



Our New Prime Minister and Challenges Ahead

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Richard Graham MP holding Philip Green to account

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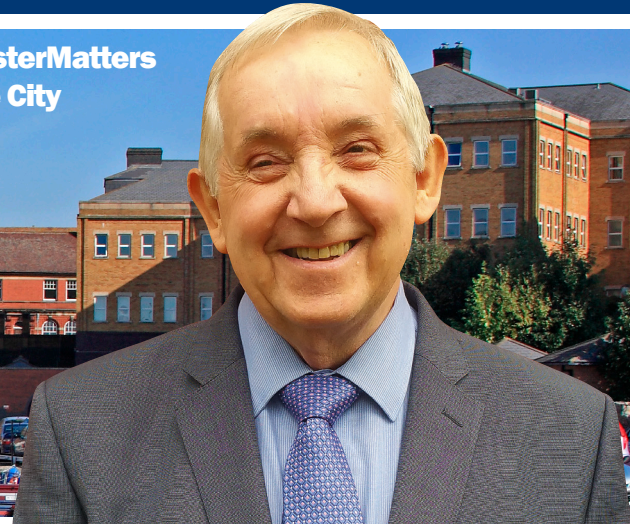


Gloucester Waterways Museum Reopens

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Abbey Views

Incorporating GloucesterMatters
News from across the City



Serving the people of Abbeydale and Abbeymead

Autumn 2016

CLLR ANDREW GRAVELLS WRITES TO YOU

Dear Neighbour,

I hope you enjoy reading this newspaper, with its focus on our area.

I live in Abbeydale, not far from Morrisons, and I represent our area on both the City and County Councils. It is a privilege to represent such a great area on both Councils. I hold monthly Advice Sessions at the Abbeydale Community on the last Saturday of each month from 10am to 11am. No appointment is necessary, so please just turn up between those times.

Most people however prefer to email me. My email address is andrew.gravells@gloucestershire.gov.uk. My phone number is Gloucester 503974.

Some of the local issues I've been working on recently include measures to reduce surface noise from the M5, and working closely with our local Police on the nuisance caused by mainly young people riding round our area on mini mopeds.

Finally, if you're new to our area, welcome!! I hope you'll be very happy here.

With best wishes,

Andrew



Andrew with newly elected councillor Collette Finnegan

ABBEY TEAM

In this edition of AbbeyViews we have covered issues that affect both Abbeydale and Abbeymead and most of which required action at County Council level. Wearing his Abbey County Councillor hat, Andrew says, "I hope that residents of both Abbeydale and Abbeymead city wards will see how the continuing close working relationship between me and Abbeymead Councillors, Laura Pearsall and Gordon Taylor, and Abbeydale's Collette Finnegan ensures that issues in our area are progressed quickly and effectively. Contact details for all of us are on page 4."

GET IN TOUCH

Email: Andrew.Gravells@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01452 503 974

GLOUCESTER FIRE & RESCUE TIPS: DO YOU KNOW THE HAZARDS IN YOUR HOME?



Ellie and John in Westgate getting a Safe and Well check

■ I recently spent time with the Gloucester Fire and Rescue Service on a house call to check home safety, and learned some things to share with you.

Most fires start in the kitchen, as we can all turn on appliances like dishwashers before bed. However, closed modern fire proofed doors will keep the fire in for about 30 minutes longer than if the door is open - often crucial time to get out of the house safely.

Of course you need fire and smoke alarms to work and so checking those by pressing the button and replacing batteries is key.

Glos Fire always recommend a plan B to the front door. In terraced houses this might mean using a back roof into the garden.

Officers also checked for 'daisy chain' electrics, where extension leads are piled into adaptors already plugged in to other adaptors. This increases the risk of overheating a single plug socket and causing a fire.

Glos Fire offer a free visit to check and replace your alarms, and a free Safe and Well visit to discuss all aspects of home safety, including your own health. Call them on 0800 180 41 40 or do your own self-assessment on their website.



Mrs May meets the New Inn Team

OUR NEW PM AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

■ The speed of change after the Referendum and David Cameron's resignation with a new government formed and announced within two weeks has impressed the world. MP Richard Graham said: "This was democracy at its best, and the contrast with the absolute shambles in the Labour Party could not be stronger."

Gloucester's MP had only recently hosted then Home Secretary May in the New Inn. She spent time with residents, councillors, and businesspeople. "All were impressed", said Richard, "by her warmth, attention to detail and sustained hard work: all reasons I was an early supporter of her campaign."

The PM is now focused on delivering the 2015 manifesto pledges, Brexit and shaping a Britain that delivers for the many not the few.

"I believe", Richard added, "that despite strong recent growth, the rest of this year will be tougher. So we need to control our spending and live within our means. At the same time we should push ahead with rail, airport and energy infrastructure, scope our precise goals for Brexit negotiations and secure Gloucestershire's next Growth Fund bid."



Richard with Prime Minister Theresa May

HOLDING PHILIP GREEN TO ACCOUNT

■ During the summer, Richard spent several weeks on the joint Parliament Select Committee enquiry into the collapse of BHS.

“The key questions” said Richard, “were: could BHS’s collapse have been prevented; did Philip Green and family asset strip the company before selling it to an obviously unsuitable buyer; and had the owners of the business fulfilled their responsibilities to the

pension scheme? What could have been done to protect some 20,000 pensioners and scheme members?”

