

SEPTEMBER 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)

Monday 1 September	4.00 pm	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 4 September	6.00 pm	Cabinet
Wednesday 10 September	2.00 pm	Planning and Licensing Committee
Wednesday 24 September	6.00 pm	Council
Thursday 25 September	2.00 pm	Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire & Street Trading
Tuesday 30 September	4.00 pm	Audit and Governance Committee

Recent 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

THERE WAS NO CABINET OR FULL COUNCIL MEETING IN AUGUST

Cotswold District Council responds to Government's letter stating housing targets remain

Cotswold District Council has received a formal response from Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, to the council leader's recent letter expressing "deep concerns" over revised housing targets for the Cotswold district.

In July the leader wrote to Angela Rayner, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, requesting that the government take due consideration for the "unique development constraints" in the Cotswold district, and pause its disproportionate housing target. This would be while the council works on a full update to its Local Plan.

In her reply, Baroness Taylor acknowledged the Cotswold district's constraints but emphasised that all areas must "play their part" in meeting national housing needs. She pointed to the revised methodology's affordability focus and strategic planning goals. However, she did not commit to revisiting the housing targets or offer interim protections against speculative development while the new plan is being prepared.

The Minister states that other areas have similar constraints to the Cotswold district, but the reality is that there are very few planning authority areas which have as much land designated as National Landscape. 80 per cent lies within the protected Cotswolds National Landscape, with additional areas affected by flood risk and existing development. The response seems to be a reiteration of national policy rather than a tailored solution to the challenges in the Cotswolds.

LETTER FROM LEADER OF CDC TO Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves RE: IHT PROPOSALS BEING CATASTROPHIC FOR FARMS IN THE REGION

This letter, which I proposed as a Motion in the March 2025 Council Meeting, seconded by my farming colleague, Cllr Jeremy Theyer, urges the Chancellor to adopt pragmatic, farmer backed alternatives.

An investigation was carried out by the council's cross-party Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and outlined alternatives designed to protect family farms, support sustainable land management, and maintain the economic and environmental vitality of farms in Cotswolds and across the UK.

More than 90 per cent of land is agricultural in the Cotswolds, with farming supporting four per cent of local jobs - nearly triple the national average. The world-renowned landscape, shaped by generations of farmers, draws 23 million day-visitors and 1.5 million overnight visitors annually, contributing over £1 billion to UK GDP.

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.

Gloucestershire County Council launches £400k fund to support local community projects

Community groups across Gloucestershire are invited to apply for a share of £400,000 through the county council's [Thriving Communities Grant](#) programme.

Who can apply for a Thriving Community Grant?

- Community or voluntary groups
- Registered charities
- Community interest companies
- Town and parish councils
- Art, music, performance, nature-based and sports groups
- Faith-based groups (where the application demonstrates that the project will bring wider community benefit and the primary purpose of the activity is not religious)

Who can't apply?

- Organisations where activities focus on children and young people
- Sole traders
- Statutory organisations except for Town and Parish Councils
- Schools and academies
- Organisations located outside of Gloucestershire
- For-profit businesses

What is the grant for?

- Projects that help adults to stay well and support them to live independently for as long as possible
- Developing community connections, social networks and building resilience
- Promoting inclusive independence and wellbeing in adults
- Providing place-based activities (activities in residential communities), for example community-led activities)

What can the grant money be used for?

- Costs to set up a new project or maintain an existing project
- Staffing costs
- Volunteer expenses
- Project/programme delivery costs
- Equipment costs
- Core funding (for example, insurance, rent, utilities)
- Transport costs (for example, taxis)
- Continued delivery of projects or increased activity to meet demand

What can't the grant money be used for?

- Capital (building and planning works)
- Consultancy costs
- Vehicles

Grant conditions

- We will support applications from a minimum of £500 up to £7,500
- You must have a bank or building society account in the name of your organisation or group
- There must be two or more signatories for the bank or building society
- You must be a not-for-profit organisation. We cannot fund sole traders or any organisation with less than two unrelated directors or signatories
- Organisations that are funded will be required to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of their project
- Sign up to your local 'Know your Patch' network and register your group/organisation on YourCircle
 - <https://knowyourpatch.co.uk>
 - <https://www.yourcircle.org.uk>

Application timeline

- Monday 18 August 2025: Applications open
- Sunday 28 September 2025: Applications close
- Monday 29 September - Friday 14 November 2025: Selection process
- End of December 2025: Outcomes communicated to organisations
- January - February 2026: Grant funding sent to successful organisations

CIRENCESTER FOODBANK

A new report from [Cirencester Foodbank](#) highlights how food poverty is affecting working families, single adults, and those with health conditions. The 2025 South Cotswold Food Poverty Report urges urgent, community-led action.

No one should face hunger alone. There is a particular need for:

Instant Coffee
LongLife Juice

Multi packs of Crisps/Snacks
Tomato and Brown Sauce, Mayonnaise
Tins of Peas, Mushrooms, Sweetcorn, Tomatoes, Soup, Curry,
Hot Dogs
Sponge Puddings, Angel Delight
Chocolate
Glutenfree Products
Cat Food
Shampoo, Washing Powder, Toilet Cleaner
They do NOT need
Baked Beans
Tins of Fish, Pulses, Custard
Rice or Pasta
Dog Food.

The Food Bank is very very grateful for everything.

A417

Due to bad weather forecasts, the A417 closures scheduled for Friday 29 August to 1 September are rescheduled for 9pm Friday 12 to 6am Monday 15 September. For more information on this scheme, visit our [A417 Missing Link web page](#).

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

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. 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/.

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/

Email: A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk

Phone: 0300 123 5000

X: @HighwaysSWEST

Facebook: @HighwaysSWEST

Did you know that you can report highway issues, such as potholes, and track their progress online at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fixmystreet Or download the app: FixMyStreet