

ERMIN WARD

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

APRIL 2024

 @ErminWard

I post helpful information, including road closures for infrastructure repair etc., on my Ward Councillor Facebook page. Please could you mention this in your Parish News and Village Website. Underlined text is linked.

Cllr Julia Judd, Ermin Ward District Councillor

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Thurs 7 March	6pm	Cabinet
Wed 13 March	2pm	Planning & Licencing Committee
Wed 20 March	2pm	Council
Thurs 21 March	2pm	Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading Consent Matters)

Click [HERE](#) for the calendar of meetings, Agendas including Report Packs & Webcasts.

CABINET DECISIONS

Council Tax Reduction for Care Leavers

Recommendation to Full Council proposals to extend the age up to which Care Leavers can receive a reduction in Council Tax from 21 years to 25 years.

Council Tax Premium - Second Homes And Long-Term Empty Properties

Proposal to introduce a Council Tax Premium on second homes and apply a premium to long term empty properties after one year.

1. Agree from 01 April 2024 to levy the maximum level of premium for Empty Homes as set out in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023:

- i) Premium of 100% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) after 1 year up to 5 years of becoming empty;
- ii) Premium of 200% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) between 5 years and 10 years;
- iii) Premium of 300% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) for 10 years or more.

Business Rates Relief: 2024/2025. Retail, Hospitality And Leisure Scheme

The purpose of the report was to consider a scheme of rate relief for retail premises as outlined by Government in the Autumn Statement 2023

1. APPROVED the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure scheme as set out in Annex A for 2024/2025;

1. DELEGATED AUTHORITY to the Assistant Director for Resident Services the award of such reliefs.

Pay Policy Statement 2024/25

The purpose of the report was to consider the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25.

Cabinet AGREED to recommend to Council to:

1. Approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25.

2. Agree that the Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 will be updated and republished to reflect any changes to the senior management structure at that point.

Gloucestershire City Regions Board

To consider the emerging form and function of the Gloucestershire City Region Board, the nature of its authority, terms of reference, membership, and joint scrutiny arrangements. It was also to enable the Council to play an active part in the formalisation of a new Gloucestershire Region Board to support the Notification of Decisions delivery of developing a vision for the future growth of the economic success for the whole of the Gloucestershire economic area.

Cabinet:

1. AGREED to the establishment of the Gloucestershire City Region Board (GCRB);

Council Priority and Service Performance Report - 2023-24 Quarter Three

To provide an update on progress on the Council's priorities and service performance. Cabinet NOTED overall progress on the Council priorities and service performance for 2023-24 Q3.

Financial Performance Report Q3 2023/24

To set out the latest budget monitoring position for the 2023/24 financial year.

There were various questions by the Cabinet on the contents of the report.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet NOTED the Q3 financial position set out in this report.

Publica Review - Local Partnerships Transition Plan

To consider the Local Partnerships report and to approve the recommendations.

Cabinet AGREED to recommend to Full Council to:

1. Approve the recommendations set out in the Local Partnerships report

2. Instruct the Interim Programme Director to prepare a detailed transition plan, building on the recommendations set out in the Local Partnerships report, for subsequent agreement by Cabinet and Council.

Decision Taken Under Urgency Powers

The purpose of the report was to report to Cabinet and Council on a decision taken by the

Chief Executive Officer under urgency powers.

Cabinet:

1. NOTED the decision taken as set out in Annex A - To recommend to Council to approve the Corporate Plan 2024-28

Cabinet AGREED recommendation to Council.

POLICE - COLLABORATION, COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATION



The [Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire Chris Nelson](#) and Inspector Simon Ellson kindly attended one of my Parish Council meetings to answer questions about Anti-Social Behaviour on the Cotswold Way, Traveller Encampments, Overnight Camping on Highway and Verges and HGVs ignoring Weight Limit advisory signs. It is helpful to discuss such issues and collaborate. I was very pleased that they both took these concerns seriously and attended in person to address them.

COTSWOLD FLOOD MEETINGS

The next Cirencester Flood meeting chaired by Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, in Cirencester will be on Friday 26 April from 2pm to 4pm in the Cirencester Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane, Cirencester, GL7 1YE.



Owing to being in the pre-election period ahead of the Police and Crime Commissioner elections on 2 May 2024, it had to be moved from the CDC offices.

