



Twigworth - Upcoming Local Road Closures!

Residents and road users are advised of upcoming temporary road closures to facilitate essential cable recovery works.

A section of the **A38 Tewkesbury Road** will be temporarily closed between its junctions with Down Hatherley Lane and Sandhurst Lane, covering a distance of approximately 425 metres. These works are scheduled to take place from **5th May to 8th May 2026**, operating overnight between **7:00pm and 7:00am**.

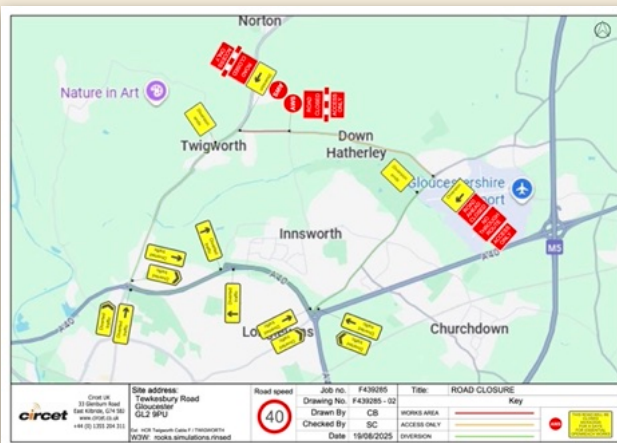
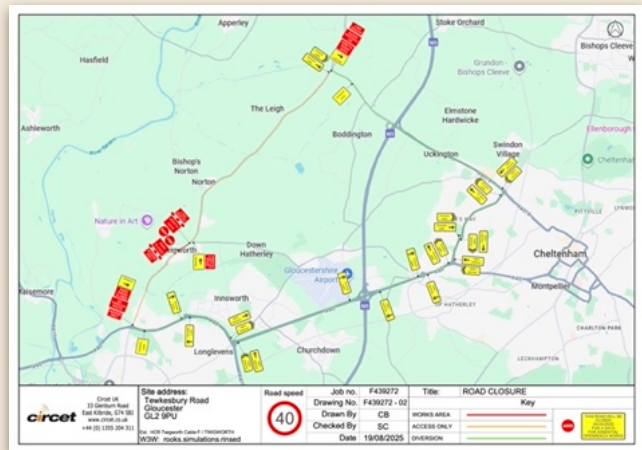
Additional temporary closures will affect **Down Hatherley Lane** and **Frogfurlong Lane** from **5th May to 7th May 2026**, also between **7:00pm and 7:00am**. To minimise disruption, only one of these roads will be closed at any given time.

These closures are necessary to allow for cable recovery works being carried out on behalf of Openreach. During this period, **emergency access and pedestrian access will be maintained at all times**.

While the works are expected to be completed within the stated dates, the legal order allows for the closures to remain in place for up to 18 months, should additional time be required. Every effort will be made to complete the works as quickly as possible.

Motorists are encouraged to plan ahead and allow extra travel time where necessary.

We thank residents for their patience and understanding during these essential works.



Twigworth Parish Council: Current Councillors & Their Roles

Twigworth Parish Council represents the first tier of local government in the village of Twigworth, comprising a small team of volunteer councillors, the council plays a vital role in addressing community issues, influencing planning decisions, and maintaining local services.

The council currently consists of five councillors, each contributing to the governance and wellbeing of the parish through shared responsibilities and individual leadership roles.

Structure and Responsibilities of the Council

Parish councillors are elected or co-opted and serve terms of up to four years. They are unpaid volunteers who represent the interests of local residents and help guide decisions on matters such as planning, highways, environmental issues, and community engagement. Although councillors may take on specific “lead” areas, all members share collective responsibility for council decisions.

Councillor George Sharpley - serves as Chairman of the Parish Council. He leads on key issues including flooding, sewage, and planning, and also acts as a flood representative for the wider area. With many years of experience in local government, he brings deep knowledge of the parish’s most pressing environmental challenges.

Councillor Richard Harris - is the Vice-Chairman and a former Chairman of the council. He is involved in a wide range of external liaison roles, including police and crime matters, planning policy, and parish partnerships. His experience across multiple councils strengthens collaboration on regional issues.

Councillor John Redfern - focuses on community engagement, including managing the parish website and social media presence. His role helps ensure communication between the council and residents remains accessible and up to date.

