

## Partnership working in Gloucestershire...



### Minchinhampton takes Village of the Year crown

Minchinhampton in Stroud took the Calor Gloucestershire Village of the Year crown for 2009 and then went on to win the regional title for the West of England. Their winning formula was a strong across-the-board

community spirit with facilities for all age groups, a regeneration group set up to support existing businesses, an abundance of sporting facilities, 64 fully

occupied allotments, a vegetable box scheme, new farm shop and revolutionary climate change group.

182 PARISH COUNCILS GIVEN ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE

40 PARISH PLANS PROGRESSED

### Record attendance at Funding Fayre

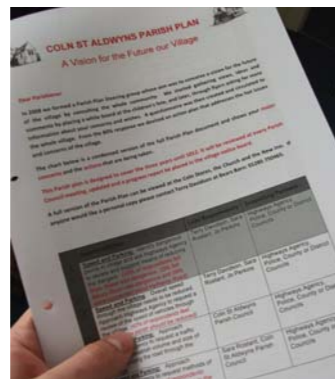
Over 139 people attended GRCC's October Funding Fayre in the Cotswolds.

The event, held at Down Ampney Village Hall attracted parish councillors, Village and Community Hall representatives and community groups, all wanting to hear and seek advice from major funders including The Big Lottery, Heritage Lottery and Sport England. The day included presentations, interviews and exhibition stands.



### Coln St Aldwyns' cost neutral Parish Plan

Coln St Aldwyns managed to produce their parish plan at no cost, thanks to the support and generosity of local residents, businesses and the parish council who provided free venues and the printing of all documents at no cost to the community. The resulting practical action plan was felt to be more important than the publication of a glossy document. Parish and community-led plans are complete action plans that identify issues of concern to a community. A parish and community-led plan sets out a vision for the future of a community covering social, economical and environmental aspects. Through consultation, issues can be identified and prioritised and through partnership be achieved.



*"It was interesting, educating and fun. The committee members found that by working together and having regular communication with parishioners, everyone learnt more about the parish in a few months than they had after many years of living there"*

Terry Davidson, Steering Group Chair

## Chairman's message



GRCC has continued to work with partners in order to fulfil its aims and objectives. Following extensive consultation with members and stakeholders, GRCC's forward looking business plan for 2010/13 sets out our vision for the future. Whilst we realise that the future will be full of challenges, we are working within Gloucestershire's community to make the most of all available opportunities.

It is the enthusiasm and commitment of the GRCC team of staff, trustees and volunteers which has enabled us to provide a consistently high quality service to Gloucestershire's communities.

John G. Hazelwood CBE MA CCMi DL  
Chairman GRCC

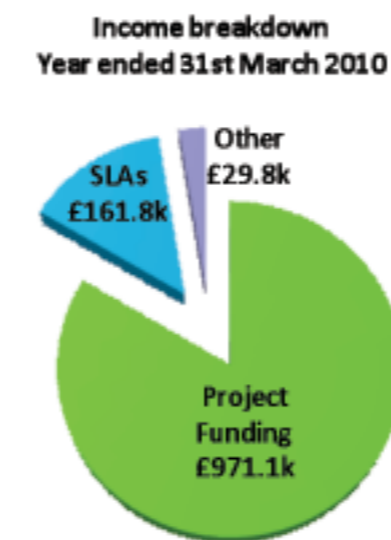
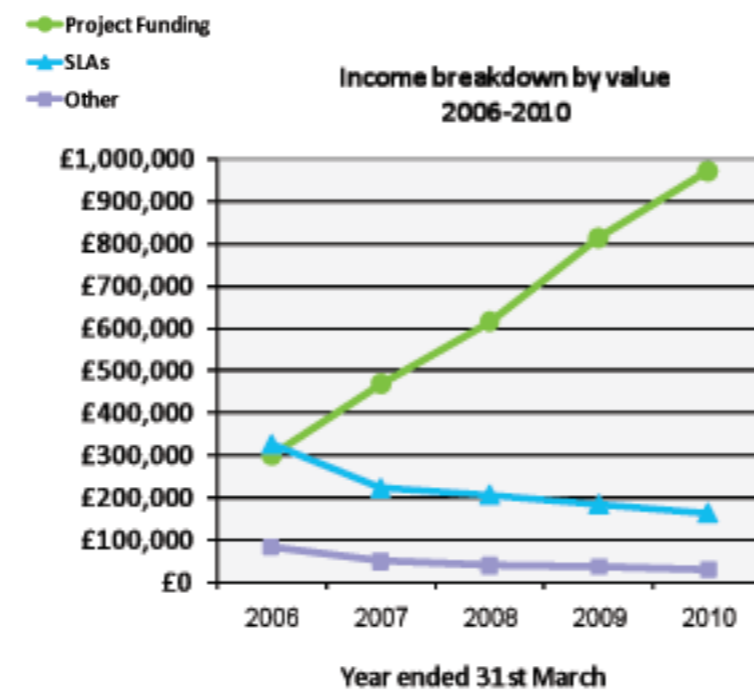
5,475 ATTENDEES AT GRCC EVENTS

