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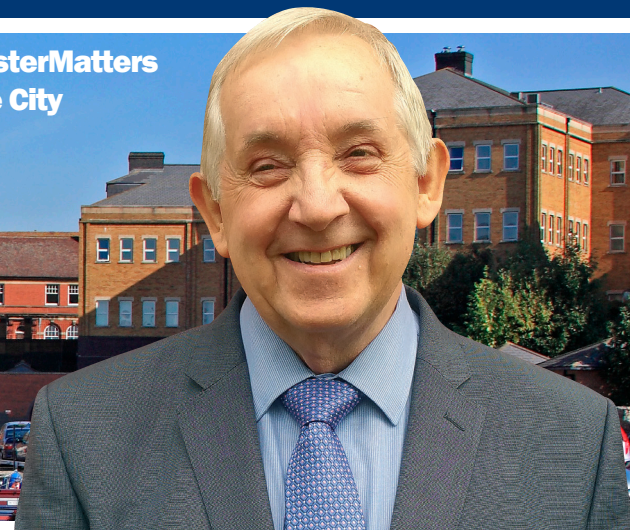


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Incorporating GloucesterMatters
News from across the City



Serving the people of Abbeydale and Abbeymead

Winter 2016

ANDREW GRAVELLS AT THE M5 IN ABBEYMEAD

**Andrew's hard work produces
commitment to reduce M5 surface
noise.**

Andrew Gravells, like many people in our area, lives within earshot of the M5 surface noise. Over recent months, he has met with some of the senior engineers from Highways England at Shire Hall in Gloucester, in an attempt to persuade them to resurface those parts of the M5 which pass through our area, and are the noisiest for local people.

Andrew followed that up with site meetings locally and just over the city boundary in Upton, where he was joined by local councillors from Stroud Council.

The next step involved a meeting in Avonmouth with Highways England engineers at their Offices. At that meeting Andrew secured a commitment from the engineers that they would put this work in their programme for 2018-19, following detailed design work next year.

In an effort to see if the work could possibly be brought forward our Gloucester MP Richard Graham has kindly set up a meeting in Parliament with

the Transport Minister and he has helpfully invited Andrew to attend. We will keep you posted on progress.

"We are making good progress here, and after all the site meetings and noise surveys, everybody now accepts the need for the work to be done here."



Andrew Gravells works to reduce M5 noise

LAND EARMARKED FOR NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN ABBEYDALE

The large open space in Abbeydale bordered by The Wheatridge East, Georgian Close and the Ash Path has now been earmarked for a new primary school. The County Council is seeing continuous and significant growth in this part of the city, and have now set aside the site for a new school. This is excellent news for our area. Our local primary schools serve our young people very well, and the need for a new school here reflects the confidence people rightly have in our area. Andrew Gravells says, "I don't live far from this site, and it is an ideal location for a new school. I will work closely with my colleagues to ensure local peoples' views, and the childrens', are taken into account once the planning begins in earnest."



Andrew Gravells at the site earmarked for a new school in Abbeydale

GET IN TOUCH

Email: Andrew.Gravells@gloucestershire.gov.uk

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COMPASSION IN GLOUCESTER



Richard with the George Whitfield Centre team

■ “Every great city,” believes MP Richard Graham, “needs good housing, schools and healthcare, strong businesses and plenty of jobs, successful sports and Heritage. But you also need pride and compassion.”

So it was very appropriate that on World Homelessness Day Richard opened the George Whitfield Centre (named after Gloucester’s world famous Methodist). “It was the Railway Club,” said Richard, “now it provides a one stop service for a wider community of people in trouble – with NHS Glos Care Services, the Foodbank, Gloucester City Mission and Green Square all together under one roof. They work with GPs, police, the City Council housing team, St Mungo’s and many other partners doing amazing work to help people in trouble.”

The MP added a caution. “There are some rough sleepers outside shops in the city centre,” Richard said, “who beg while having taxpayer funded accommodation and benefits. This is not right and they will be moved on. Residents do not feel proud of a city where beggars take over the High Street. But for people in real trouble, Gloucester’s faith and civic organisations provide hope and hot food, and the George Whitfield Centre provides health and well-being. It is our professionals and volunteers who make Gloucester compassionate, and it’s partly because of their work that I spoke to support the Homelessness Reduction Bill recently, which should also help.”



Richard and MD Tim Stacey in Jan 2015

MERCEDES BENZ IN THE RAILWAY TRIANGLE

■ In January 2015 Mercedes Benz commercial vehicle agency Rygor MD Tim Stacey and Gloucester MP Richard Graham looked at a site in the Railway Triangle. Among puddles of water and discarded nappies from trespassing travellers, Tim Stacey committed to creating a sparkling sales and maintenance hub right there.

When Richard opened the £3.5 million site this autumn, Tim said, “One of the big reasons we came to Gloucester was the enthusiasm and support of your MP.”

Rygor Gloucester maintains ambulances, the mobile NHS Cancer Clinic, Gloucestershire Highways and other key Benz customers’ vehicles, bringing a hi-tech inventory system and skilled jobs to the Triangle, as well as supporting the James Hopkins Trust.

Richard said, “I would love to see Gloucester being the best of Rygor’s 18 sites across the country, and a byword for quality. Their commitment to Gloucester is tribute to a strong strategic vision, and it’s helped transform the Railway Triangle. There is only one decent sized site left here now. What was a jungle of weeds and ruins is now a modern light industrial park with hundreds of jobs and a proper entrance to our city. Regeneration is hard work – but puddles to quality jobs is a worthwhile journey. And without a penny of taxpayer funds.”