Councillor Graham Bocking - leads on planning matters and police liaison, while also contributing to flood-related initiatives. In addition to his parish role, he serves at borough level, bringing broader governance experience to the council.

Councillor Mike Davies - is a long-standing local resident who contributes to council activities and decision-making. His local knowledge supports the council’s understanding of community needs and priorities.

Parish Clerk - while not an elected councillor, the **Parish Clerk** plays a crucial administrative role. The clerk ensures that council business is conducted lawfully, manages finances, and supports communication and project implementation.

Twigworth Parish Council operates through a small but experienced group of councillors who collectively address local concerns and represent residents’ interests. With defined leadership roles in areas such as planning, flooding, and community engagement, the council reflects the practical, grassroots nature of parish governance in England.

Despite its modest size, the council’s work has a meaningful impact on daily life in Twigworth, shaping development, infrastructure, and the overall quality of the local environment.

QR Code for Twigworth Parish Council Website

<https://twigworthparishcouncil.com/>



Our Village Story: A Look Back at Twigworth's History

With so many changes taking place in and around the village, and with new neighbours joining our community, it feels like the perfect time to reflect on Twigworth's story and the history that has shaped the place we call home.

Twigworth may seem a quiet village on the northern edge of Gloucester, but its roots go back many centuries.

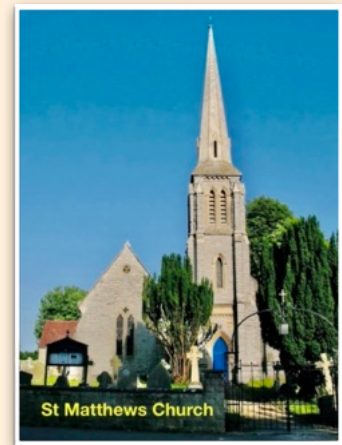
The village name appears in records from the 13th century as *Twigeworth*, and is thought to come from Old English, meaning either "an enclosure made of twigs" or "the settlement of a man named Twicga".

Whatever its exact origin, the name reminds us that this has long been a place of settlement, farming, and community.

For most of its history, Twigworth was a small agricultural hamlet, surrounded by rich farmland in the Severn Vale. The fertile land would have supported generations of local families, whose lives were closely tied to the rhythms of the seasons. Fields, livestock, and country lanes would have defined daily life for many hundreds of years.

At the heart of village life stands **St Matthew's Church**, consecrated in 1844, which served the community for nearly 200 years. Sadly, the Church of St Matthew has been closed for a couple of years now, as on Sunday December 15th 2019 Bishop Robert and the Benefice clergy presided over a service at St Matthews to mark its closure, it is now currently on the market to be sold by the Church Commissioners.

Many local families will have connections through baptisms, weddings, funerals, and special village occasions held there.



The churchyard is also notable as the burial place of **Ivor Gurney**, the celebrated Gloucestershire poet and composer, whose legacy continues to be remembered across the country.

Recent development has brought many new homes and families to Twigworth, changing the shape of the village and bringing fresh life to our community.

Yet, in a wonderful way, these changes have also helped uncover even older chapters of our story.

Archaeological work carried out during recent building developments revealed evidence of settlement dating back to the Iron Age, Roman period, and even late Neolithic times — showing that people have lived in this area

for thousands of years.

Twigworth continues to grow, but its sense of place remains strong.

Ours is a village that respects its past while looking ahead with confidence.

If any readers have old photographs, family memories, or stories of village life in years gone by, please do get in touch — we would be delighted to share them in a future issue.

Cllr John Redfern

Welcome to the Newly Refurbished Oakwood Hotel

Residents may have noticed an exciting change right on our doorstep in Twigworth. - The Oakwood Hotel, Bar and Restaurant has recently been beautifully refurbished.



The well-known local venue has been given a fresh new look, with updated interiors that create a welcoming and modern space for guests, diners and local visitors alike.



From its comfortable hotel rooms to its refreshed bar and restaurant area, The Oakwood is set to become a popular spot for everything from family meals to catching up with friends over a drink.



It is always wonderful to see local businesses being invested in, and this refurbishment is a real boost for our community.

The refurbished Oakwood Hotel in Twigworth now has several dining and bar spaces:

- The Pub – casual dining and comfort food
- The Grill – the main restaurant with a more refined menu
- The Drawing Room – coffee and afternoon tea
- The Terrace Bar – outdoor drinks and dining
- Private dining space for events

Overall, it's been updated into a more modern restaurant-and-bar destination, with both relaxed pub dining and a smarter restaurant feel.



