

Gloucester City Council

CityLife

ISSUE 14 MARCH 2011

INFORMATION FROM GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL

What
YOU
CHOOSE

Results from
the Budget
Consultation
January 2011

We won't tolerate
Litterbugs

£80
ZERO-TOLERANCE
FINE FOR LITTERBUGS

Millions invested
in city housing



guide to keeping
your dog in the city



City Toilets
more provision



The Guildhall
has it all



green waste
sign up for the
new service



GLOUCESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Gloucester Community Toilet Scheme



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Members of the CTS club



Phil Tandy, Robert Raikes' House



Paul Goddard, Gloucester Guildhall

We have a new Gloucester Community Toilet Scheme.

It increases the number of premises available, with more facilities and longer opening hours. Current businesses involved and facilities offered include:

- 1 Coots bar & cafe, Gloucester Docks
 - 2 The Dandelion, Longsmith Street
 - 3 Robert Raikes' House, 38 Southgate Street
 - 4 Warehouse Climbing Centre, Parliament Street
 - 5 The Cross Keys Inn, Cross Keys Lane
 - 6 The New Inn, 16 Northgate
 - 7 The Guildhall, 23 Eastgate
 - 8 The Mall, Eastgate
 - 9 Debenham's, King's Square
 - 10 Poppins Cafe, 9-11 Clarence Street
 - 11 The Westgate, Westgate
 - 12 The Union, Westgate
- GLI, Bruton Way
- St Oswald's,
- Gloucester Park
- Robinswood Hill
- Gloucester Bus Station
- Total Garage, Hucclecote
- Hucclecote Community Association

If you are a local business interested in finding out what is in this for you please email heretohelp@gloucester.gov.uk

The Community Toilet Scheme is available where you see this sign.

Elections – make sure you can vote

Local elections will be taking place for Gloucester City Council on Thursday 5th May 2011. There is also a UK wide referendum on the way MPs are elected. You must be on the electoral register in order to be able to vote in these elections.

The following local wards are up for election:

Abbey
Barnwood
Barton and Tredworth
Hucclecote
Kingsholm and Wotton
Longlevens
Matson and Robinswood
Moreland
Quedgeley Fieldcourt
Quedgeley Severn Vale
Westgate

The deadline for registration is midnight on Thursday 14th April

The deadline for applying to vote by post or to alter an existing postal or proxy arrangement is 5pm on Thursday 14th April

The deadline for applying to vote by proxy is 5pm on Thursday 21st April

If you have any queries about the election or your registration you can contact the electoral registration office at elections@gloucester.gov.uk or telephone 01452 396204

**THURSDAY
5TH MAY**



KEY AIM
Thriving 21st century city

Anti litter campaign starts to bite

A total of five local residents have had to pay fines and costs totalling more than £1,000 as the city council's 'zero-tolerance' anti-litter campaign starts to make an impact.



One resident was arrested for failing to respond to a summons to appear in court and all of them now have criminal records. The residents who live in the Barton, White City, Matson and Westgate areas had committed offences ranging from littering and fly tipping to dog fouling. The heaviest penalty fell to the dog fouling offence where the owner was fined £350 with £150 costs. Martin Shields, the city council's corporate director of services and neighbourhoods, commented: "In some cases, our officers had given the residents a £75 penalty charge notice the equivalent of a 'spot fine'."

"In other cases, like the fly-tipping offence, it requires our officers to undertake some detailed investigation to track the culprits down. "Offenders should know that we will do what it takes to track them down and prosecute where they are committing offences such as these. "City residents have told us that they want the council to act to keep the city clean and we are responding to those requests with some vigour." It costs the city council £1 million a year to keep Gloucester clean. In the current economic climate, with savings needing to be made in services, the council says some of this money could be better spent if a minority of residents acted more responsibly.





KEY AIM
Thriving 21st century city

You Said - We Did!

Progressing Regeneration We're continuing the regeneration of the city with the linkages from the City Centre to the Quays nearing completion, work is underway at Blackfriars and a start is imminent at Greyfriars.



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Keeping the City Clean We are committed to make the City even cleaner. For example we've carried out a deep clean of the City Centre and we've prosecuted people for environmental crime, such as dog fouling.



