

Written update for Blockley Parish Council meeting, 18th September 2025, from Councillor Tom Bradley, Gloucestershire County Council.

20mph

At the recent Environment Scrutiny Committee I asked the Highways Directors what resource they had to move forward with the new administration's 20mph policy. At the time I was advised no additional resource had been provided, and that officers were concerned they would be overwhelmed with a "tsunami" of applications. They have flagged this to Cabinet as a major concern. I also asked about timescales given the likely interest across the county. Officers confirmed that even dealing with the initial sift will take "several years, if not longer" before they can even begin to look at the necessary TROs. I am therefore advising my parishes, that if they are interested please do let the Council know, but where there are issues with speeding, then let's work together on other options in the meantime which we can get actioned more quickly.

EV charging

I had a good meeting with Cllr Cook, following my update to the PC regarding the GCC EV chargepoint programme. As discussed, the County Council are currently looking at on-street options, with a scheme for parishes, village halls, etc to be launched next year for off-street parking. I am happy to support the PC in its endeavours and if they would like to proceed with discussing options, then will ask the relevant officer to liaise.

Other highways

I am aware that the issue re water across the road in Aston Magna has returned, and am seeking an update on where the previous investigations got to, with a view to chasing up work.

The highways crew has been out across the parish to carry out patching work on potholes.

I am currently working with officers to look at options to include in the 27/28 financial year resurfacing plan. I have asked them to measure and cost up the B4035 in between Campden and Paxford, as well as the road from Blockley up to Bourton on the Hill.

School provision

I have been approached by a number of schools locally concerned around future school provision and school improvements. I am following this up with officers and the relevant portfolio holders to ensure that the revised housing targets for the Cotswold District are taken into account in future school planning and that any developer contributions from our area are spent in our area.

Russell Spring

The County Council were alerted to tests carried out by Thames Water that showed the spring water is a danger to human health. As the owner of the Spring, GCC has a duty to ensure that the water is made safe or else that it cannot be drunk. I have made clear that I would never support blocking of the Spring. At present, we are working to get the necessary information re the test results with a view to considering the option of making the water safe. If this cannot be done, I have asked officers to look at options to install sympathetic railings to prevent drinking, but enable the Spring to keep flowing and be visible. This is a difficult process due to the number of stakeholders involved and lack of direct information to date, but I will provide a further update once available.

Local government reorganisation

Officers continue to draw up the evidence pack for two options - a single all Gloucestershire unitary, or an East/West split. To date, data shows the majority of residents prefer the single unitary option and that this would deliver the best value for the taxpayer. Council will vote on its preferred option in November, which will then be followed by a recommendation to MHCLG. We will have a Ministerial decision by summer next year, with potential elections to the shadow authority in May 2027 and then full vesting in May 2028.