Twigworth Parish Crest

What do residents feel about adopting a crest for the Twigworth Parish.

Why adopt a crest?

This would establish a distinct civic identity, foster community pride, and provide a professional, recognisable brand for our services and communications; it also represents our history, rural nature and key features of the parish.

The shield is the core of the arms and tells the main story:

- Green background (field) - represents the countryside, farmland, and rural character of Twigworth.
- Golden tree - symbolises growth, stability, and the parish’s natural landscape (possibly also long-standing community roots).
- Wavy horizontal lines - these are classic heraldic symbols for water, likely referring to local rivers or floodplains in the area.
- Sheaf of wheat (bottom) - traditional symbol of agriculture and farming, showing the importance of cultivation to the parish.



“Ex terra et aqua” is Latin for from earth and water.

What do the residents of Twigworth think about this?

County Cup Champions!

Twigworth Green FC produced a stunning second-half comeback to win the Gloucestershire Football Association Primary Cup North, defeating Hunts Grove 4-1 at Kayte Lane, Bishops Cleeve.

Trailing 0-1 at half-time, Morgan Williams equalised before Callum Harcombe fired them ahead with a superb finish.

Further goals from Dave Bishop and a Jake Cropper penalty sealed an emphatic victory. Formed only this season, Twigworth have enjoyed a remarkable campaign and remain unbeaten in Division 5N.

Striker Brodie Goddard-Jones praised opponents Hunts Grove for a strong performance. Twigworth now target a league and cup double, leading the table by six points with four matches remaining.



Division 5 (N)									
POS	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Twigworth Green	15	11	4	0	84	19	65	37
2	Barnwood United 3rds	14	9	4	1	50	21	29	31
3	Rising Stars Res	15	8	3	4	38	23	15	27
4	Upton St Leonards Res	16	7	4	5	54	32	22	25
5	Hunts Grove	16	6	2	8	48	47	1	20
6	Mavericks Res	15	5	4	6	28	24	4	19
7	Longford Res	15	4	0	11	31	61	-30	9*
8	Painswick 4ths	16	0	1	15	17	123	-106	1

Village Gateway

As part of the Parish Council 4-Year Plan, we will be purchasing and installing A38 Village gateways for Twigworth, these are designed to signal to drivers that they are entering a village, encouraging them to slow down and become more aware of their surroundings.



In summary, they:

- Mark the entrance to a village clearly
- Alert drivers to a change in environment (rural → residential)
- Encourage lower speeds without needing enforcement
- Improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and residents
- Enhance village identity with signs, plants, or features

Put simply: they make drivers notice the village and drive more carefully - hopefully!

Neighbourhood Watch

Residents have again been raising their concerns about cars speeding on the development roads, clearly this is not acceptable for safety reasons and everyone is urged to drive responsibly.

Once again, E-Scooters are being used around Twigworth and users are reminded that this is illegal in public open spaces and if caught, E-scooters will be confiscated by the police.

The next Neighbourhood Watch Zoom Meeting will be held **Tuesday 5th May, 19:30-20:30** join here: <https://meet.google.com/hjd-ovip-mtu>

If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to get in touch.

Paul James: NW Coordinator

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Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Twigworth Parish Council will be both the Annual General Meeting and Parish Assembly, held at the Down Hatherley Village Hall.



Both meetings are open to the public, if you would like to address the Council or just wish to hear what's going on in and around Twigworth.

PARISH COUNCIL AGM

Thursday, 7th May 2026

19:00 – 20:00

PARISH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 7th May 2026

20:00 – 21:00

Beneath Severn Skies

Where Severn mist drifts soft and low,
And morning fields begin to glow,
There lies a place both still and small -
Twigworth, quiet heart of all.

The hedgerows hum with hidden wings,
A robin perches, dips, and sings,
While narrow lanes of winding grace
Hold time in one unhurried place.

The church stands with weathered stone,
A keeper of the years long gone,
Its bell, though seldom heard today,
Still seems to echo far away.

In winter's hush, in summer's green,
There's more in Twigworth than is seen -
For in its calm, the world feels right,
A breath between the day and night.

And though the roads may lead elsewhere,
To louder lives and thinner air,
Some part of you will always stay
Where Severn skies fade into grey.

Anon