

## AUGUST 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

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

Wednesday 13 Aug 2.00 pm [Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee](#)

Thursday 21 Aug 2.00 pm [Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee \(Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading](#)

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

Friday 4 July 11.00 am [Meeting of PROVISIONAL - Standards Hearings Sub-Committee](#)

Monday 7 July 4.00 pm [Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)

Tuesday 8 July 2.00 pm [Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)

Wednesday 9 July 2.00 pm [Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee](#)

Thursday 10 July 6.00 pm [Meeting of Cabinet](#)

Monday 14 July 4.00 pm [Meeting of Audit and Governance Committee](#)

Wed 16 July 6.00 pm [Meeting of Council](#)

Thursday 24 July 2.00 pm [Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee \(Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading](#)

## JULY COUNCIL MEETING

### Members Questions

Question 2 - I requested that the excellent retrofit roadshow held in Kemble on 22 May, be extended to other corners of the Cotswolds such as Chipping Campden, Tetbury and Stow-on-the-Wold and also in the CDC Council Offices in Cirencester and Moreton-in-Marsh. I was delighted with the written answer and to see that plans are already in place for this to happen and indeed Cllr Gina Bloomfield had already organised such an event for Chipping Campden. In my follow up question I requested that officers prepare a pdf 'tookit' to accompany the roadshows which the Cabinet member thought was a good idea and would organise.

## Item 12 - Report Back from British Farming Motion Task and Finish Group

<https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1154&MId=2429>

From 1:19 to end on the webcast.



Do you recall that at the 19 March full Council meeting, I put forward a motion, (seconded by Cllr Jeremy Theyer, who is a farmer), requesting the leader of CDC to write to the Chancellor Exchequer on behalf of Cotswold farmers, to pull back on her IHT on Farmers policy? At that meeting the leader T-boned a vote on my motion by proposing an amendment for it to be put to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee which was approved by the LibDem majority. O&S created a Task & Finish Group to consult with farmers and other stakeholders affected by the policy and produced a report. I thank those members and officers who put in a great amount of work and effort into the report which was presented at Council on 16 July:

*...that Council resolves to:*

*REQUEST that the Leader writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer expressing concerns that the proposed changes to Inheritance Tax rules as they relate to farms will have unintended consequences that could have far reaching implications for the viability of the farming sector of the Cotswolds.*

I am delighted that this item was approved by nearly all members, almost in its original form four months later, however the report has given the leader some background on what to say. I very much look forward to seeing the letter! As of 7 August, I have

received no notification that the letter has been written or sent and have emailed the leader to ask why it has not yet been sent.

## JULY CABINET DECISIONS

### **Achieving Corporate Net Zero**

To recommend the creation of a Corporate Climate Change Board and note the actions to address the emissions performance gap.

Cabinet

1. Noted the position as set out in the report (Annex A) and the actions required to close the emissions performance gap.
2. Agreed to the creation of a Corporate Climate Change Board to provide accountability for an emissions reduction programme.

### **Creative Cotswolds Action Plan - Culture Strategy**

To present Creative Cotswolds to Cabinet for approval.

Cabinet

1. cultural sector. Approve Creative Cotswolds as the Council's approach to supporting the districts

### **LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Progress Review**

#### **Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Peer Review and Action Plan**

To seek Cabinet's endorsement of the findings of the PAS (Planning Advisory Service) Planning Service Peer Challenge report (May 2025) and the proposed Action Plan.

Cabinet

1. Welcomed the PAS Planning Service Peer Challenge Report (May 2025) and its recommendations and agreed the resultant Action Plan for implementation.
2. Agreed to publish the report and the accompanying Action Plan on the CDC Planning and Building web pages.

### **Local Plan Update**

To confirm the way forward for the Local Plan.

Cabinet:

Recommended to Council to resolve to merge the two ongoing Local Plan projects into a single comprehensive Full Local Plan Update, incorporating work of the Gloucestershire Strategic Plan, where appropriate, with a view to submission of the single Local Plan in 2026 and adoption in 2027.

