

Gloucestershire

Personal Details:

Name: Mr ASHLEY GREEN

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Podsmead Big Local Partnership (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: Podsmead Ward, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

The Podsmead Big Local Partnership (PBL) is a community led partnership made up of residents living within the Podsmead Big Local Area and people who work or volunteer in the area. The Partnership is a way for local people to get involved and contribute to decisions about how Podsmead can be improved. PBL represents a community of circa 3,300 residents, largely built during the second half of the 20th century and located approximately three miles from Gloucester city centre.

In 2014, PBL became one of 150 community led groups throughout England and Wales to receive grant funding from the Big Lottery Fund to support people, identify issues of concern, and propose and resource solutions. PBL has received £1.2 million from the Big Lottery Fund over the last 10 years and is now working to build a sustainable legacy that involves all community stakeholders when it finalises resident community projects by March 2026.

As the most generally deprived area in Gloucestershire, including for employment, Podsmead faces many challenges in the 21st century. For Skills, Education and Training it is in the 1% most deprived in the county, and in the 0.3% most educationally deprived in England. For health, it has significantly lower Healthy Life Expectancy¹ figures for both female and male residents when compared to the average for England. The estate lacks many of the basic amenities expected in a neighbourhood of this scale and is isolated from many nearby facilities due to its current layout, an issue compounded by low levels of car ownership.

Our Podsmead Partnership Plan Vision in the 2030's is a thriving and sustainable community which is:

- Engaged: a connected and spirited community with a welcoming, friendly, and vibrant atmosphere where people want to live and visit.
- Enterprising: a hub of opportunity for employment, with people who are highly skilled and able to reach their potential.
- Energised: healthy, active, and confident.

Regarding the proposed changes to the number of Councillors in Gloucestershire & how it will affect Podsmead.

- We would welcome streamlining County Council representation from two Councillors to one Councillor representing the Podsmead Ward.
- We believe that one Councillor would provide the focus needed to help create the opportunities within our Vision and help to address the challenges of elevated levels of deprivation by collaborating with us to help create a more sustainable and thriving community.
- We do not believe that the Podsmead Ward should be merged with Tuffley or any other Ward close to Podsmead. It should be represented in its own right given the challenges we face and the opportunities that can be created through one councillor pushing the Podsmead cause.
- Voting in local elections should be staged in the Podsmead Ward and not confused with other local wards.

Ashley Green

Chair of Podsmead Big Local

4th June 2023

Attached Documents:

None attached