

HARESCOMBE PARISH MEETING

Monday 11th May 2026
at
HARESCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

District Councillor Report – Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes

1. Garden Waste

A reminder that garden waste collections are now open to all households in the district for the first time. This has involved using smaller vehicles to access the more difficult to reach areas and narrow lanes. More details on the website. <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/bins-rubbish-and-recycling/garden-waste-collection-service/>

2. Reduced Speed Limit on B4008 from M5 past the Tritax Park Development

You will no doubt be aware of the plans to introduce a 40mph speed limit adjacent to the Tritax Park development on the B4008. The consultation period ended on April 13th. We are awaiting further information.

3. DCC Committees

A decision has been made to increase the frequency of DCC meetings to every four weeks. This increases meetings from approximately 8 per year to 12 per year, this begins in June. The reason for the change is to make it easier to consider applications within the determination deadlines.

4. Draft Local Plan

A report was presented to SDC Full Council in April to formally commence a new local plan, this was voted through by Councillors. This is a link to the meeting. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIUg6EOLR4k&t=12279s>

5. Local Government Devolution

Government consultation closed 26th March. All of the focus has been on the three different models for unitary authorities in Gloucestershire, however in the last couple of weeks there been rumours and concern regarding the next stage of organisation, for the regional authority (Mayoral Authority). The target for a regional authority is two to three unitary areas with approximately 1.5m

population. The regional authority unlocks additional funding for infrastructure. All six Gloucestershire district councils and the county council have voted on a preference that keeps Gloucestershire connected to the south-west by joining the West of England Combined Authority (WECA). The rumour is that central government favour a midlands tie-up for Gloucestershire with Herefordshire and Worcestershire. As a result, GCC have again written to the minister making a clear preference for WECA.

6. Council Tax Support Scheme

Council adopted the recommendation to maintain current policy of offering up to a maximum of 100% council tax support for eligible claimants. This approach reduces council tax arrears and associated costs and provides stability for vulnerable households.

7. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2027- 2030

Disappointing news from central government in that the funding settlement will be £1m per year less than expected from 2027.

The MTFP has been made slightly easier as there is a three-year financial settlement from the Government which gives greater certainty. However, as was always known would be the case, the Fair Funding Formula and the Business Rates reset combined has significantly reduced funding in the years ahead. Although this has been planned for and the budget had been prepared based on the provisional settlement received in December, there was a change in the final settlement on 9 February. The settlement confirmed downward adjustments to years 2 and 3 in the budget periods (2027- 2028 and 2028- 2029), which results in reduction of £1m funding in each of those years. This has implications for the MTFP, and savings will need to be identified both this year and in the following years. Service delivery will continue to be prioritised, however additional activities set out in the council plan 2025- 2029 will be reviewed. There is no freeze in recruitment and no suggestion of staff redundancies.

8. Council Plan Review 2025- 2029

The Council Plan was approved. However, because of MTFP situation, the priorities in the plan will be reviewed over the next six months to consider savings, with the objective of identifying in-year savings 2026- 2027 which will contribute to the budget in future years. The Council Plan 2025 – 2029 is made up of activities over and above service delivery and business as usual.

9. Stroud Lido

Stroud Lido has a page on the SDC website please use this link <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/culture-leisure-sports-parks/lido/>

Many thanks

Demelza

Councillor Demelza Turner-Wilkes

Stroud District Council

Hardwicke Ward

07767120465 cllr.demelza.turner-wilkes@stroud.gov.uk