KEY AIM
Thriving 21st century city

Community Toilet Scheme We have introduced a community toilet scheme - a partnership with local businesses, who open up their facilities to the public. So far 15 have signed up to improve provision in the city.



KEY AIM
Strong, cohesive communities

Extending Recycling We've extended our enhanced recycling scheme, including food waste and plastic bottles, to flats in the city.



KEY AIM
Top-performing organization

Reducing back-office costs We've reduced the costs of our back office services and will be joining up with the county council to save even more. Looking ahead our focus will be to strengthen Gloucester's economy, to create pride in our city, and to make Gloucester a city for everyone.



KEY AIM
Strong, cohesive communities

Play Areas We are continuing to improve play areas across the city, investing £360,000 improving seven play areas over the last year.



KEY AIM
Strong, cohesive communities

Want to influence things and make a difference? Get involved in our consultations. Go to www.gloucester.gov.uk/consultations

If you talk



We'll listen



Dog owners – follow this lead

There are lots of places in and around the city where dog owners can exercise their pets and let them run freely off their leads. But there are certain areas where the need to be able to do this without 'undue restriction' has to be balanced with the requirements to have dog-free 'zones' – children's play areas are one example. Here's our handy guide for dog owners about the dos and don'ts of keeping pets on leads **Dogs on lead** A dog should be kept on a short lead – not more than six foot – when it is being walked along a roadside pavement and any grass verge attached to that pavement. An owner out with their dog

who is asked to put it on a lead by a council officer or a Police Community Support Officer must do so at once. **Dog Exclusion** Dogs should not be allowed to enter any fenced or enclosed children's play area within any of the city's parks or green spaces. If it does it must be removed immediately. **Dog Fouling** Dog owners should always pick up after their animals and this applies to all areas of the city that are open to the air and that the public have access to or are entitled to have access to. Failure to comply with any of these can result in a fixed penalty notice of £75. Failure to pay will result in a prosecution with a maximum fine of £1,000.

Dangerous Dogs To own any of the following dogs you must have a certificate of exemption.

- Pit Bull Terrier or pit bull terrier types
- Japanese Tosa
- Dogo Argentino
- Fila Brasileiro

 Owners of these breeds must be registered at their local police station and have their dogs:

- Micro-chipped
- Tattooed on the inner thigh
- Neutered
- Covered by third party insurance
- They must be muzzled and on a lead at all times in a public place.

 The penalty for failing to comply with the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act is up to six months in prison and/or a fine of up to £2,000. In certain circumstances the courts can order the dog to be destroyed. Lloyd Griffiths, the city council's environmental protection

service manager, commented: "The vast majority of dog owners are keen to act responsibly. They keep their dogs on leads when they should and clear up any mess they make when it happens. "As is always the case it is the minority that can cause problems and we want them to know that we can and have been taking action against people who act irresponsibly."



KEY AIM
Strong, cohesive communities

Subscribe to the new garden waste service for Gloucester



To receive the garden waste service from April 2011 there will be an annual charge of £36 per bin.

During consultation on the council's budget you told us you would prefer to have the option of subscribing to the garden waste service, rather than pay for the service via a blanket rise in council

tax, because not all residents want to receive the service. Some customers also compost at home, or take their garden waste to the household recycling centre at Hempsted.

To find out more, visit the recycling pages at www.gloucester.gov.uk/gardenwaste or subscribe online.

What you can put in your green wheeled-bin

- ☀ Grass cuttings
- ☀ Twigs and small branches
- ☀ Real Christmas trees (cut to fit)
- ☀ Hedge trimmings
- ☀ Plants and cut flowers
- ☀ Weeds, plants, leaves and bark

What you can't put in your green wheeled-bin

- ☀ Garden tools and furniture
- ☀ Soil, bricks and rubble
- ☀ Cardboard and paper (put these in your green, dry recyclables box)
- ☀ Plastic pots and labels
- ☀ Vegetable peelings & Leftover food (put these in your brown, food waste caddy)
- ☀ Animal bedding
- ☀ Animal faeces
- ☀ Plastic bags (take these back to a supermarket)
- ☀ Chemicals
- ☀ Ash



£36
all in

Adopt a bin for just £36 a year

Subscribe to the New Garden Waste Service for Gloucester

Don't Delay Sign-Up Today!



