

1. Have your say on new library strategy

Residents in Gloucestershire are being invited to give their views on a new library strategy that sets out the aims and ambitions of the service from 2023 to 2028.

Public consultation into the strategy, drafted by Gloucestershire Libraries, has been launched today and will last for 12 weeks.

It will run from 4 July to 23 September 2022 and [you can take part in the survey, as well as read the draft strategy, here](#).

Hard copies of the survey will soon be available in local libraries.

2. Electric vehicle revolution is speeding up

Gloucestershire County Council is moving forward with plans to install 1,000 on-street electric vehicle charging points over the next three years.

The county council has recently appointed Connected Kerb, one of the UK's leading charging point providers, to install and run a network of chargers.

Around one third of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in Gloucestershire come from transport and private vehicle use accounts for over half of this (55 per cent). However switching from fossil fuel to electric vehicles has the potential to reduce these figures significantly, so electric vehicles are a key element in the council's strategy for reducing emissions and tackling the climate emergency.

With the government due to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans from 2030, the county council plans to roll out its network well ahead of this date to give residents the practical option of choosing to go electric as early as possible.

The programme aims to prioritise access to charging points for the one third of residents who do not have off-street parking and charging, taking Gloucestershire one step closer to decarbonising transport.

The council has started working with district and parish councils to identify suitable locations and is bidding for government funding to accelerate this work and benefit smaller communities. Residents are being asked to give their views on where they think charging points should be located, to help map demand and plan for electric vehicle charging.

You can share your views by [registering your interest here](#). The survey will stay open for the duration of the three-year project.

Connected Kerb's chargers are made from recycled materials, use renewable energy and will be accessible to people with disabilities. They have also committed to recruiting local workers and apprentices.

Find out more about how you can reduce your travel emissions on our Thinktravel website: <https://www.thinktravel.info>

Keep up to date with the latest climate change news from the council by [subscribing to the Greener Gloucestershire Climate Action newsletter](#).

3. Meet the Gadgeteers with Gloucestershire Libraries

The national event, which is led by the Reading Agency charity in partnership with public libraries, is being launched on Saturday 9 July and runs until 10 September 2022.

It aims to encourage children to enjoy reading and visit their library and a range of free events and activities is being held in libraries around the county throughout the summer.

Children aged four to 11 will be able to join six fictional Gadgeteers by taking part, with free materials available from libraries and online via the challenge [website](#).

The characters - brought to life by children's writer and illustrator Julian Beresford - use their curiosity and wonder to understand the science behind a range of interests, from fashion and technology to cooking and music.

Through an exciting [book collection](#) and other activities, the Gadgeteers will help to spark children's curiosity about the world around them and encourage them to feed their imagination over the summer holiday.

They will be boggled by brilliant facts, gaze at the stars and be inspired by tales of creativity and invention. With plenty of great options across [picture books](#), [early readers](#) and [middle grade books](#), there will be lots to keep children busy.

[Summer Reading Challenge events at Gloucestershire libraries can be found here](#) and you can [find out which services are available for families to enjoy here](#).

You can also find out the [latest opening times for your local library here](#).

4. Summer holiday activity booking is now open

Families can now book a range of fun activities to help keep children and young people active, entertained and enjoying healthy meals during August.

Together with its partners, the county council is once again providing a wide range of activities across Gloucestershire for four weeks of the school holidays, from 1 – 26 August.

The summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) is funded by the Department of Education for families eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Using grant funding, the council is giving all families in Gloucestershire the opportunity to join in this summer's fun by offering enriching holiday activities to all children and young people, through its Holiday Activities Programme (HAP). More information is available at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf.

Now in its second year, the HAF is going from strength to strength, and is working with over 59 activity providers this summer. Activities available throughout August include climbing, DJing, archery, media and coding workshops, ticketed attractions and much more.

Earlier this year, government confirmed HAF funding for the next three years, and the council is pleased to confirm it will continue its successful partnerships with local partners who make it all possible. They are:

Gloucester – The Venture White City Ltd

Cheltenham – Cheltenham Borough Council
Tewkesbury – Young Gloucestershire
Stroud – Stroud District Council
Cotswolds – Cotswold District Council
Forest of Dean – Forest Voluntary Action Forum

5. Help shape the long-term future of cycling in Gloucestershire

Residents are encouraged to have their say on the long-term future of cycling in Gloucestershire by taking part in an online consultation.

By working with Sustrans, a charity that looks after the national cycling network, the council aims to identify a potential long-term strategic cycling network across the county and wants residents to give their views.

This network would connect people and places across the county with safe and accessible routes for everyone.

A better connected cycling network across the county will enable more people to get on their bikes and switch to an active mode of transport.

Improved cycling facilities is a part of the council's commitment to help create a Greener Gloucestershire.

