

The Big Community Offer

# Highways- Your Way

Local communities, local priorities



Community  
Action



Community  
Match



Community  
Top up



Gloucestershire  
COUNTY COUNCIL

# Local communities, local priorities

Very often in life a 'one-size fits all' approach just doesn't work, and our highways are no different. Gloucestershire has a diverse landscape from parishes of just a few hundred people, to large urban centres with more than a hundred thousand calling them home. To get the best deal for each community, Gloucestershire County Council has come up with a new way of working.

## The basic offer

### We will:

- Maintain salt stocks and continue to keep Gloucestershire moving in bad weather
- Inspect and maintain roads and repair the most serious potholes
- Clean gullies on a programmed basis and investigate flooding
- Repair faulty streetlights and traffic lights
- Prioritise grass cutting
- Maintain signs and remove street furniture that's not needed
- Prioritise safety schemes at accident hot spots
- Resurface worn out roads

### But...

This means in some areas of work we will be reducing levels of service and helping communities to do more for themselves through the Big Community Offer. The Big Community Offer 'Highways - Your Way' provides communities with the information and guidance to decide on the priorities for their area for highways. There are three elements of this offer:

- 1 Community Action
- 2 Community Match
- 3 Community Top-up

For further information on the basic highways service visit  
[www.goucestershire.gov.uk/roadworks](http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/roadworks)



## 1. Community Action

We give you the support and tools to carry out work within your community. For example snow wardens and grass cutting.



## 2. Community Match

If there's a scheme you think your community badly needs, we will match-fund the cost to enable this to happen. For example footway resurfacing or safety schemes.



## 3. Community Top-up

We provide you with a product list of services and items that you can buy directly from us. For example extra gully cleaning or traffic monitoring surveys.



## Community Action

For many years, parish and town councils and community groups across the county have been successfully working with us to manage their local highways. Community Action is building on that success by giving you the support and tools to carry out work within your community.

### Areas you can work with us:



#### **Snow wardens**

Volunteers to act as the eyes and ears out on the ground to feedback road and weather conditions and co-ordinate local snow plough operators.

#### **Snow plough operators**

Volunteers who help to clear snow from the local roads in bad weather.

#### **Winter pavement treatments**

We provide the grit and community champions use it to treat the pavements in their area.

#### **Flood wardens**

A community champion who keeps an eye on drainage and problem areas so we can work together to tackle potential flooding issues.

#### **Road Safety toolbox**

We will give you guidance and support for monitoring traffic to work out what the real problem is in your area.

#### **Trench watch**

Community champions to monitor local road works to inform the County Council of any issues arising and to warn of upcoming events that could be affected.

#### **Public Rights of Way**

Volunteers who keep an eye on the Public Rights of Way and inform us of any issues and organise minor works where needed.

#### **Street lighting reports**

Community champions monitor and use the reporting service for faulty/damaged street lights to help us determine where the problems are.

#### **Lorry watch**

Community champions would monitor HGV travel through their area to help us prevent lorries from using problem areas and stick to designated routes.

#### **Grass cutting**

Local grass cutting service prioritised and carried out by the communities themselves.

#### **Roadside planting**

We can issue cultivation licenses to allow communities to spruce up their verges and make the area more attractive.

#### **Overhanging vegetation letters**

We supply you with a template letter to ask home / landowners to tidy up their hedges to avoid the need for formal action by the County Council.

## How to get involved

Visit our website [www.goucestershire.gov.uk/extra/highways-yourway](http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/extra/highways-yourway) for more details about Community Action and talk to your Gloucestershire County Council Local Highways Manager.

# Case Studies >



James Young tending to verges

## Lydney Town Council

As Lydney is in a rural area, the town council play a key role during bad weather, helping to keep footpaths free of snow and ice. They are also involved in other works including, grass cutting and the planting of verges.

When bad weather hits, Lydney Town Council uses a hand spreader and shovels to remove snow and prevent ice from forming on pavements in the town, which improves safety and helps people get around the town more easily.

**"This is a two way venture - the county council supplies the handspreeder and the salt and we supply the manpower."**

**Bill Osborne, Lydney Town Council**

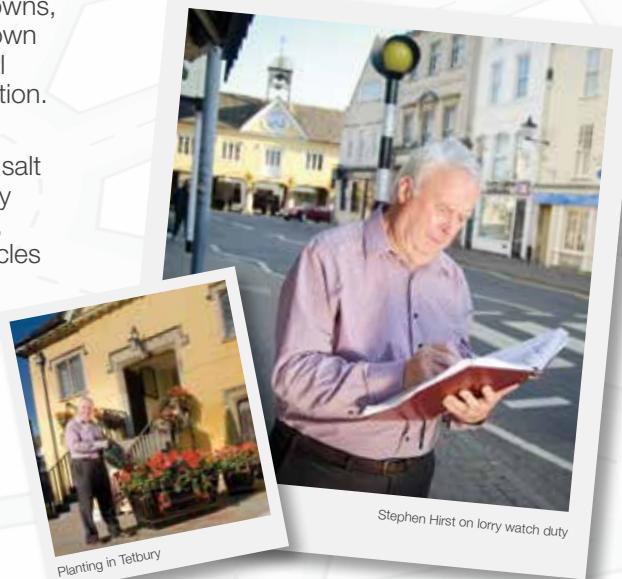
## Tetbury Town Council

As one of the busiest Cotswold towns, Tetbury has an extremely active town council which takes part in several projects as part of Community Action.