☀ £36 per year per bin, payable annually in advance

☀ Special offers & payment options – speak to our officers for details

☀ Council Tax Benefit and Housing Benefit concessions available

☀ A totally optional service

☀ Sign-up online at www.gloucester.gov.uk/gardenwaste

recycle for Gloucester
www.gloucester.gov.uk/gardenwaste
01452 396396

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL
working in partnership with
Enterprise

Residents who sign up before the 4th April will receive 18 months for the price of 12!

Residents who receive benefits are entitled to a concession of £18 per bin

compost for a greener world

Don't Delay Sign-Up Today!

A garden waste bin is for the whole year – not just for the summer: use it for:

Your autumn clear-out, to avoid the need for a bonfire.

Your spring trim, to encourage bushier shrubs and healthier trees.

Your Christmas trees in the winter, cut to fit the bin.

Millions invested in city housing



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Thriving 21st
century city

Housing staff at the city council have been instrumental in helping to secure more than £8 million worth of funding for new homes in Gloucester.

The elderly, homeless people and families will all benefit from three projects – two of which have already been completed and one where work has got under way.

At St Oswalds a new development of 56 new homes to buy or rent are being developed in partnership with Rooftop Housing and Persimmon, continuing the transformation of this vibrant urban quarter.

Taylor House in Matson provides accommodation for more than 30 homeless people. Improvements mean that it will be easier to tailor individual programmes for residents to help

them to return to independent living. The scheme is run by Elim Housing Association.

Also in Matson staff have worked with Elim on a project that has recently started that will deliver 13 family homes with some available to buy or rent.

Helen Chard, the council's housing strategy and enabling service manager, commented: "These are schemes that are

benefiting the whole spectrum of the community. They provide rented homes or properties where residents can buy a share in their home – which helps make it affordable for them.

"Apart from putting in money of its own the city council has worked very hard to secure funding from government agencies to help make these schemes a reality."



St Oswald's new housing scheme

Photograph © Thousand Words Media

King's Quarter Major Regeneration Project - Gloucester

KEY AIM

helping to put the city on the map.



Exclusive negotiations with a major developer for the King's Quarter site in Gloucester have been entered into by Gloucester City Council.

Over the coming months Stanhope PLC will work up a concept scheme for the King's Quarter area of the city which is bordered by Bruton Way and Northgate Street, and covers King's Square and the bus station.

The scheme is likely to include new shops, bars and restaurants, residential and office facilities, as well as high quality public squares and spaces, parking and a brand new bus station.

To ensure the planned development is what Gloucester residents and stakeholders want there will be a period of public consultation before work begins.

Gloucester Guildhall is as culturally diverse a venue as any city could wish for.

Working tirelessly to bring the biggest names in music to Gloucester, this year alone The Guildhall played host to the likes of The Feeling, The Beat and Seth Lakeman, all of which sold out, with Kate Nash, Funeral For A Friend, Ian McCulloch, Frank Turner and The Subways to come over the next couple of months. Our 18th annual Cajun & Zydeco Festival in January was more popular than ever, securing its reputation as the longest-running (and best!) festival of its kind in Europe, and the fledgling Underground Festival, showcasing the very best of new and emerging bands, will return in September following its fantastically successful launch in 2010.

Set in the grandeur of the old council chamber you can watch the latest blockbusters as well as the best of the art house films that you can't see at your local multiplex while enjoying a relaxing drink from the bar next door – quite simply it's cinema heaven for the discerning film lover.

As far as workshops go, the Guildhall's weekly Zumba class has been the success story of the year, its attendance levels increasing with every session, and the popularity of instructor Natalie Burton's classes throughout Gloucestershire growing so fast that she has been able to jack in the day job and go Zumba full time!

Whatever you're into, Gloucester Guildhall really does have it all.

There's a variety of ways that you can keep up to date with the latest news from Gloucester Guildhall – we're on Facebook and Twitter and you can also sign up to our mailing list from our website www.gloucesterguildhall.co.uk where you'll get a monthly email with details of all our listings and any super exciting news just in.

Guildhall Has it All

We're the place for be for films and our intimate 120-seat cinema has gone from strength to strength this year, with a two-week run of The King's Speech drawing in record crowds.

We're the county's liveliest entertainment venue and are the first choice for meetings & conference trade – join in!

Photograph © Nick Eaketts www.kittencakes.co.uk

KEY AIM

helping to put the city on the map.