The council is committed to encouraging cycling by both improving facilities and promoting cycling wherever possible. This includes the recent promotion of the Women's Tour and Tour of Britain, which saw the women's race come to the county in June and the men's race follows on 9 September.

Investment has also been made into the flagship cycle route linking Gloucester to Cheltenham, which forms part of the proposed 26-mile cycle spine stretching from Stroud to Bishop's Cleeve.

Views from residents will help form the long-term ambitions for cycling in the county. As well as wanting to hear from cyclists about their experiences, the county council is keen to understand any potential barriers to residents getting on their bikes. The consultation is now open and will close on Friday, 19 August.

To take part in the consultation, visit our website at <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/cycling-improvement-plan>.

Alternatively, paper copies of the consultation are available. To request a paper copy, call 01452 426 793 or email ltf@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

6. 10-year ambition to halve number of serious accidents on county's roads

A new road safety policy has been drafted by Gloucestershire County Council, which aims to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the county's roads by 50 per cent by 2032.

The long-term aspiration is to follow the 'Vision Zero' approach, which is recognised around the world and aspires to stop all traffic fatalities and severe injuries by 2050, while increasing safe and healthy travel for everyone.

To help move towards this aspiration, the council has outlined its road safety strategy 2022-2032, which aims to deliver safer roads, healthier streets and lower speed limits where people live.

People in Gloucestershire are being invited to give their views on the draft policy by taking part in an eight-week consultation period, which starts today, 18 July 2022, and runs until 11 September 2022.

You can take part in the survey here:

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/gloucestershire-county-council-road-safety-policy>

If anyone requires paper copies of the survey you can call 08000 514514.

7. Four new Innovation Labs to be opened by Gloucestershire Libraries

Gloucestershire Libraries will be opening the doors to four more Innovation Labs across the county on Tuesday 2 August.

They are based in Stroud, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Chipping Campden libraries and offer accessible, creative community spaces for people of all ages and abilities to get hands-on with digital technology.

Each Lab has its own friendly Lab Technician who is on hand to develop digital skills and support creative projects using a range of technology including 3D scanning, modelling and printing, virtual reality, micro-computing, coding and digital design.

Their launch comes after an Innovation Lab at Gloucester Library was opened in March this year, in addition to one at Coleford Library which opened in July 2019.

Offering a range of events, workshops and one-to-one sessions, the new Labs will be working with volunteers, business partners and community organisations to offer something to everyone.

A range of taster sessions will be available throughout the summer, showcasing 3D printing, virtual reality and digital design.

The Labs will also be offering Cardboard Engineering workshops for young people aged eight to 12, to tie in with this year's [science and innovation-themed Summer Reading Challenge where children can meet the Gadgeteers](#).

If you would like to work with the Lab teams, arrange a visit or find out more about the summer taster sessions, please email info@innovationlabnetwork.com

To book a place on the Cardboard Engineers workshop please visit <https://tinyurl.com/mr29d3z5>

You can also find out more information on the summer taster sessions by following [@ilabnetwork](#) on Facebook.

8. 'Journey to Net Zero' event hosted by county council

Gloucestershire County Council held a 'Journey to Net Zero' forum this week with community leaders to discuss how to decarbonise transport in the county.

The 'Journey to Net Zero' forum was held on Tuesday 19 July to discuss how to decarbonise transport by working together with groups across the county.

Over 100 people including councillors, district councils, transport operators, education providers and community organisations were all a part of the conversation.

At the event:

- Speakers highlighted the need for public, private and the third sector to work together to address climate change and transform Gloucestershire's transport system.
- There was a positive response from a wide section of community representatives and groups across the county.
- Widespread support for measures to decarbonise transport and a clear understanding of the urgency for action.
- There was agreement that better public transport and better facilities for walking and cycling should continue to be a key priority.
- The need to change behaviour and think about the way we travel was highlighted.

The county council has committed to reducing carbon emissions from all sources in the county to net zero by 2045 and to reduce emissions by 80% by 2030. Through [Climate Leadership Gloucestershire](#), the council works with partners to take forward Gloucestershire's response to the climate emergency. The county council is leading on decarbonising transport. Everyone has a role to play in reducing their carbon and trying to use new lower carbon options when they become available.

The event aimed to start a conversation about decarbonising transport in the county. Climate Leadership Gloucestershire also wanted to understand the challenges and opportunities among different groups and areas of the county, including rural areas, market towns, urban areas, businesses, young people, community groups and transport operators.

The [Climate Youth Group](#) presented their perspective on the importance of transport decarbonisation to young people.

There will be further engagement later this year, with plans to produce a Carbon Reduction Pathway for Gloucestershire in 2023, showcasing the steps to reducing the county's carbon emissions from transport.

View the [decarbonising transport forum presentations](#). Keep up to date with the latest climate change news from the council by subscribing to the [Greener Gloucestershire Climate Action newsletter](#).

Thanks
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