

**Wendy Thomas, County Councillor, Dursley Division**  
**Report for Leonard Stanley Parish Council, November 2024**

## **Highways**

I have no highways update for this month; do let me know of any issues I can support on.

## **GCC News**

GCC has shared two messages with members re flooding and drains management:

### **Flash flooding this winter**

There was an extraordinary amount of rainfall in September. Gloucestershire received more than 3 times the usual levels of rainfall and our highways teams experienced more than 3 times the number of out-of-hours callouts.

Our proactive approach to drain clearing means that most flash flooding on roads drains away quickly. We can clearly see the ground is already very saturated and the water table level is very high, so further rainfall this winter is very likely to cause flash flooding in areas we wouldn't usually expect to see it.

Every year we clear more than 130,000 drains across the county. Each drain is cleared at least once and some more often. Just last week we cleared more than 1000 drains in routine clearing operations. We also carry out reactive clearing operations in response to reports.

To prepare for a particularly wet winter please familiarise yourself with the [Flood Guide](#) on our website which offers lots of help and advice on preparing and dealing with flooding.

Residents can help to remove autumn leaves from blocked drains (if it is safe to do so) and add the leaves to compost or a garden waste bin. Otherwise, blocked drains can be reported online with [Fix My Street](#).

We can all help when flash flooding occurs by keeping informed of [\[https://road%20closures/\]road](https://road%20closures/) closures, not driving through flooded roads or moving signage which is there to protect road users and staying up to date with news on our social media channels – on [Facebook](#) and [X \(Twitter\)](#).

### **Reminder for landowners responsible for ditches and watercourses**

Someone who owns property which is next to a watercourse or has a watercourse running through it, is called a 'riparian landowner'.

Legally, riparian landowners have certain rights and responsibilities relating to the stretch of watercourse that flows through or alongside their land. It is not only farmers who are riparian owners.

Homeowners may not realise that the ditch at the bottom of their garden belongs to them and that they may be responsible for its maintenance.

The legal responsibilities to help manage flood risk and protect the environment include:

1. To maintain the watercourse and to clear any obstructions (natural or otherwise) so the optimum flow of water is not impeded.

2. To maintain the banks and bed of the watercourse (including any trees and shrubs growing on the banks) and any flood defences that exists on it.
3. To accept the natural flow from your upstream neighbour and transfer it downstream without obstruction, pollution or diversion.
4. To maintain any approved structures on your stretch of the watercourse.

For further information please read about riparian responsibilities in the Flood Guide: [What are the responsibilities of a riparian owner? | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

**Links:**

**GCC Highways Fix My Street:** [www.fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://www.fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk)

**Highways info on planned road works, planned resurfacing, patching and pothole repairs:** <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/>

**Watch Council meetings:** [Home - Gloucestershire County Council Webcasting \(public-i.tv\)](#)

**Submit questions to County Council meetings:** [stephen.bace@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.bace@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Members of the public may submit written questions about matters within GCC's powers and duties. The deadline for this is usually 10 days before the meeting date.

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