## Financial overview

Income for the year to 31st March 2010 rose by 12.7% to £1,162.8k whilst costs rose by 15.3% to £1096.8k, which resulted in a year end surplus of £66.0k (2008/2009 £80.5k), before movement in investment assets unrealised.

Total funds increased at year end by £75.3k, with Unrestricted funds increasing by £73.9k, Restricted funds reducing by £8.0k and Capital funds increasing by £9.4k.

Sources of funding show a continuing shift away from Service Level Agreements to Project Funding, as shown below.



If you would like a copy of the full accounts, please call GRCC on 01452 528491

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, Community House, 15 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LZ.

GRCC is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is a membership organisation with an elected board of trustees which oversees the organisation's work. Registration number: 3181755. Charity number: 1054282. President: Sir Henry Elwes HM Lord Lieutenant. Chairman: John G Hazelwood CBE. MA. CCMi. DL. Chief Executive: Lesley Archer.



# GRCC's Review OF THE YEAR 2009/2010



39,373 VISITS TO GRCC WEBSITE

19 RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE INTERVIEWS

## Challenging times ahead...

Welcome to GRCC's review of the past twelve months

GRCC continues to be a streamlined and delivery focused organisation, well positioned to respond to a fast changing environment.

Increasingly, the funding opportunities available to GRCC are in the form of competitive tendering and it is essential for us to bring forward innovative ideas, backed up by a proven delivery record and robust and accredited quality systems.

We recognise that GRCC holds a unique position through our long established rural expertise and strong relationships both with communities and statutory bodies.

It will become increasingly important for us to use this position to empower communities to create sustainable solutions to their identified needs which also help partners achieve their priorities.

Throughout GRCC's work, we seek to incorporate and demonstrate the principles of

fairness and equality as well as social, economic and environmental sustainability.

We work with communities in Gloucestershire to enable them to develop their own responses and solutions to identified issues while linking grass roots aspirations with local, regional and national strategies.

GRCC has an important role to play in gathering and showcasing good practice and continuing to maintain effective relationships with partners.



Lesley Archer  
Chief Executive GRCC

## Partnership working in Gloucestershire...



**Event for members with a learning disability**

In January, Gloucestershire LINK held its first event for members with a learning disability. This was the first opportunity members had to come together and share their experiences of health and social care.

A report was sent to the commissioners and providers of these services in order to help improve or change services. Responses will be fed back to members at a second event planned for October 2010.

### Digital Switchover Phase 2 the return



Households receiving their television signal from the Mendip transmitter switched over from analogue to digital in the spring of 2009 and GRCC worked with the Digital Switchover Help Scheme to provide information and assistance to those affected. Many older people benefited from the assistance of the Gloucestershire Village Agents who were able to identify and deal with problems as they arose. The Central A region is switching over in April 2011 and GRCC will again be on hand to give assistance to those who need it.



## In Touch 'Putting People First'

Many older people benefitted from a series of events held across all six districts aimed at raising an awareness of 'Putting People First', a programme working to transform social care locally. The events were delivered by GRCC's In Touch project in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council and other agencies who gave talks on their services, while exhibition stands gave attendees ideas on how they might spend their personal social care budgets (if eligible). The events proved both popular and informative.



## Partnership working in Gloucestershire...



### Gloucestershire Village Agents

The Gloucestershire Village Agents scheme, jointly funded by Gloucestershire County Council and NHS Gloucestershire continues to go from strength to strength.

#### Macmillan Cancer Support

The 3 Counties Cancer Network (Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire) allocated funding in early 2009 to look at ways of supporting people living with and beyond cancer. Each of the three counties was asked to run a pilot project, and in Gloucestershire the Village Agents scheme was chosen in conjunction with Macmillan Cancer Support. Village Agents received training enabling them to identify issues and talk to people confidently about the services available to them. The pilot runs until September 2010.

