

ERMIN WARD

## COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

JULY 2025



@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

[julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk)

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### Forthcoming Committee Meetings (underlined texts are linked)

The next opportunity for Public Questions is at the Council meeting on 16 July

Friday 4 July	11.00 am	<a href="#">Meeting of PROVISIONAL - Standards Hearings Sub-Committee</a>
Monday 7 July	4.00 pm	<a href="#">Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee</a>
Tuesday 8 July	2.00 pm	<a href="#">Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee</a>
Wednesday 9 July	2.00 pm	<a href="#">Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee</a>
Thursday 10 July	6.00 pm	<a href="#">Meeting of Cabinet</a>
Monday 14 July	4.00 pm	<a href="#">Meeting of Audit and Governance Committee</a>
Wed 16 July	6.00 pm	<a href="#">Meeting of Council</a>
Thursday 24 July	2.00 pm	<a href="#">Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading)</a>

### Recent Committee Meetings (underlined texts are linked)

Thursday 6 June	6.00 pm	<a href="#">Meeting of Cabinet</a>
Wednesday 11 June	2.00 pm	<a href="#">Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee</a>
Wednesday 21 June	6.00 pm	<a href="#">Meeting of Annual Council, Council</a>
Wednesday 25 June	2.00 pm	<a href="#">Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading)</a>

## There was no FULL COUNCIL MEETING in June 2025

Therefore no Members Questions

## CDC HAS A NEW CEO

Robert Weaver decided to step down from his role as chief executive officer at Cotswold District Council, effective Monday, June 30.

At a special full council meeting on 26 June following the recommendation of the appointment panel, Jane Portman was approved as the new CEO. She will start in the post next month.

Jane has almost 40-years of public service experience. She joins with particular and significant first-hand knowledge on leading councils through local government reorganisation, where she collaborated and led on programmes in Dorset and Somerset. This experience will be invaluable next year when CDC dissolves and becomes part of the proposed Gloucestershire Unitary Council.

### [JANE PORTMAN PROFILE](#)

## WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE - 2 TO 6PM - TOWN & PARISH SUMMIT AT THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

The recording of the meeting can be found by visiting the meeting recording link below.

 [Member Briefing - 5 year Housing Land Supply-20250611\\_145732-Meeting Recording.mp4](#)

A meeting to explore local government reorganisation (LGR) aka devolution. What opportunities are there and how do town and parish councils prepare themselves to deliver more for their residents, in the event of Gloucestershire becoming a Unitary Authority? The role of town and parish councils is set to become even more important in meeting the needs of local people, as local government sits on the cusp of fundamental change. The speakers have first-hand experience of local government reorganisation.

- Jackie Weaver, social media star and Chief Officer, Cheshire Association of Local Councils
- Matthew Kirby, Deputy Chief Executive, Chippenham Town Council
- Andrew Tubb, Chief Executive Officer, Cirencester Town Council
- Barbara Pond, Head of Operations, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council

- Sabrina Dixon, Community Development Officer, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council

Now more than ever, parish and town councils must be proactive—engaging with district/borough authorities, planning for the future, and accessing training and resources to prepare for potential changes in roles and responsibilities.

**Q: How will Rural Parishes be heard within a Unitary Authority?**

**A: By creating an Area Board for Cotswold rural parish councils and a collaboration of Cotswold Rural Parish Councils**

I asked Jackie Weaver how would residents in rural villages be heard by unitary authority councillors. Her reply was '*...they won't - the Parish councils will have to step up to form strong relationships with the unitary authority, but their concerns will be considered of little consequence in comparison to the major urban issues such as social care.*'

Matt Kirby from Chippenham Town Council said that the unitary authority will not be able to afford to do what you (rural Parishes) want, their focus on adult care, children, planning, highways and other county wide services.

He also said that that Chippenham Town Council took on services over and above their brief by raising their precept, because they didn't believe Wiltshire Unitary would deliver these services well, but this raises the question are residents paying double Council Tax.

He went on to list the lessons learned through the process:

Takes longer than expected

Not exact science

Take the game to principal council

Be clear what you want to achieve

Ask your community what they want

Put precept up by enough

The unitary authority will not be able to afford to do what you want, their focus on adult care, children, planning, highways and other county wide services

Take ownership of your place

Area Boards are a tool within a Unitary Authority which could be invaluable to support rural parishes and be heard by the administration within a large local authority. Area Boards will need proper resourcing and will need to be set up by the Unitary Authority.

I will pursue my ambition that one is created within the proposed Gloucestershire unitary authority, specifically designed to promote the interests of Cotswold rural parish councils.

