

# Report on County Council Matters to North Nibley Parish Council

## 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

### **County Council meeting 17<sup>th</sup> February**

The main item for this meeting was to set the budget.

The revenue budget now totals £483.008 million. This follows additional funding of £1.297 million being confirmed in the Government's provisional finance settlement and £1.253 million following more information on the council tax collection fund position and Business Rates projected income and collection fund position from the six District Councils.

The County precept is still based on an overall increase of 4.75% on Council Tax (this includes 1.99% Council Tax increase plus a 2.76% Adult Social Care Levy). This proposed increase in the Levy is estimated to raise an additional £8.753 million for Adult Social Care services.

This budget results in a Band D Council Tax precept of £1,409.22 in 2021/22 compared to £1,345.32 in 2020/21 – an increase of £63.90 per annum.

The budget debate saw successful amendments tabled by the Liberal Democrats totalling £1.3 million mostly from contingency reserves held by the council.

These changes comprised of:

£800k to keep people safe:

- an increase of the originally proposed £10k per county division in the Highways Local funding to £20k, giving communities a greater say over how their highways money is spent, including on road safety schemes;
- a £100k fund to create 20mph speed zones in neighbourhoods across the county;
- £100k to expand school streets schemes to the Cotswolds, Stroud and Forest of Dean which have not benefitted from the pilot schemes. These prohibit vehicles using roads outside schools at the beginning and end of the school day and
- almost £70k on removing barriers to mobility, helping to find solutions to transport issues faced by people with a wide range of disabilities, such as more wheelchair space on buses, more provision of dropped kerbs, removing barriers to cycling and assisting use of mobility scooters.

The remainder consisted of:

- £100k to support children's development in their first 1000 days so they are ready for school;
- £100k to support children at risk of exclusion and help them reintegrate into school;
- £265k consisting of £5k allocated to each county councillor for a Covid Community Recovery Fund and
- £33k to cancel a proposed 3% increase in residents parking permits.

### **Covid-19 cases**

The latest information I have is for the seven days up to 21<sup>st</sup> February

The numbers of new cases per district were:

Gloucester 45

Cheltenham 44

Stroud 68

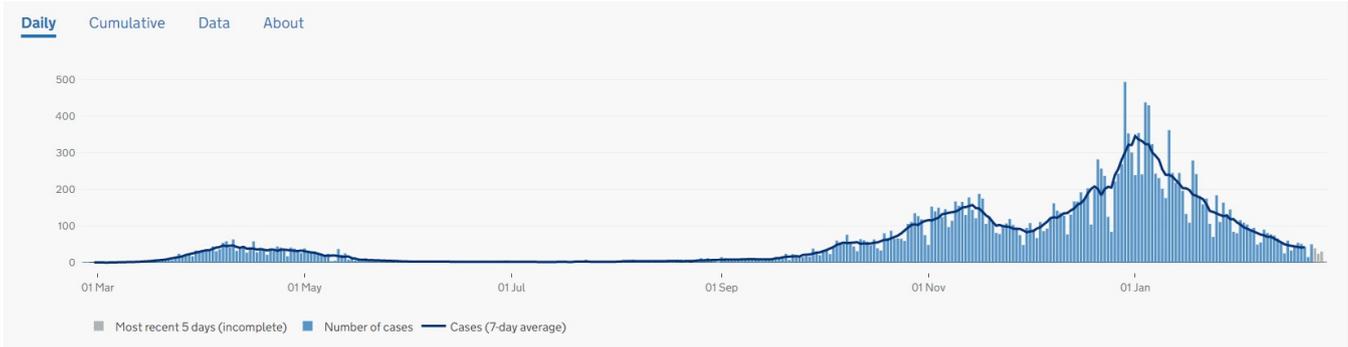
Tewkesbury 51

Forest of Dean 49

Cotswold 36

### Daily confirmed cases - Gloucestershire

Source: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/> (\* likely to change)



This gives a Gloucestershire rate of 47.6 per 100,000 population compared to 70.7 for the South West and 117.3 for England.

**John Cordwell**

*(GDPR health warning:) If you no longer wish to receive this report please let me know.*