- 1) the partial update of the adopted Cotswold District Local Plan (2011-2031); and

2) the Development Strategy and Site Allocations Plan,

And further, subject to Council approving the merging of the plans at Full Council on 16 July Cabinet also RESOLVED to:

1. Update the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy in parallel with the Local Plan process.14. 15. 16.

2. 3. 4. Invest in additional resources to accelerate the delivery of the Local Plan to enable the December 2026 submission deadline to be hit.

Confirm the delivery of the Local Plan as a Council priority.

Establish a Local Plan Oversight Board and confirm a new Terms of Reference.

### **Licensed HMO fee policy and HMO Amenity Standards policy**

To review the HMO Licensing fees and the licence period.

CABINET:

1. Amended the HMO Licence Fees as set out in the Report and agreed that new fees would apply from 1st September 2025;

2. Approved the HMO licence period increase from 3 years to 5 years.

### **Service Performance Report 2024-25 Quarter 4**

To provide an update on progress on the Council's priorities and service performance 2024/25 Q4 (January to March 2025).

CABINET:

1. 2. 3. Noted the outturn financial position set out in this report.

Noted the Non-treasury Prudential Indicators in Annex B.

Approved the transfer to and from reserves as set out in paragraph 2.15 to 2.18 and 6.1 to 6.6 and Annex C.

4. Approved the carry forward of unspent capital budget included in paragraph 6.5 of £0.565m into the 2025/26 Capital Programme.

5. Note the change in provisions as set out in paragraph 2.14.

## **Have your say on the future of Gloucestershire councils**

### **[SURVEY - CLICK HERE](#)**

Residents are invited to share their views from 1 July until 9 August 2025. Three options are being developed for the new council structure:

- One council covering the whole county.

- Two councils with an east (Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, and Cotswold) and west (Gloucester, Forest of Dean, and Stroud) split.
- Two councils, with one being an enlarged Gloucester city (referred to as 'Greater Gloucester') and the other covering the remainder of the county.

We are informed that public opinions on these specific options are not being sought. Instead, all seven councils are working together focused on gathering feedback on how local services can best meet the needs of residents both now and in the future. *This means that the current political landscape is controlling a massive decision which will affect Gloucestershire for evermore. This decision is crucial, regardless of the eventual council structure.*

*I was disappointed by the quality of The "County-wide Local Government Reorganisation" Survey. It fails to ask key questions about Local Government Reorganisation or set out what are ALL the options.*

*Which model would you prefer - One Gloucestershire? Two Gloucestershire? East Of Gloucester? West of Gloucester? In my experience, when asked, most people say they want one Gloucestershire.*

*I also felt that many of the questions were inappropriate and insensitive - for example how is my sexuality relevant to this issue? Why would I be asked this? Is this survey simply a cynical data collection opportunity?*

## COTSWOLD LOCAL PLAN TO BE UPDATED

Cotswold District Council is set to fast-track updates to its local plan to make sure homes are built in the right places at the right time, after government planning reforms more than doubled the number of houses the district is expected to deliver.

Work to update the plan at pace follows a government directive requiring the council to identify land for 1,036 new homes each year and increase of over 100% from 420 per year. - despite 80% of the district being within the Cotswold National Landscape, and the other 20% areas already much developed.

New housing targets mean developers are now more likely to pursue sites in the Cotswold district that were previously protected under the council's earlier local plan. Based on a lower housing requirement – set locally – that plan identified suitable locations for housing for at least the next seven years, exceeding the former five-year housing land supply requirement and placing the district in a strong planning position.

This update to the local plan aims to restore that position, ensuring future development is focused on the most appropriate and sustainable sites.

This work will be shaped with input from residents, businesses, communities, town and parish councils, environmental groups and others, with a public consultation inviting feedback in the autumn. As well as new homes, the public will be asked about schools, healthcare, jobs, transport, and other vital infrastructure to ensure communities have everything they need to thrive.