Together with a collaboration of rural parishes, the Area Board could manage communication and collaboration and provide invaluable support. There are too many Cotswold rural parishes to organise themselves without some formal structure.

## RETROFIT

In my May newsletter I reported on an excellent Retrofit Roadshow held in Kemble Village Hall. I have since written to Mike McKewon, Cabinet Member for climate response, urging him to organise a similar event for all Members and members of the public in the Council Chamber. The advantage of holding it there means that it can be recorded and made available to all residents throughout the District via a recorded link. I shall also be asking a Question in Full Council.

## BINS & WASTE COLLECTION

Ermin Ward villages continue to suffer from missed collections. Please report them to me at [julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk) - I need the date of the missed collection, your address and what type of waste. I will report to the Cabinet Member for Waste and the contracts team. Many of you already know that if Ubico knows that they will not be making a scheduled collection, you cannot report it on the Council's portal! My latest efforts are focused on trying to be informed when Ubico KNOWS that your bins are not going to be collected so that you can be informed.

Please note that the new Cabinet Member for waste is Andrea Pellegram. I have spoken to her about the historic issues in Ermin Ward since the service update last summer. She has experience in the waste industry so hopefully she might be able to bring about some solutions to our ongoing problems of non-collect, inability to report missed collections, regular missed collections and communication.

## FLY TIPS

There has recently been three lorry sized loads of aggregate fly tipped locally. Please keep your eye out for lorries with such a load, especially if they are in unusual places or in remote areas. Take a note of the number plate or other distinguishing signs and report to [contracts@publicgroup.uk](mailto:contracts@publicgroup.uk)

## FLOOD RESILIENCE & RIVER POLLUTION SIR GEOFFREY CLIFTON BROWN PUBLIC MEETINGS FRIDAY 27 JUNE

The Westwoods Centre, Northleach, GL54 3QJ  
Flood Resilience: 10-12pm  
River Pollution: 1-3pm

These meetings are an opportunity for residents of the North Cotswolds constituency to hear from and speak directly with key officials from Thames Water, Severn Trent, the Environment Agency, Gloucestershire County Council, Cotswold District Council, and other stakeholders involved in ongoing flood resilience work and addressing sewage and river pollution problems.

For those wishing to ask specific questions, Sir Geoffrey would be grateful if you could submit these in advance to [cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk](mailto:cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk) by Friday 20th June. We will forward any questions we receive to the relevant agencies to help them prepare answers in advance of the meeting.

As has been the case for previous meetings, we will be requesting written reports from the key stakeholders which will be circulated to those on the distribution list. A minute will be produced of the meeting which will also be circulated afterwards.

## Cirencester Fire Station Roundabout Improvement Works

The roads will be closed overnight to allow for resurfacing and white lining from 7 to 18 July - 8pm to 6am.

The works to improve the capacity of the roundabout and provide new pedestrian and cycle crossings on the Fire Station Roundabout are nearing completion. Traffic lights have been installed but will not be operational until completion. The foot and cycle crossing surfaces are being finalised, and the service access to the centre of the roundabout is nearing completion.



## A417



### **Aerial view of the Stockwell site - May 2025**

The Customer Hub, located at the crusher compound at Shab Hill, continues to open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am until 2pm. You can visit any time during these hours, without pre-booking an appointment. Members of the team will be on hand to and answer any questions that you may have.

A417 Project Office, Birdlip, Gloucester, GL4 8JX

What3words: <https://w3w.co/shaped.quietest.payback>

10 mph and site restrictions must be adhered to. Please Reverse Park.

Site visits began again in June for members of the public. If you are interested, please contact [A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk)

All roadworks and planned road closures on motorways and major A roads, including the A417, are published on the Traffic England website: [www.trafficengland.com](http://www.trafficengland.com). Road Closure Reports, which includes a seven day look ahead of planned road closures, are updated twice daily, Monday to Friday except for bank holidays: [www.nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/road-closure-report/](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/road-closure-report/).

To find the latest information about local road closures, please visit:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/>.

Webpage: [www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link/](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link/)

Email: A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk

Phone: 0300 123 5000

X: @HighwaysSWEST

Facebook: @HighwaysSWEST

## Fire Station Roundabout improvement works update

Gloucestershire County Council Highways has agreed that the final resurfacing of the roundabout can take place between 7 and 18 July. The traffic management will be removed from the roundabout and approach roads as soon as possible after the works are complete. The works to refurbish the subway will take place in July and August, once the new traffic lights and at grade crossings have been installed.