

Dear Badgeworth Parish Clerk, PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17th JULY 2025

Please accept my apologies for this evening's Parish Council meeting, I was hoping to make it to you but regrettably I have 3 other requests for parish this evening and can only make one of them. I am very conscious that in such a large division every parish deserves a present county councillor. I have spoken with Cllr Ben Evan's who is attending this evening and I will be sure to prioritise your next meeting.

County Councillor Report: Richard Stanley, Severn Vale Division

County Full Council:

As you will no doubt be aware the County Council has had their first meeting of the full council where the cabinet roles were appointed and chair of the council. The second meeting was on the 16th July and was again mostly around motions with very limited county council business discussed. The council has agreed to change its constitution to ensure a fairer approach to public questions, setting 3 follow up questions per person to allow more people to participate. Motions will also be heard later to allow more focus on the council business.

I have submitted a motion to full council in support of Adopted and Special Guardianship Children which will be on the Agenda for next full council. If councillors are interested I am more than happy to send you a copy of the motion, it will be on the agenda for next GCC meeting.

Roads and Highways:

I have had a number of meetings with the Highways manager for our areas Max Kelly. I need to have further meetings with him. My budget for highways local is incredibly small given the size of the Severn Vale division but I have taken Max to see Badgeworth and I have reported a number of smaller road defects. We also discussed Church Lane (in the dip) which is particularly bad. If you have any other highways concerns please highlight them to me.

The parish should have had a consultation request from the County Council regarding speed limits - 20mph having caught the attention of media but there is also the option to reduce other speed limits, for example 40mph to 30mph which might be of interest to the parish.

I have also set up a road safety and speeding survey. This is for residents to be able to update me on any road and highway safety concerns. This was following a meeting with County Highways officers where they suggested that although there have been a number of accidents and fatalities on certain stretches of roads in Severn Vale, I would also need to demonstrate public support for there to be action. I have shared this online and will also be sharing through a residents newsletter in due course.

Councillor Surgeries:

I committed during the election to being available for residents across the constituency both online and in person. I have therefore set up a number of Councillor surgeries across the Severn Vale which I hope will ensure that residents from across our large division are able to meet with me to raise questions, concerns and ideas about the things they would like to see in our county. If councillors would like to join me at any of these you would be more than welcome. My surgery meeting dates are going to be held on the last Saturday of the month so the coming dates are 26th July, 30th August, 27th Sept, 25th October.

Times are:

10am-11 at the Bakery Bird in Coombe Hill,
11:30am-12:30 The New Dawn Inn, Norton.
1pm-2pm Shurdington Village Hall.
2:30pm Bishop's Cleeve Library.

Grass Cutting:

I am aware of the issues in some areas regarding the cutting of County Council Grass by Tewkesbury Borough Council and that the ending of this contract has caused some issues and frustrations. I confirmed at Tewkesbury Borough Executive that the borough will look to bring a paper in July which temporarily reinstate some grass cutting, working with local borough councillors to identify the priority areas. We will then have a further paper in the Autumn to look at a more long term solution.

Local Government Reorganisation :

Just briefly as this is a topic that can take up a lot of time, there is currently a public engagement survey which I hope you have been sent a copy of. The Survey is not a full consultation on the options and is more around engagement to give people the opportunity to feed into the process with further work to follow. It would be really helpful if Parish could share this with residents.

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/gloucestershire-county-council-local-government-reorganisation-survey?preview=true>

I am happy to give a fuller update at the next meeting but you would be hopefully accessing details on this through the Association of Town and Parish Councils. There will also be a district council session in due course.

I hope this is helpful as a report, there are lots of other matters I can update you on so please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything further you would like to know.

Warm Regards

Cllr Richard Stanley