Tetbury Town Council carries out grass cutting and planting, winter salt spreading in bad weather and they run their own lorry watch scheme, which monitors heavy goods vehicles blocking town centre roads with the aim of deterring it from happening.

**"This is a partnership whereby the community does the work out on the ground... its becoming more owned by the community"**

**Stephen Hirst,  
Tetbury Town Council**



Planting in Tetbury  
Stephen Hirst on lorry watch duty



## Community Match

Not every parish, town or community is the same so it stands to reason that each area would have different issues or needs when it comes to highways.

The council will continue to carry out standard maintenance, inspections and winter support but sometimes a community will want more and that's where 'Highways - Your Way' comes in.

Community Match gives parish or town councils or community groups the chance to apply for match funding to pay for a scheme their community really needs. **You raise half the money needed and we'll match that to ensure the work can be done.**

Typical schemes could include things like:

- Safety work
- Drainage improvements
- Footway improvements
- Road resurfacing

This doesn't mean every area will get everything they ask for - there has to be a proven need and benefit to the community before a scheme gets the green light for match-funding.

# Case Studies >



## Friends of Pittville

Gloucestershire County Council has teamed up with the Friends of Pittville to spruce up the area around Pittville Gates. The group is paying for and carrying out work to refurbish the gates and the council has agreed to pay for and repair the surrounding paving.

"We're trying to make this corner in Cheltenham look as grand as it used to when it was first built"

**Judie Hodson, Friends of Pittville**

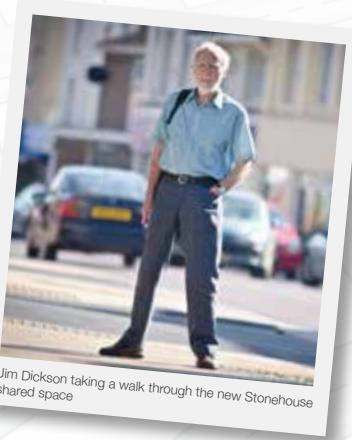


## Stonehouse Community Partnership

Stonehouse high street 'shared space' scheme was a major project which totally transformed the town. Gloucestershire County Council and Stonehouse Town Council teamed up to match fund the project, which saw a totally new road layout in the high street and improvements to the street scene.

"A lot of eyes will be on this scheme and it's a pretty radical scheme for the UK"

**Jim Dickson, Stonehouse Community Partnership**



## How to apply

Please complete the expression of interest form and return to your Gloucestershire County Council Local Highways Manager. Contact details are shown on the last page and you can apply online/download the form from:

**[www.goucestershire.gov.uk/extra/highways-yourway](http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/extra/highways-yourway)**

If, following submission of an expression of interest, you are invited to make a full application, we will ask for a fee of £100. If your application is successful this fee will be credited back towards the scheme contribution from yourselves. You will also be asked to provide the following documentation in support of your application.

- Location Plan
- Photos of problem
- Community Engagement Evidence
- Details of proposed improvement

## Community Top-up

One of Gloucestershire's selling points is its diversity and its unique parishes, towns and communities dotted all around the county.

It seems obvious that these different communities will need different things when it comes to highways maintenance and improvement.

Community Top-up allows just that. The council has put together a product list of services that communities can buy to top-up the services they already get.

### What can you buy?

So far, the product list includes:

- Additional winter maintenance - hand salt spreader for treating pavements
- Weed spraying / ripping
- Drainage surveys and jetting
- Traffic monitoring / surveys

More will be added to the product list as the 'Highways - Your Way' scheme develops and the list with up-to-date costs can be seen at:

**[www.goucestershire.gov.uk/extra/highways-yourway](http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/extra/highways-yourway)**

# Case Study >

## Twyning Parish Council

For the past few winters, people living in Twyning have had a problem getting up and down steep hills in the village when it snows.

Gloucestershire County Council does treat all major routes but we don't have the resources to target all residential areas.

To combat the problem, Twyning Parish Council has used the Community Top-up product list to buy a hand spreader which will help them treat the footpaths themselves when temperatures drop and snow falls.

The Council will still be able to provide advice and support on when and how to grit, but the parish council volunteers will carry out the work themselves which will make it easier and safer for pedestrians in bad weather.



Dave Luckett with his new hand spreader

We're all conscious of the financial constraints that we're all under and that maybe perhaps parishes have to take a bit more share of the load

**Dave Luckett,  
Twyning Parish Council**

## Contact Us

Gloucestershire County Council, Shire Hall, Gloucester GL1 2TG

**e:** [highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

**t:** 08000 514 514

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/highways-yourway](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/highways-yourway)

Community Top-up product list and prices can be downloaded at:

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/highways-yourway](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/highways-yourway)

Community Match expression of interest form can be downloaded at:

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/highways-yourway](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/highways-yourway)