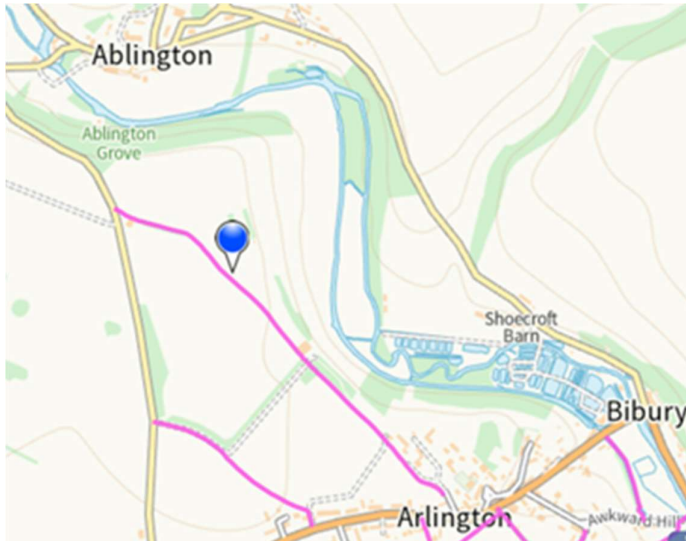


CLERKS REPORT – NOVEMBER 2024

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENTS. The Public Rights of Way team agreed to update some of the gates/stiles along the path between Arlington and the Ablington road (at Upper Severalls), with the permission of the land owners. Specifically along the section as shown in the pictures below



Stay Vigilant! As we have reached that time of year when the clocks have gone back, this often see an increase in break-ins and burglaries. To help protect your home and property, please ensure that windows, doors, and outbuildings are securely locked. If you plan to be out after dark, consider setting a timer to switch on a light to give the appearance that someone is home.



Our Top Three Tips for Managing your Money at

Christmas

My children love Christmas and they're already picking extra treats off the shelf when we go shopping and telling me what presents they want. I really want to make it a special time for them, but times are tough and I can't help worrying about overspending and getting into debt. What can

I do to manage my finances during the holiday season, and where can I turn if I find myself struggling?

The festive season can be a financially challenging time, and borrowing money or using a credit card to fund Christmas can often seem like your only option. But there are steps you can take to keep your spending under control and avoid falling into debt.

1. Budget:

The first thing to do is make a budget and stick to it.

- Consider **who** you're buying gifts for, what **other seasonal expenses** you have, and **how much** you can realistically afford to spend.
- Always keep **receipts**, or ask for gift receipts, in case you overspend and need to return something.
- And remember that **household bills** may be higher during this period due to colder weather and spending more time indoors.

2. Deal with debts:

If you've built up debt, please don't ignore bills or letters. Speak to the organisation you owe money to, as they may let you pay smaller amounts.

- Pay '**priority debts**' first, like rent, mortgage arrears, council tax, and energy bills.
- For other types of debt like credit cards or loans, gather all the information on what you owe, create a budget, and **contact your creditors** to set up an affordable repayment plan. This might seem scary, but it's an important first step.

3. Check your eligibility for cost-of-living support:

If your budget just doesn't add up and you need help to afford essentials like bills and food, see what cost of living support is available on the Citizens Advice website.

It is especially important to check if you're eligible for the **Winter Fuel Payment**, which will now only be paid to those who receive **Pension Credit** or other **means-tested benefits**. If you make a claim for Pension Credit by 21 December, you might still receive the Winter Fuel Payment.

If you do find yourself struggling financially during or after the holidays, don't panic. Support is out there, and Citizens Advice can help you understand what's available. We're here to help you find a way forward.

Please look at the public website first if possible (www.citizensadvice.org.uk). If that isn't possible or you need further help please call us on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 (Monday and Tuesday 10am to 4pm; Wednesday and Thursday 10am to 12.30pm). You can also access our local website (www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk) to complete our email form.

We will be closed from 1pm on 24th December until 10am on Thursday 2nd January but we will have information about how to get urgent help on our local website.



Have your say on risks faced by communities in Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) is asking for your views on the risks it faces in the county.

GFRS regularly assesses its own data and risks to the community and wants to hear the views of residents too.

Feedback from the public will be combined with the service's own data and the team's knowledge and experience, to build a balanced picture of the risks they face as a Fire and Rescue Service.

The engagement was launched on Monday 21 October and lasts for six weeks, ending on **Sunday 1 December 2024**. To take part, please go to: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/glosfire-crp

The information will help to assess the potential impact and likelihood of the risks, and where they are most likely to occur.

The feedback will help form the Community Risk Profile (CRP) for Gloucestershire. This vital document informs the strategic Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), the publication of which is a regulatory requirement. The CRMP is an assessment of risks and how we effectively use resources to address those risks.

Residents and businesses are being asked to share their views about the risks faced within our county, both now and in the future, to make sure the new CRMP from 2026 onwards reflects your views.

You can find the current CRMP here: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/ixrglevp/gcc_3312-gfrs-community-risk-management-plan_dev10.pdf

Better Housing Better Health

The Warmth & Wellbeing Service



HOME ENERGY ADVICE

If you're worried about paying your energy bills, want to know how to make your home warmer or need advice on accessing financial support, Better Housing Better Health are here to help. We're a charity working locally to improve residents' domestic warmth and wellbeing and improve the energy efficiency of your property.

BETTER HOUSING BETTER HEALTH CAN HELP WITH:

**ENERGY BILL
SUPPORT**



**HOME
ENERGY
VISITS**



**FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE**



**PRIORITY
SERVICES
REGISTER**



GET IN TOUCH
0800 107 0044

www.bhbh.org.uk

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