

**Moreton in Marsh Town Council Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
**Report by Gloucestershire County Councillor Nigel Moor**

**The HRC site at Fosse Cross Re-opens**

The HRC at Fosse Cross re-opened on the 18<sup>th</sup> May . Opening hours are 9am to 5pm and as before, closed on Tuesdays, but open the remainder of the week. People must pre-book. The booking system is on line at [gloucestershirerecycles](http://gloucestershirerecycles) and works on a 14 day rolling basis, so people can plan their visit well in advance. I visited the site and it was working well with the site well laid out for social distancing. Advance signage on the Fosse advises that people visiting the site must have pre- booked . We trialled the booking system when we reopened Hempsted HRC Gloucester and Wingmoor Farm HRC near Tewkesbury.

Warwickshire County Council will be reopening their Shipston on Stour HRC from 22<sup>nd</sup> June for pre-booked visit via the council's web site. I am pleased that Gloucestershire County Council has been able to agree with Warwickshire County Council that Gloucestershire residents can continue to visit the HRC by using the pre-booking system.

**Highway Briefing**

We are not operating the same highways service as usual , we are running a reduced output because of the complications around staff, resources, supply chains and social distancing guidelines. But we are making the most of maximising what we're doing and taking the opportunities to do things which otherwise would had been more difficult because of traffic volumes on the network. GCC Highways at the beginning of the month announced more than 30 carriageway repair schemes for minor roads across the Cotswolds over the period June – September this year.

This includes the 3/168 from Stow Road Mangersbury ( A424 through Wyck Beacon) to the Little Rissington junction, and the 3/168 from this junction past Upper Rissington to Great Barrington. When schemes are announced in the Moreton area I will advise the town clerk.

Community maintenance gangs are operating in each area of the county and works are being co-ordinated locally. Our Local Highways Manager Rhodri Grey is the point of contact for any work you wish to be dealt with.

Our footpaths are proving very popular and cyclical vegetation is being cut back from mid – May as well as a programme of works for damaged /failing footbridges. Peak of enquiries is around paths being blocked and social distancing concerns.

### **West Cheltenham Transport Improvements**

The government is encouraging a return to work where this is safe. Demolition has been completed at Arle Court Cheltenham which will provide the compound area for the commencement of the West Cheltenham Transport Improvement scheme scheduled to start in June. A phased programme including cycle and pedestrian improvements will assist the delivery of the Cyber Business Park and Cyber Innovation Centre. GCC officers are working with our contractor to ensure that social distancing is an integral part of the highway works. It is very encouraging to see a start on this project so essential to the future of the Gloucestershire economy including the Cotswolds.

### **North Cotswold Line Task Force**

This meets on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June and at that meeting a further virtual meeting will be proposed for the end of July. It is anticipated that the Department of Transport (DfT) will have responded to the submission of the Strategic Outline Business Case submitted in October 2019 for a more frequent route service along the route.

### **Moreton in Marsh proposed 20 mph and 30 mph speed limits- various roads- Church Road update.**

I am pleased that GCC are consulting on the revision to the order to include a 20 mph limit around the Church Street area. The deadline for comments is July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020. I had made representations to extend the 30 mph limit which is proposed for Todenham Road to extend beyond Cornflower Road further eastwards to The Avenue. Unfortunately it is not permissible under the regulations

given the rural character of the road at this locality. However I have obtained GCC support that new signage will be installed to warn drivers to slow down on the approach to the new limit.

### **Cotswold Friends**

I have received the latest report from them for the first five weeks of the lock – down. Calls/emails received and responded to are stabilising at about 3000 a week, and the number of people supported each week is around 1000. Shopping trips and meals delivered have increased to nearly 100 per week. Hospital and pharmacy visits have increased to nearly 200 per week. GCC and CDC through a grant from us have financially supported this work. It is an extraordinary achievement.

I have also received an update on progress since 2018/19 to 2019/20 for the Cotswolds Friends Community Transport Service.. This shows a 26% growth in journeys, a 60% growth in active drivers and that 69% of all drives were for medical appointments.

Cotswold Friends point out

- People who have received community services for the first time because of the pandemic may want to retain them.
- Some people are likely to have lost confidence to leave their houses and some, who were not housebound, may become so.
- This is likely to affect all parishes in the North Cotswolds and a comprehensive plan needs to be put in place to manage this transition period and on-going community support.

This is something I intend to engage with. We are working on two trials in the North Cotswolds and the Forest of Dean of a new form of community transport which through telephone booking and on-line booking is more responsive to people`s needs. A rural form of “Uber.”

## **Walking and Cycling**

Gloucestershire County Council has published its plan to make it easier to walk and cycle during the Covid – 19 restrictions. The move comes following government announcements of measures and national investment of £250m to promote sustainable travel.

The council has issued a briefing note to county councillors and district councils asking them to put forward their top priority schemes so that these can be assessed for grant support. These can include:

- Using cones and barriers to widen footways, crossings, refuges and bus stops.
- Additional cycle parking at key locations.
- Whole route approaches – create key corridors for buses, cycles and access only.
- Fast -tracking already planned schemes

I enclose a plan showing a scheme put forward by a number of residents for an extension of the existing cycleway from Moreton through Evenlode to Stow -on -the – Wold, Bourton -on – the Water and Kington station. I would support this concept but it will need the support of district councillors and consultation with the parishes.