#### John Craven builds fan base

An edition of Countryfile broadcast in January included a feature on the ageing population in rural areas. Presenter John Craven visited Gloucestershire and accompanied one of the Village Agents (Jane Griffiths) and a group of her older clients on a minibus trip to Over Farm Market. Jane was interviewed about the Village Agents scheme which was also featured in the BBC national news. Following the broadcast, enquiries flooded in from as far afield as the Scottish Highlands, Cornwall, Norfolk, Durham and Northumberland. There were also a number of enquiries from Gloucestershire residents who were subsequently put in touch with their nearest Village Agent.



**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**



### On your bike!

17-year-old Jim Wilsdon from Clapton-on-the-Hill in the North Cotswolds was the first recipient of an electric mountain bike as part of a new strand of GRCC's successful Jump2Ed scheme. The scheme, funded by the Gloucestershire Education Transport Partnership, aims to increase access to full time learning for teenagers who have no access to transport and has been providing scooter loans to

further education students since 2005. Jim is now able to travel the 5 mile round trip to his local school using the bike instead of having to find lifts from school friends, as his family have no means of transport.

Steve McDonald, Senior Youth Worker for the North Cotswolds said, "It's a fantastic project enabling young people to remain mobile whilst tackling

rural isolation in the more remote areas of the county."



### Village Halls receive stamp of approval



21 halls in Gloucestershire achieved a Hallmark Quality Standard in 2009/10.

The Hallmark Scheme is a national certificated Quality Standard aimed at promoting best practice for village and community hall management committees. In Gloucestershire, the scheme is run by GRCC with a team of 12 local volunteer visitors who receive training to undertake assessments and recommend accreditation.

The visitors are themselves members of hall management committees and bring a wealth of experience from which other halls can benefit.



### In case of an emergency...

The floods of 2007 and heavy snows of February 2009 caused much disruption, forcing communities to think about how prepared they are for such emergencies. In response to this, GRCC worked in partnership with key agencies to develop a step-by-step toolkit for producing a Community Emergency Plan. The toolkit was sent to every parish in Gloucestershire and has attracted interest from other counties wishing to replicate its best practice.

## Partnership working in Gloucestershire...



### Bricks on the ground in Norton

Previously known as Norton Barns, the former farm buildings on the periphery of Norton village were once the site of a reclamation yard for building materials. In 2007 planning consent was granted for 13 dwellings, including the conversion of existing barns and the provision

of 4 new houses. A Housing Needs Survey was undertaken by GRCC's Rural Housing Enabler in December 2007 at the request of Norton Parish Council. The results of the survey showed that 8 local households were in need of affordable housing, which

included single people, couples and families. 4 new affordable homes will be ready for occupation later this year and available for sale on a low cost home ownership arrangement (part-buy, part-rent) in perpetuity, to people with a local connection.

### Mentoring and support for voluntary organisations

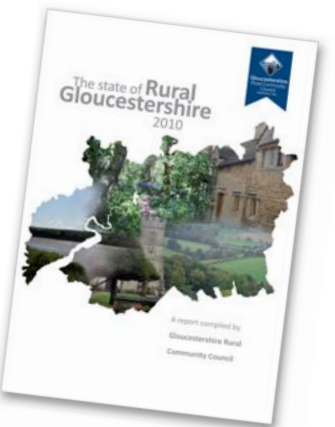
GRCC's Performance Improvement for All (PIFA) project spent the year working with voluntary groups and organisations helping them look at the way they are run and managed. One example is The Churn Project in Cirencester, a community project offering residents opportunities to get back to work, participate in voluntary activities, access family and parent support or take part in activities for older people.

Fran Embleton-Smith, Churn manager said, "At the Churn, we've appreciated the mentoring support offered through the PIFA project, especially the Health & Safety healthcheck. All trustees are responsible for the health and safety of staff, volunteers and customers so it's important to get this right."



The Churn Project

## The State of Rural Gloucestershire 2010



Following in depth research, GRCC produced an evidence-based report about life in rural Gloucestershire, encompassing its uniqueness, its problems and its 'home-grown' solutions.

The report has been welcomed by media and statutory partners alike. At a time when funding is scarce and the Government is talking about devolving decisions to grass roots level, 'The State of Rural Gloucestershire' provides real life examples of action already taking place in communities who have come together to address issues and provide local solutions. This is a flagship document that can be used to inform policy decisions and give examples of best practice in our county.