Please don't feed the birds



A publicity campaign is being launched encouraging residents and visitors not to feed birds in the city centre.

The city council is one of the leading local authorities in the country for its approach to dealing with the problem caused by urban gulls. The ready availability of food is one of the keys to the breeding success of the birds.

As part of its on-going work it is stepping up local publicity. Already it has reminded local fast food outlets about their responsibilities to provide bins near their premises to help cut down on the amount of food left in the street.

Now it is asking residents and visitors for their help too.

Julie Wight who heads up the city council's Private Sector Housing team, explained:

"We know that it is tempting to feed birds when you are perhaps sat eating

your sandwiches in the city centre.

"But there is no doubt that gulls have been a major nuisance for traders and visitors and the only real way to combat the problem is to cut them off from their food source. The land fill operators will be taking steps this year to prevent the birds from feeding on the tip but we also need to take action inside the city as well.

"And there is no doubt that food left laying around in the street is also a magnet for other vermin such as rats and mice."

Wildlife lovers who are keen to feed birds are asked to follow the advice for doing so issued by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds – and put out appropriate food in their gardens. The wrong sort could encourage the gulls to move out into the suburbs.

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century city





Markets



Public Health & Safety



Sports & Leisure Facilities



Community Safety



Tourism



Sports Development

Doing more with less

KEY AIM
Top-performing organization



Economic & Community Development



Protecting the Environment



Refuse & Recycling



Parks & Open Spaces



Housing & Homelessness



Street Cleansing & Enforcement



Benefit Payments & Administration



Council Support & Public Engagement



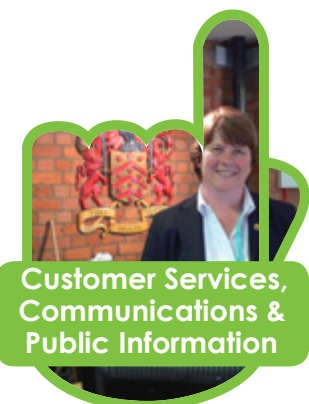
Planning & Building Control



Shopmobility



Council Housing



Customer Services, Communications & Public Information



Cultural Services

Gloucester City Council works for you. If you tell us what you want then we will do our best to provide it for you.

Money is tight this year for everyone, including the city council. Over the next three years we have to make £6.1 million worth of savings on a £18 million budget. £4.2 million of that total needs to be saved over the next year.

However, we want to ensure we provide you with the services you want when you want them. You may not think you use many of the city council's services, but you may be surprised to know that we deliver over 55 different services to our community.

As well as the obvious ones that everyone instantly knows like Recycling, Housing Benefit, Street Cleaning and Planning there are many others that are vital and part of what we deliver to you from the council tax you pay.

Visit our website for a full list of all the services we offer – from Abandoned Vehicles to Welfare Rights – for any help and advice you may need.

Although the budget has been squeezed we are still working to build a better Gloucester.

Over the forthcoming year the council will continue to make efficiency savings whilst maintaining services to support local residents and businesses.

This year Gloucester City Council is freezing its part of the council tax you pay.

Below are some of the results from this year's consultation.

84% of residents said you would like is to make savings by purchasing goods and services in a better way.

77% said you would like to see more online services from the council, rather than face-to-face.

82% of you thought we should share services with other organisations.

71% said you wouldn't mind the council introducing an entry charge for the city's museums.

67% of you said you wouldn't mind the council introducing a charge for garden waste collections and a charge for bulky waste collections.

The largest areas you told us you wanted us to make savings were in council support & public engagement and culture & leisure.

The areas you least wanted the council to make cuts were environment & waste, community safety and housing & homelessness.

CommunityLife

Branching-out days

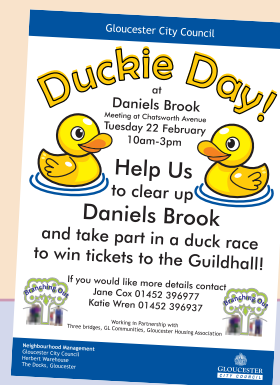


KEY AIM
Strong, cohesive
communities

Were working with our partners, Gloucester City Homes, Gloucester Housing Association, Police, project SOLACE, GL communities and the relevant neighbourhood partnership to provide a range of community days throughout the year.