Please note that Sir Geoffrey will also be holding a separate public meeting on river pollution on Friday 17th May 2024 at 1000-1200hrs at the Cotswold District Council Chamber, which any constituent is welcome to attend.

For those wishing to ask questions, Sir Geoffrey would be most grateful if you could send these in advance to cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk by Monday 22 April.

SAVE THE DATE - 12 June 2024 - The Royal Agricultural University. Environment and People Symposium conference, bringing together industry experts and local professionals to share expertise and discuss pioneering case studies that utilise Nature-Based Solutions to address flooding, low flow, and their impact on people and the environment, with a specific focus on the Upper Churn Catchment and the River Dunt (aka the Daglington Stream). Please contact info@cirencester.gov.uk.

Council Tax Premium on second homes and apply a premium to long term empty properties after one year

At the Full Council meeting on 20 March, Council voted to:
Agree from 01 April 2024, to levy the maximum level of premium for Empty Homes as set out in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.

- a) Premium of 100% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) after 1 year up to 5 years of becoming empty;
- b) Premium of 200% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) between 5 years and 10 years;
- c) Premium of 300% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) for 10 years or more.

Agree in principle from 01 April 2025 to the implementation of a premium (Second Homes Premium) of 100% for dwellings that are no one's sole or main residence and which are substantially furnished as set out in paragraph 4.7 of the report.

Agree to issue the mandatory notice of 12 months to all owners of second homes that a premium will commence from 1 April 2025

A417 MISSING LINK

Kier have launched [BuildHub](#), their new A417 Missing Link project website.

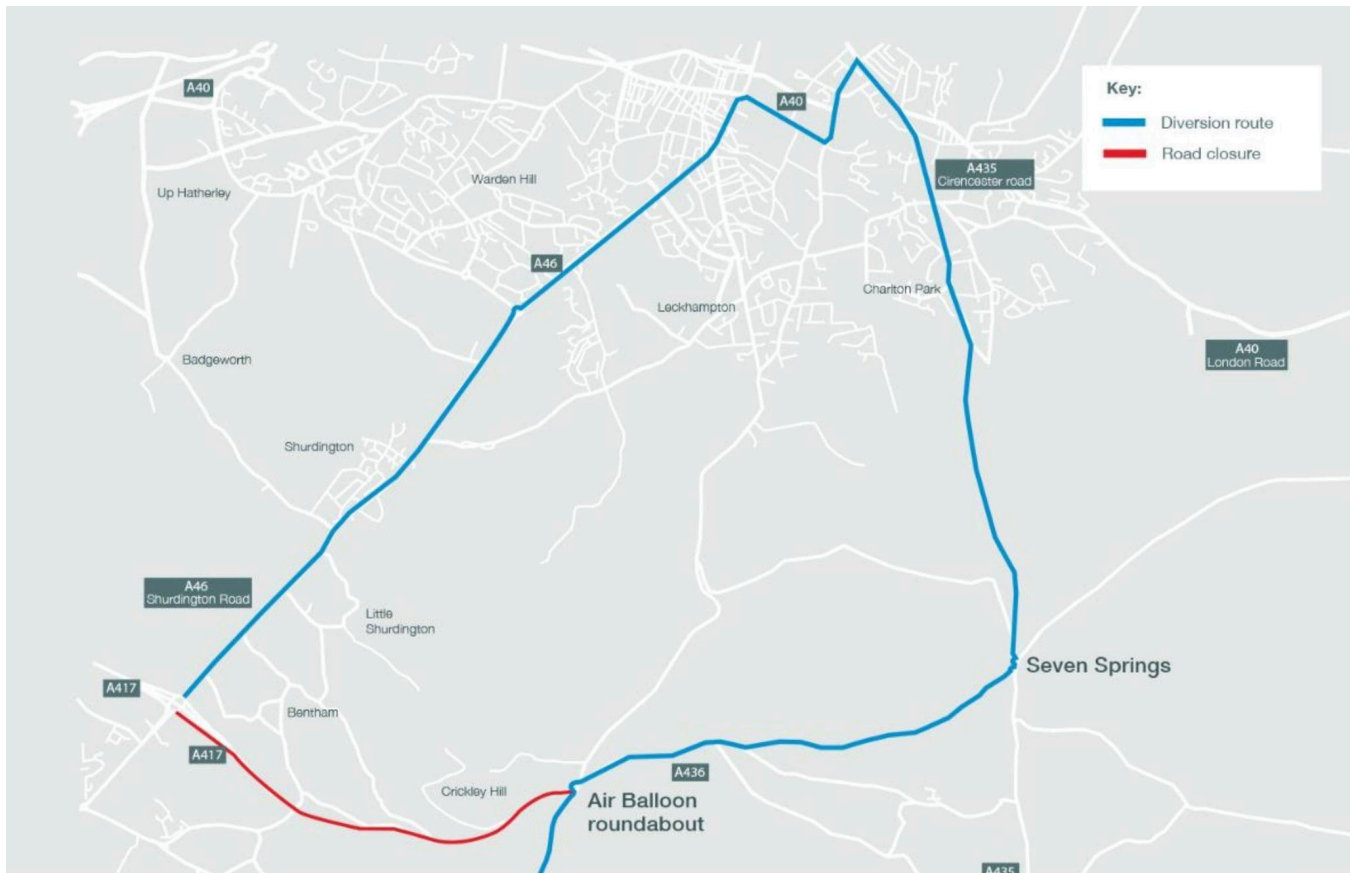
Learn more about the A417 Missing Link project updates including construction, archaeology, and environmental works. There is an interactive map showing up to date diversions and closures and a feedback form where members of the community can message the Stakeholder and Customer team.