Once finalised and signed off by the Planning Inspectorate, the plan will guide development in the Cotswold district until 2043 and beyond. It is proposed that the update of the local plan will be completed by 2027.

## Retrofit Roadshows

Do you remember in my last Newsletter I reported that I had written to Cllr Mike McKewon, Cabinet Member for climate response, and I asked at him at the July Full Council Meeting to organise Retrofit Roadshows around the Cotswolds? I am delighted to say that he approved the idea and some events have already been rolled out - see below. I also asked that one should be held in the CDC Council Chamber in Cirencester and made available on a webcast which was also approved. I will share the link when it is available but at the time in writing I do not have a date for this particular event.

FREE friendly, expert advice on insulation, solar PV & heat pumps— discover how to boost comfort and cut bills in your home.

This free session is open to everyone in CDC area - and will include:

✓ Advice on insulation, heat pumps, solar panels, battery storage and more....

✓ Help understanding grants and funding options available

✓ Guidance on planning rules for homes in conservation areas and listed buildings

Whether you're just starting to explore your options or already planning improvements, this is a great opportunity to get trusted guidance—without any sales pitch.

12 August - [Chipping Campden](#)

20 August - [Moreton-in-Marsh](#)

28 August - [Fairford](#)

## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The District Council has received two formal requests, one from a Parish Council asking to change to a Parish Meeting, and the other requesting an increase in the number of parish councillors. CDC are therefore preparing to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR) and are inviting all other Parish and Town Councils/Meetings to consider whether there are changes you would like to propose.

A CGR can consider:

- Creating, merging, altering, or abolishing parishes;
- Changing the name of a parish;
- Reviewing electoral arrangements (e.g. number of councillors, warding);
- Grouping or de-grouping parishes under a common council;
- Changing the status of a parish (e.g. from council to meeting) to reflect local circumstances.

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ME if you would like more information relating to CGRs and also understanding the differences between a parish council and a parish meeting.

Proposed Timeline:

The review is expected to take place over the next 9–12 months, with any changes implemented at the ordinary elections in May 2027.

Requests should be made to [elections@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:elections@cotswold.gov.uk) no later than 30 September 2025. An initial report will be presented to the Full Council in November and will include a timetable for the consultation process.

## Crowdfund Cotswold opens new round of funding for local projects

The latest round of funding is now open, and the Council is encouraging individuals, groups, and organisations to get involved and share their ideas for projects that will benefit their local communities. The deadline to apply is 24 September 2025.

If you are interested in raising funds for your own ideas you can get started today by visiting the [Crowdfund Cotswold website](#) and creating your own project page.



## The Cirencester Fire Station roundabout works have been completed!

It is very likely that over the past year you have been caught in traffic congestion due to these works!

The roundabout on the dual carriageway in Cirencester, closest to the Fire Station, along with the mini-roundabout at the junction of Love Lane and Midland Road, underwent a major upgrade to improve traffic capacity and flows, improve safety, and mitigate flooding in the area.

A drainage basin has been created in the central island, to mitigate flooding issues. This island was reduced in size to create extra lanes on the roundabout. The existing verges have been reduced to create a three-lane entry from Midland Road onto the main roundabout, and intelligent reactive traffic lights have been introduced to ease traffic flow.

Improvements have also been made for pedestrians and cyclists through the introduction of new at grade crossings on the eastern and southern arms of the main roundabout, and the existing footpaths have been resurfaced. The refurbishment of the existing subway will begin shortly.

Traffic lights on the main roundabout are operational 24hrs a day, these lights can detect vehicle levels and react accordingly to improve traffic flow. The two signal-controlled pedestrian crossings have been installed providing safe crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists which are activated by push buttons.

A control system is also in place, operated from the Fire Station, to ensure safe and quick access to the highway by the fire engines.

## A417

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/)

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