The Site Today

NEW HOM



THE IMPORTANCE OF HERITAGE TO GLOUCESTER

■ The Heritage Lottery Fund invited Richard to write their first article in a series of 'What Heritage Means to Me'.

Richard wrote: "I like the less easy questions: where was Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians, buried? Were the remains of Llanthony Priory smashed up for the canal? And always – what can we learn from the past that might help the future?"

In 2016 Gloucester's Heritage Open Days, organised by the Civic Trust, were rated second in the whole country, and BBC historian Dr Janina Ramirez said our History Festival could be the best in Britain. This can only be good for visitors and tourism.

Richard added that, "we've won several Heritage Lottery Fund awards over the last few years, partly because of

good co-ordination by a Heritage Forum started by County Archivist Heather Forbes." Heather was recently given a lifetime award by the All Party Parliamentary Archives Group.

"And don't let's forget Tuffley pupil Fraser Martin who starred as the 9 year old Henry III in the Coronation re-enactment!"



Richard presenting Fraser Martin with the gold band after re-enacting the coronation of Henry III

PARK VIEW CARE HOME OPENS



■ Another key site in Gloucester has been regenerated with the opening by MP Richard Graham of the Park View care home at the bottom of Southgate Street. Park View offers 24 hour care to 102 residents with specialist dementia and nursing facilities.

Richard said, "Park View is another strong example of Gloucester moving forward. This is business led regeneration of a prominent cross roads site that was derelict, now reborn as a modern care home open to residents – providing a service we need as well as 150 jobs.

I congratulate warmly the Markey Group and thank the Gloucestershire Infrastructure Investment Fund for their help."

Local News inbrief

PROMOTING A HEALTHIER CITY

Gloucester acts as host to all our NHS organisations and Richard believes it's time for the media to stop writing 'NHS Crisis' like salt and pepper.

"Of course there are huge challenges," the City MP said, "if it was easy every country would have an NHS. They don't."

Richard highlighted the 2gether NHS Trust was rated 'good' by the CQC and although the NHS Glos Care Services Trust is rated as 'requires improvement'

it scored high marks for care which is vital.

"The issue that needs to be resolved," Gloucester's MP noted, "is the £30m black hole in the NHS Hospitals Trust finances which is under investigation at the moment. Once the new management and the Health Department have resolved this in January, the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital can get on with benefiting from all the positive things that hard working staff do."



Meeting with Glos Care Services



Artist Impression

UNIVERSITY HELPS SHAPE CITY

The University of Gloucestershire is about to make a real difference to the city centre according to Richard Graham. In January the overall Blackfriars plan goes for planning approval, immediately followed by the University of Gloucestershire accommodation for several hundred students expected at the new

Business School. It moves from Cheltenham to Gloucester and opens in September 2018.

"This is an exciting time," said Richard, "for Blackfriars, the city centre and much closer involvement between the city and university. Next up will be the city and county's plans for the former prison."

Andrew in Bay Tree Road, just after speed checks



ANDREW GRAVELLS LOOKS AT TRAFFIC SPEEDS

Motorists exceeding the speed limit is a serious issue here in Abbeymead and Abbeydale

Andrew's attention has been drawn to the number of near misses and bumps there have been in our area, frequently as a result of people not sticking to the speed limit.

He has been out with the local Police in the area and watched them testing the speed of motorists with their radar guns. He was joined by his City Council colleagues Collette Finnegan, Gordon Taylor and Laura Pearsall, with whom he works very closely.

Andrew has arranged for the County Council's Highways Team to repaint

the white lines along Lobleys Drive and also replace the mini roundabout signs with more up to date ones, which will make them more visible and prominent. In addition, Andrew has been successful in persuading the County Council to do robust speed checks along Abbeymead Avenue, Lobleys Drive, Bittern Avenue, Heron Way, Wheatway and other roads to see if there's a case for making roads have a maximum speed limit of 20mph.

If there's a road near you which needs a speed survey done, please contact Andrew now.



ANDREW HOLDS ADVICE SURGERIES REGULARLY

Andrew Gravells lives in our area, just off Wheatway. His experience as a long standing City and County councillor is a big asset to our area, as it frequently means he's able to cut through some of the red tape to find the right person at the right Council who can help resolve whichever issue he's working on.

Andrew has served as both Mayor of Gloucester and Sheriff, but is happiest when he's been able to help an individual or family with a problem which they've been attempting to resolve. He works closely with his City Council colleagues Collette Finnegan, Gordon Taylor and Laura Pearsall, and their contact details can be found in this newspaper.

Andrew and Collette cover Abbeydale for City issues, whilst Gordon and Laura cover Abbeymead. As a County Councillor, Andrew covers both areas for County Council issues like Highways and Social Services.

ANDREW HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT ROAD REPAIRS

Using some of the Highways grant available to him from the County Council, Andrew has secured quite a few road and pavement repairs in our area recently, including footway resurfacing in Hawthorne Avenue, footway resurfacing along Abbeymead Avenue, opposite the Skate Park, footway patching at three locations in Curlew road, cycleway works by Thomas Stock Gardens, and between Abbeymead Avenue and the Community Centre. More work is already in the pipeline for the rest of the year.

If there's a stretch of pavement or road by you which needs attention, please get in touch with Andrew, and he'll see if he can get it repaired.



Andrew in Abbeymead, inspecting the state of the road

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CAN YOU HELP YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVES?

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

Name

Address

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How can you help?

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

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