Richard’s key contribution to the report was ensuring that Philip Green promised to ‘sort the pension fund’ and holding him to account to do so in negotiation with the Pensions Regulator.

“On this promise”, noted Richard, “rests Philip Green’s reputation by

a thread.” Richard’s contributions was described by the Mail as ‘cerebral’ and by another journalist as ‘forensic’. One non-constituent member of the public wrote to Richard that “I’m not a natural Conservative voter but if I lived in Gloucester you’d get my vote on the strength of that performance alone.”



HOME-GROWN NURSES



■ Health is our biggest employer in Gloucestershire, and every year we need over 400 new nurses, but we aren’t training anything like that number in our county.

Richard said “my aim was for our university to be approved to offer nursing degrees – and pitch to run a pilot scheme for new Nursing Associates to study higher apprenticeships – and we will hear if we’re successful in September.

Lastly I wanted us to bid for a new University Technical College to provide skills in Health or Care for 14-18 year olds, which we submit in October.”

“The bottom line”, said Richard, “is that if we succeed, we will help our children to get more of the 50,000 jobs in healthcare in Gloucestershire. It’s a goal worth striving for.”

Local News inbrief

Gloucester Waterways Museum Reopens

A new and better Gloucester Waterways Museum has reopened thanks to a million pounds from the Heritage Lottery Fund and DCMS/Wolfson Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund.

The museum celebrates the role of Gloucester Docks in history with help from local volunteers and Manager Doreen. Project Manager Stephen headed recent developments to create a new entrance and

update displays.

This upgrade is part of a series of developments from cultural and heritage sites which supports the city’s wider regeneration plans. With more tourists coming to see the refurbished museum, it can only be good for our City.



Richard welcomes the first new visitors to our Waterways Museum



George Whitfield Centre includes Gloucester Care Service, The Foodbank and Gloucester City Mission

A City of Compassion

■ What do we do for those in need? Richard believes that the George Whitfield Centre is one of the most joined up services in the UK: “The Foodbank, Glos Care Services, the city Mission and a debt advisor are all under one roof.”

Gloucester’s MP also stressed that our aim is not to be rough sleepers’ destination of choice:

“The charity St Mungo’s works to get rough sleepers back into their own communities and police are now patrolling the City Centre more to prevent begging. This is a balance between helping those in need and not allowing anyone to put off retailers, residents and visitors from our City Centre.”

Andrew at Police unit at Morrisons



ANDREW VISITS THE MOBILE POLICE UNIT AT MORRISONS

Andrew Gravells takes up local issues with our Police Team.

Andrew visited the Police mobile vehicle when it was last at Morrisons. Andrew also meets with them pretty regularly. The local Officers have had some success recently tackling the mainly young people who have been annoying people in our area by riding their mini mopeds in a very irresponsible way through our parks and along the pavements. In particular the Police Specials Team have been very active in pursuing these offenders, and have caught some, and some machines have

been confiscated.

It's really important that when you notice this kind of anti-social behaviour you report it to the Police as soon as you can on their non emergency number, 101. Some people email Andrew days after the event, but by then it's too late. If you call 101, the Police can build up a picture, and put resources in to match the scale of the problem. But that can only happen if you call the Police straightaway, or as soon as you can.



Andrew at Lobleys Drive crossing

ANDREW GRAVELLS TACKLES M5 SURFACE NOISE AND SPEEDING TRAFFIC IN LOBLEYS DRIVE

Andrew has called for, and held meetings with the Highways England Agency, who are responsible for the stretch of the M5 which runs through Abbeydale and Abbeymead. Thanks to Andrew's tenacity and persistence, Highways England have come up with a multi million pound scheme to resurface large stretches of the M5 through our area in 2018-19. The design work and planning will commence next year, during 2017-2018. Andrew says, "This is a major breakthrough to tackle the issue of noise from the M5, and I'm grateful for the co-operation of the Highways England Team at Avonmouth. I'll keep talking to the Agency to do my best to ensure they stick to their Timetable. I'm also pleased that I was able to persuade Gloucestershire County Council to raise the Zebra Crossing in Lobleys Drive, which will act as a traffic calming measure, and hopefully slow down traffic along there."

WE ADDRESS ISSUES AROUND SPEEDING IN OUR AREA

Andrew, Laura and Gordon have been out with our local Police Force looking at the main areas where we've been told speeding is at its worst. Here they are in Lobleys Drive.

Others areas the Police have tackled include Heron Way, Bittern Avenue and stretches off Abbeymead Avenue. We continue to look at other ways to reduce speeding, and we're looking at working with local schools to see who can design the best poster, as well as looking at Traffic calming measures.



We take action to reduce speed in our area

CONTACT

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Abbeydale City Councillor

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Promoted by Laura Pearsall, on behalf of Gloucester Conservatives, both of Unit 1143 Regent Court, Gloucester Business Park, Gloucester, GL3 4AD. Printed by PPC Ltd, 192 Bedminster Down, Bristol, BS13 7AF

CAN YOU HELP YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVES?

If you can help Gloucester Association, please contact us using the details above or fill out and return this form to the address opposite.

Name

Address

Home/Mobile no

Email

How can you help?

- ☐ Window poster ☐ Garden poster
☐ Larger poster ☐ Deliver leaflets

Please return to:

**Freepost RRHC-EJHT-SYYX
GL3 4AD**

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