

County Councillor Report for Alvington Parish Council

Thursday 2nd April 2026

County News

[County Council team recognised in national SEND awards](#)

A team at Gloucestershire County Council that supports young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has been shortlisted for a national award.

[Pulhams launches electric buses and depot improvements following £8m investment](#)

Pulhams is launching 15 electric buses into service and has unveiled significant improvements to one of its depots in Cheltenham thanks to a multi-million investment in clean technology.

[Growth Hub network receives funding approval](#)

Gloucestershire's network of Growth Hubs will continue to provide free business support in every district after funding was approved to keep the countywide service open.

[County to begin work on roll out of 20mph speed limits](#)

Gloucestershire County Council is set to begin introducing community-backed 20mph speed limits and other road safety measures as part of a major new road safety programme.

[New countywide bus map launched for Gloucestershire](#)

Gloucestershire County Council has published a new bus map showing all the main bus routes across the county, operated by all the major operators.

[New fire safety rules to protect residents needing extra support](#)

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) is getting ready for new national fire safety regulations that come into force on 6 April 2026, designed to improve evacuation arrangements for residents who may need support to leave their building in the event of a fire.

[New climate funding launched as county emissions fall](#)

Gloucestershire County Council has published its sixth annual Climate Change Report, setting out progress made and strengthening its long-term commitment to tackling climate change.

GCC Meetings

Full Council

Two motions were debated. The Greens proposed a motion calling for a Task-and-Finish group to urgently look into opportunities for expanding publicly renewable energy across

Gloucestershire. The motion argued that doing so was vital for energy security and reducing carbon emissions while providing financial benefits to local authorities and communities. The LDs refused to grant a Task-and-Finish group for this purpose. However, an amended version of the motion which instead referred the matter to Climate Leadership Gloucestershire was passed.

The second motion was proposed by the Conservative Group and called on Cabinet to strengthen support for Gloucestershire's farmers and rural communities by prioritising local procurement and produce and enhancing Public Health efforts to address rural mental health. The motion was passed.

Cabinet

This month's GCC meeting of the Cabinet took the following decisions related to LGR:

- Approved the strategic case for joining the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) as Gloucestershire's preferred option in response to the Government's invitation to submit an expression of interest in forming a foundation strategic authority.
- Approved the establishment of a joint programme with Gloucestershire's District Councils to deliver Local Government Reorganisation across Gloucestershire.

They also approved the following reports:

- Approved the Council Strategy Action Plan to deliver the priorities set out in the Council Strategy.
- Approved the County Council's Commercial Strategy.
- Approved the annual update of the Council's progress with its Gloucestershire Climate Change Report and recommendations on net zero.

Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund

The Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund scheme is continuing to seek applications from eligible groups. The scheme delivers funding to community initiatives seeking to make a positive impact on health and wellbeing, access to nature, digital inclusion, community cohesion, and reducing inequalities. I have £4000 left to support projects in my division.

More information about the scheme is available on the dedicated [webpage](#). Guidance for how to apply is available [here](#).

Roads

Please continue to use and promote the use of [FixMyStreet](#) to report issues on the roads.

Community climate change fund - applications now OPEN for 2026

Following the Green Group's amendment at last month's budget, the fourth round of the [community climate change fund](#) is now live.

[The fund has previously granted up to £150,000 since January 2024, supporting 35 projects across the county](#), including installing bike shelters to encourage cycling, LED lights, energy saving measures for vulnerable people in homes, composting and growing local produce, repair cafe and bike repair workshops, carbon literacy training and installing solar panels or batteries.

Eligible groups don't have to be climate experts to apply. The fund can be used to support communities who are starting their journey to take action and protect their local environment, increase the health of their local community and help cut costs.

Priority will be given to projects that are able to reduce the most carbon, reach the most people and provide the best value for money.

Applications will close on 29 April 2026 at 5pm Please help spread the word!

District Council

The Cabinet of 12th March determined the following:

- accepted the Quarter Performance Report for Quarter 3
- approved the Homeseeker Plus Policy Review
- approved the update on the Active Travel Strategy

- endorsed the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

This latter is an impressive piece of work and deserves reading if you are interested in how we change the direction on nature loss.

The cabinet meeting on 13th April will look at :

- the Discretionary Rate Relief policy
- the Long Term Empty Homes strategy
- the Commercial and Transformation strategy.

These meetings are open to the public and are livestreamed for your reference.

Kind regards,

Cllr Chris McFarling

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