

# **GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** **COUNCILLORS REPORT NOVEMBER 2021** **COATES PARISH COUNCIL**

## **COVID-19 Vaccination: Drop-in clinics for 12-15 year olds during half term.**

Anyone aged 12 to 15 accompanied by a parent or guardian will be able to drop-in and get a single dose of the Pfizer vaccination this half term. Vaccination teams are working tirelessly to provide seasonal vaccinations - be that COVID-19 or flu – to everyone who is eligible for one or both vaccines to ensure people are protected from illness this winter. The logistics of offering the vaccine to this number of 12 to 15 year olds (27,000) is complex and vaccination teams will work alongside PCN vaccination sites to continue during school holidays. Parents, guardians and young people will still be able to access a vaccination in a school setting if they'd prefer, vaccination teams are working closely with education staff to ensure that the rollout happens as quickly and safely as possible, if children have already been invited through their school, then they do not need to do anything.

As these are drop ins and no appointment is needed, people may experience queues on the day. Please bring a face mask with you, unless you're exempt, as well as your NHS number if you have it. Remember to eat and drink before you leave home. The vaccination centres will not be able to vaccinate any other patient groups during these clinics; details of any drop in open to people over the age of 16 are advertised on the [Gloucestershire NHS COVID-19 portal \(https://covid19.glos.nhs.uk/vaccinations/#link-dropin\)](https://covid19.glos.nhs.uk/vaccinations/#link-dropin).

Guidance for parents including information how to consent:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid19vaccination-programme-for-young-people-guidance-for-parents>.

## **Gloucestershire Highways – Green Initiative Saving Miles and Carbon**

The winter gritting service undertakes precautionary salting to the primary road network when icy roads are forecast. The primary road network covers approx. 28% of Gloucestershire's total road network. Working with our partner organisation, the primary road network has undergone route optimisation for the winter gritting service, reducing the number of grit lorries from 33 to 29. This has also maximised the efficiency of the routes to adjust and reduce the number of miles driven, there is no change to the length of primary road network being gritted and this is another step in our efforts to cut carbon emissions.

## **Gloucestershire highways committed to supporting a greener Gloucestershire.**

The county council is working with partners to create a greener Gloucestershire and it's teams overseeing the county's roads and pathways have been making great progress to reduce emissions and waste, while increasing biodiversity.

Gloucestershire highways and the council's contractor Ringway, have made a variety of changes to support climate action, including:

- Three new plug-in electric highways vans, which are used to help repair roads across the county.
- To increase biodiversity, highways depots across the county have organised bird boxes, insect boxes and identified areas for wildflowers. Each depot has implemented something small to increase the ecosystems around them.
- Ringway now recycle or reuse 99% of waste generated through operations in the county. They have also increased the amount of plastic being recycled by introducing a plastic graveyard in each of the depot for a local supplier to collect. Most recently, dedicated PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) recycling stations have been introduced at each depot, used PPE is then recycled and used for fuel.

## **Severn Edge bid makes shortlist for potential new home of UK's fusion plant.**

The government have announced that the Severn Edge nomination could be the location for the UK's prototype fusion plant, which works on the same principles that power our sun. The decision on the selection process could pave the way for the fusion plant along with an associated ecology of R&D facilities, businesses and training facilities to be created at Oldbury in South Gloucestershire and Berkley in Gloucestershire. The prototype plant could lead to thousands of highly skilled jobs being created across the region. It would also have a massive impact on economic regeneration across a vast area- stretching from Cornwall to the West Midlands and Wales and including the priority areas in the governments Levelling Up Fund Agenda such as Gloucestershire, the Forest of Dean and Stroud. Its far reaching benefits would not only raise employment and prosperity in disadvantaged areas but also regenerate two former nuclear power sites which could lie dormant for years without this initiative.

## **UKHSA lab issues impacting on Gloucestershire COVID-19 case rates**

Since samples were redirected to to alternative labs, and a proportion of the individuals have been retested, the confirmed case rate in Gloucestershire has increased by 327.7% to 634.2per 100,000.

It is likely that the county's case rate will continue to rise steeply in the next few weeks, potentially appearing to be among the highest levels in the UK before settling to a truer position of positive cases once those that have come forward for retesting have received results.