Previous successful events

Tuesday, February 22nd	Grange	Daniels Brook	Duckie Day	Litter Picking, shrub clearance, Fly tip removal, viewpoint creation, Duck Race	Three Bridges Community Partnership, Grange School.
Friday 25th February	Barton	Ince Castle Way	Environment Day	Litter Picking, Environmental education. Birds of Prey	Gloucester Housing Association



Watch out for the following events

more details can be found at www.gloucester.gov.uk

Dates may be subject to change. Take part in an activity in your area – just turn up.

Thursday April 14th	Barnwood	Willow Way	Five A Day	Litter picking, outdoor games, apple pressing. consultation on community orchard and allotment.	Barnwood Community Partnership, Barnwood College, Coney Hill Primary School. Gloucestershire Orchard Society, Farmers' Markets
Thursday, April 21th	Tuffley	Slimbridge Road	Easter Eggstravaganza	Fly-tipping removal, bramble clearance, Litter Picking, Egghunt	Three Bridges Community Partnership.
Thursday, May 12th *Evening Session	Quedgeley	Bentley Close	Summer Nights	Himalayan Balsam Pulling, BBQ	Quedgeley Parish Council, BTCV
Tuesday 31st May	Podsmead	Wagon Works	Big Clean Up	Painting and updating of pavilion	
Thursday, June 16th *Evening Session	Abbey	Saintbridge	Midsummer Madness	Himalayan Balsam Pulling, BBQ, rounders/cricket	Friends of Saintbridge Balancing Pond, Heron School, Abbey Residents' Association
Thursday, June 2nd	Barton and Tredworth	Metz Way	Grimebusters	Litter Picking	City Centre Partnership, Barton and Tredworth Residents' Association
Thursday July 28th	Kingsholm and Wotton	Armscroft	School's out. Grimebusters	Litter Picking, Victorian Games.	Kingsholm and Wotton Neighbourhood Partnership
Thursday, August 11th	Quedgeley	Kingsway Open Space	School's out. Grimebusters	Litter Picking, BBQ	Quedgeley Parish Council, Kingsway Residents' Association,
Thursday, August 25th	Barnwood	Coney Hill Pond	School's out. Grimebusters	Litter Picking, flytip removal, Painting of MUGA, BBQ	Barnwood Community Partnership, Barnwood College, Coney Hill Primary School.

Cemetery 3-day closure for facelift

The city council cemetery and crematorium at Coney Hill will be closed to the public for three days later this month.

There will be no burials or cremations on March 21st – 23rd, 2011 while work is carried out across the whole site as part of a major £2 million upgrade. A programme of resurfacing and re-tarmacing of footpaths and roads is taking place throughout the site, that means services and visits to the grounds have to be suspended.

Already major technical improvements have been made to the crematorium and a new tea room and wake room – called The Arbour Building



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– are due to be opened in the spring. A new memorial garden is also being created as part of the project.

Gloucester City Council apologises for closure but the end result will be a big improvement.



Coney Hill Crematorium

Charges for Museums

The council is looking hard at the way it can cover its costs of discretionary services, such as providing two museums.

Both council museums are currently getting a make-over to make the exhibits be more interesting, along with the addition of a café at each site, an education centre and better shop facilities.

In order to achieve the £200,000 worth of savings the museum service needs to make, a small entry charge is being introduced. The proposed figures for this entry charge are £3 standard entry and £2 for concessions.

One ticket will allow entry into both the City Museum and Art Gallery and the Folk Museum for one month. No charge will be made to those wishing to enjoy the new café or retail offering.

Customers who buy an entry ticket from the Folk Museum

prior to the City Museum re-opening will have six months in which to visit the City Museum once it opens. The ticket validation date will be made at the time of purchase.

There will also be a number of free, open days each year, as well as outreach events, where museums staff will go into the community.

A membership scheme will also be introduced. This will mean residents can pay a one-off annual fee and can use the council museums as many

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helping to put the
city on the map.



times as they wish. The proposed charges for this will be £20 for a family membership and £10 for an individual.

Membership benefits include a regular e-newsletter, Invitations to preview evenings and special events, free admission to Culture Club and social events.

To find out what's on at the museums, visit www.gloucester.gov.uk/museums



City Museum new gallery proposals