

ERMIN WARD

## COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

### JANUARY 2026



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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Parliamentary constituency is North Cotswolds [CLIFTONBROWNG@parliament.uk](mailto:CLIFTONBROWNG@parliament.uk)

County Division is Cirencester North with Ermin - [Mark.Harris@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Harris@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

except Coberley which is in Bourton-on-the-Water & Northleach

[Paul.Hodgkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Hodgkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

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

Monday <b>5 January</b>	4.00 pm <a href="#">Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny</a>
Thursday <b>8 January</b>	6.00 pm <a href="#">Meeting of Cabinet</a>
Wednesday <b>14 January</b>	2.00 pm <a href="#">Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee</a>
Wednesday <b>21 January</b>	2.00 pm <a href="#">Meeting of Council</a>
Tuesday <b>27 January</b>	4.00 pm <a href="#">Meeting of Audit and Governance Committee</a>
Thursday <b>29 January</b>	2.00 pm <a href="#">Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading</a>

#### Recent Committee Meetings (November meetings calendar was subject to multiple changes)

Monday 1 December	2.00 pm <a href="#">Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee</a>
Thursday 4 December	4.00 pm <a href="#">Meeting of Audit and Governance Committee</a>
Wednesday 10 Dec	2.00 pm <a href="#">Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee</a>
Thursday 18 December	2.00 pm <a href="#">Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading</a>

There was no Cabinet or Full Council Meeting in December

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW - DEVOLUTION

### LOCAL PLAN REVIEW and PUBLIC CONSULTATION **UNTIL 2 JANUARY 2026**

A seven-week public consultation on the Cotswold District Council Local Plan Review Regulation 18 Consultation Preferred Options (November 2025) 14 November 2025 until 2 January 2026 was confirmed at the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting on 6 November.

Cotswold District Council has published draft options for future housing development in

response to a sharp rise in government-imposed targets for new homes.

The council has developed several strategic options based on land that could be available, and housing that could be delivered in the time period.

The recommended option that will be discussed by councillors includes:

- A new village near Driffield
- Extensions to Kemble, Ampney Crucis, Preston, Siddington, Fairford, Moreton-in-Marsh and Cirencester
- Smaller developments in other towns and villages

This option could provide sites to deliver 14,660 homes between now and 2043 – the updated Local Plan period – with potential development areas outside of the National Landscape across the north, south and east of the district.

Only one option meets the full government target, and this involves building within the National Landscape which is unlikely to be viable under current planning rules.

The council is also talking with neighbouring authorities exploring whether they can help meet the shortfall. The consultation in November will also include a call for further sites in the district that have potential to be used for housing.

At this stage, these numbers are indicative and high-level, based on sites that currently have planning permission, as well as sites that have been put forward to the council by landowners, which have potential for housing.

The results of the consultation might mean that some sites are discounted or other new sites may come forward.

As previously mentioned, Cotswold District Council needs to plan for 1,036 new houses each year, more than double previous targets, as part of a national drive to build 1.5 million homes during this parliament.

This has rendered our Local Plan 'out of date' - specifically Policies DS1, DS2, DS3 and DS4 - other policies are still relevant. CDC is therefore undertaking an update (2-3 years). Cotswold National Landscape areas will retain the usual protections.

*Other Paragraphs of the NPPF which are steering the new shift: In particular 11d, Footnote 8, 68, 84, 91, 110, 115, 129, 135, 139.*

Until the new local plan is published, these policies are subject to NPPF Paragraph 10 - Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Delivery so the 'Tilted Balance' - Benefits outweighing Harm has shifted - i.e. applications are more likely to be approved.

Over 80 per cent of our district is protected National Landscape, which severely limits where houses can be built, yet 18,650 new houses are expected to be delivered over the next 18 years. In July, Cllr Evemy wrote to Angela Rayner, the previous Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, requesting a rethink. In

response, the minister said there would be no change to housing numbers and that the council should proceed with a full update to its Local Plan. He has written again to her replacement, Steve Reed. At the time of writing a response has not been received/published.

## **CDC 2026/27 BUDGET CONSULTATION UNTIL 14 JANUARY 2026**

### **BINS AND MISSED COLLECTIONS**

PLEASE continue to keep me informed, I cannot help if I do not know that your bins have not been collected. It seems to me that the misses in the North of Ermin Ward have now been shifted to the South! Many of you are reporting that your green waste bins are not being collected. As you pay a licence for these which should cover the cost of the collection, I have asked if there are grounds for compensation.

### **GLASSJAR - FRAUD REPORT WEBSITE**

The Counter Fraud and Enforcement Partnership have launched GLASSJAR (Gloucestershire Against Scams Joint Agency Response) — a new website designed to raise awareness, support victims, and disrupt fraud across Gloucestershire. The site can be found here:

[www.cfeu.org.uk/glassjar](http://www.cfeu.org.uk/glassjar)

This project has been a collaborative effort, bringing together partners including Gloucestershire Constabulary, Crimestoppers, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Trading Standards, Victim Support, NHS, and the Councils across the county. On GLASSJAR, people can:

- Report fraud quickly and securely
- Learn how to spot threats and protect themselves
- Access support for victims, families, and communities
- Stay informed with the latest fraud trends and local statistics

Fraud can affect anyone – by working together, we can all help to ‘put a lid on fraud’ across our county.

### **A417 MISSING LINK**

A417 Missing Link project 2025 progress and public information events COMING:

Kier will be hosting two public information events in January. These sessions are a great opportunity to meet the team and discuss the project. The events will take place on the following dates:

7 January 2026 (11am to 2:30pm)  
National Star College, Cheltenham (GL53 9QU)

13 January 2026 (11am to 2:30pm)  
The George Inn, Birdlip (GL4 8JH)

This amazing video gives an aerial view of progress made in 2025:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dZMn6iutH0>

National Highways are changing their communications. To receive updates, opt in to ensure compliance with GDPR, [please follow this link](#).

Visit the [A417 Missing Link web page](#).

The Customer Hub, located at the crusher compound at Shab Hill, is 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 answer questions. 10 mph and site restrictions. Please Reverse Park.

A417 Project Office, Birdlip, Gloucester, GL4 8JX

What3words: <https://what3words.com/shaped.quietest.payback>

Site visits 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 here: <https://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: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/road-closure-report/>

To find the latest information about local road closures, please visit: <https://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/>

Webpage:

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-west/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.goucestershire.gov.uk/fixmystreet](https://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/fixmystreet) Or download the app: FixMyStreet

**Happy New Year everyone!**