The website also provides news including work supporting local charities, social enterprises, Public Information Events and a Meet the Team page.



On 19 March I attended a Keir Open Doors visit to hear about progress with the A417 Missing Link construction with Kier Group Plc. It was a privilege to visit the 'live' construction site at Shab Hill - and construction is ahead of schedule - by the end of 2026, the area where we were gathered will be the northbound carriageway! I have to admit there was a thrill to be had, even just to imagine operating one of these enormous vehicles.

A417 OVERNIGHT ROAD CLOSURES



8 to 22 APRIL - OVERNIGHT (9pm to 6am) FULL CLOSURE OF CRICKLEY HILL

From the Air Balloon roundabout to A46 Brockworth junction.

The works include the removal of earth at certain locations, along with new surfacing and road markings.

A diversion route will be in place via the A46, A40, A435 to A436, and has been agreed with Gloucestershire County Council. Please see the red line on the map shown below highlighting the closure, with the approved diversion route shown in blue. National Star College and Crickley Hill Country Park will be open for business as usual. Please note that these works are subject to change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances. Access for emergency services will be fully maintained during the closures.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to know about our work, please contact Kier on 0300 123 5000 or email a417missinglinkatairballoon@nationalhighways.co.uk Alternatively, you can visit the dedicated project page at <https://a417missinglink.com/>

HIGHWAYS, POTHoles AND REPAIRS

All of my parishes have grievances about potholes and repairs. Lately I have been travelling about other counties and I am sad to say Gloucestershire is not an isolated 'pot' spot. There are pothole issues throughout the country from Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire (North and South)



There are fixes to be celebrated though. This issue at Birdlip has been outstanding for a very, very long time - what a relief it is fixed, pedestrians are safe at last. So my advice is: be patient, persevere and be logical - take advantage to add photos, anecdotes and impact repercussions every time you make a report on <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/> This is a County Council not District County issue but I will always help you if I can.

ELKSTONE STUDIOS



It was an honour and a privilege to be asked to draw the raffle at the Elkstone Studios Easter Fair on Easter Monday. It has been wonderful to see Elkstone Studios evolve over the last couple of years, creating jobs and opportunities and great services for locals. It was a charming, family friendly, wholesome event. There was a wonderful atmosphere and something for everyone. Community spirit should not be underestimated - the ripple effect is invaluable. Village litter picks can lift the spirit and make a difference! Don't forget I have a litter pick 'kit' if you want to arrange one.

Forthcoming Committee Meetings (underlined texts are linked)

Tues 2 April	4pm	Overview & Scrutiny
Thurs 4 April	6pm	Cabinet
Wed 10 April	2pm	Planning & Licencing Committee
Thurs 24 April	2pm	Licencing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading Consent Matters)
Fri 25 April	2pm	Audit & Governance

There is no Full Council meeting in April