

CDC: Local issues have been somewhat overridden by the announcement of a general election! The planned CDC cabinet meeting has been cancelled for a somewhat fuzzy related reason, and as a consequence the **Overview & Scrutiny** meeting was canned as the relevant reports were not produced for the cabinet. This means that I have been unable to follow up on the costs for the Publica transition. I did however attend a full briefing of the programme where the key players provided an update. I was reassured that the programme itself seems to be in good hands, but they didn't go close to discussing anything like costs – I will be discussing these with the Chief Financial Officer as soon as time permits. The (3 hour!) briefing soon descended into naval gazing (e.g. 45 minutes on whether the council should address residents as customers or citizens!) after the initial detail, so I slipped out quietly to avoid being bored into an early grave.

Fetes and shows: we are now in the peak season for village fetes and local shows, and I hope the weather is kind if you have one planned – they take a lot of organisation by volunteers so do support them if you can. The bank holiday events in Tetbury were a great success, and a sale at Chavenage House recently raised £3500 for charity. Fantastic! Fingers crossed also for my daughter's wedding at Cherington on 6th July.

Roads: Complaints were made at the last full council about the length of time it has taken to fix the flood at the Tesco roundabout in Cirencester (the road is now open again), and also the lack of verge cutting, especially at roundabouts and junctions. The Highways website has a table of dates (Cirencester w/c 17th May; Avening 24th May for example), but as at the 1st June neither of these areas have been actioned. While 'no mow May' can be a good thing for bio-diversity, leaving the roads in a dangerous state is not acceptable.

CDC have finally completed installation of 2 EV chargers at the council offices, and have accepted a government grant of c£190k match funded to install others across the district (none in the south Cotswold area!), but parishes and towns can apply for their own grants if there is a need.

River pollution: I met with the area manager of Severn Trent at the Avening Sewage treatment plant, which turned out to be very informative and reassuring. The waste first goes through a settlement tank where non-biological solids are removed. It then splits and travels through three rotating mesh drums where it comes into contact with bacteria that digests all the nasties, before a further settlement tank to catch the spent bacteria. The outflow then flows slowly through up to 5 reed beds to filter out any remaining solids. At the end of the journey the clean water collects in a sump where it is pumped into the stream. During the pumping operation the water is constantly and automatically monitored for quality, with the data being sent directly to HQ.

There is a secondary route which kicks in during a storm surge so that the main plant isn't overwhelmed. The effluent is diverted into a much larger/deeper reedbed (still seeded with the same bacteria) which is then ultimately pumped into the stream – it is still very safe but

may contain a slightly raised level of ammonia and other chemicals. When this route outflows to the stream it generates one of the reports that first alarmed me and led to the meeting. Although we had 118 such instances, they are logged each time the pump is activated, so these could be several in a short space of time if there isn't much going through the system. However, by the time you read this the latest upgrade to the storm system should have been completed, where the reed bed is aerated to ensure the bacteria does as good a job as the main process – this will mean there will be no further 'sewage outflow' instances from Avening.

The Avening plant was experimental when it was installed some 30+ years ago and was over specified at the time, but it is still performing well and apparently, we have the best quality effluent in the whole Severn Trent area!

Councillor Tony Slater

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Other updates and information for Parish Councils:

HOW TO REPORT POTHOLE

I recommend using this link, especially if you have a smartphone and can take a photograph of the pothole and identify the exact position. It is more efficient than emailing the council as officers get a daily schedule of these alerts.

Gloucestershire County Council, report a pothole:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>

FIX MY STREET

Report, view, or discuss local problems like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting. This reports back to the appropriate Council: [LINK](#)

Police & Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner elections took place on Thursday 2 May. I am delighted to confirm that Chris Nelson was re-elected.

REPORT IT

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/report-it/>

New forms for reporting graffiti, overflowing bins, dog fouling and street cleaning are now live on the Cotswold District Council Website.

A map pin drop allowing for what3words location submissions can be used.