

ERMIN WARD

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026



@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

07853 383874

Parliamentary constituency is North Cotswolds CLIFTONBROWNG@parliament.uk

County Division is Cirencester North with Ermin - Mark.Harris@gloucestershire.gov.uk

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

Paul.Hodgkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Forthcoming Committee Meetings (underlined texts are linked)

Monday 2 February	4.00 pm	Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 5 February	4.30 pm	Meeting of Performance and Appointments Committee
Thursday 5 February	6.00 pm	Meeting of Cabinet
Wednesday 11 February	2.00 pm	Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee
Monday 23 February	6.00 pm	Meeting of Budget Council, Council
Thursday 26 February	2.00 pm	Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire and Street Trading

Recent Committee Meetings

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

COUNCIL MEETING - 21 JANUARY

Responses to Members' Questions

My question refers to the accuracy of the missed waste bin data.

CABINET MEETING DECISIONS - 8 JANUARY

Fleet Replacement Programme

To review the Capital Fleet Replacement Programme, identify the vehicles for replacement in 2026/27 and agree the next steps towards the decarbonisation of the waste services. Extending vehicle life had been considered in light of finance and LGR, but rejected due to service disruption and higher maintenance risks. Waste and environment services were noted as the Council's largest emissions source, making decarbonisation critical to the 2030 carbon reduction target. The updated programme increased forecast capital expenditure by £0.350m due to the addition of an electric vehicle and early replacement of a 7.5t refuse collection vehicle, bringing the total 2026/27 estimate to £6.0m. The report also included the planned use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil to reduce emissions, acknowledging potential increased revenue costs. The measures were intended to balance operational reliability, legislative compliance, and climate objectives while providing a framework to monitor costs and carbon savings

Cabinet:

1. Approved the replacement of vehicles in line with the updated Capital Fleet Replacement Programme (Paragraph 5.3) up to a total of thirty-one vehicles.
2. Approved steps towards the decarbonisation of waste services through the purchase of one electric kerbside-sort vehicle (one of the thirty-one vehicles identified above) and a shift to using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as a replacement to diesel.
3. Agreed to include the re-profiled capital expenditure for 2026/27 in the Capital Programme that will be considered by Cabinet and Council in February 2026.

7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Carers Leave Policy and Procedure and Dogs at Work Policy

Cabinet to consider the implementation of two new policies:

1. Carers Leave Policy and Procedure – Introduces the statutory entitlement to carers' leave following recent legislative changes and outlines how the Council will support employees who need to balance work with caring responsibilities.
 2. Dogs at Work Policy – Sets out when and how dogs may be permitted in the workplace, including the conditions and safeguards required to ensure a safe and appropriate working environment.
- Councillor Mike Evemy, Leader of the Council, introduced the report and highlighted that the Carers Leave Policy and Procedure was drafted to ensure compliance with legislation, outlining employees' statutory right to carer's leave for dependants with long-term care needs and the support available to help balance work and caring responsibilities, with a commitment to employee health and wellbeing. It was further noted that the Dogs at Work Policy set out the limited circumstances in which dogs were permitted in the workplace, recognising the challenges of dog ownership while prioritising the Council's commitment to a safe, productive and respectful environment for staff, visitors and councillors. The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Mike Evemy and seconded by

Cabinet:

- a) Approved the Carers Leave Policy and Procedure and b) Approved the Dogs at Work Policy

7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Policy and Procedure Update 2025

To consider the Council's Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Policy and Procedure following legislative updates. Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Policy was to reflect recent legislative changes, providing practical guidance for managers and staff, supporting fairness and consistency across the Council, and helping to protect the Council against legal claims.

Cabinet:

1. Approved the Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Policy and Procedure, which had been rewritten to incorporate the Supreme Court Ruling.
 2. Approved that 'care experienced' be treated as if it were a protected characteristic as many care-experienced people face discrimination, stigma and prejudice.
 3. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor and necessary amendments to the EDIE Policy, enabling timely updates that would not alter the policy's strategic intent.
- 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Corporate Enforcement Policy

To present Cabinet with a revised Corporate Enforcement Policy for approval and adoption. Councillor Mike Every, Leader of the Council, introduced the report and highlighted that the policy enabled officers to ensure compliance with the law, outlined the legislative framework and principles for investigations, mitigated legal risks, and demonstrated the Council's commitment to necessity, proportionality, public interest, and transparency for residents, Councillors, and employees.

Cabinet:

1. Approved and adopted the Corporate Enforcement Policy attached to the report.
 2. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive to approve future minor amendments to the Policy, in consultation with the Leader of the Council,
- Head of Service Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit, Relevant Heads of Service and the Head of Legal Services.
- Voting record:
- 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Enforcement Agent Commissioning

To seek approval to initiate a procurement process to tender for the provision of Enforcement Agent services as the current contract was due to expire on 2 October 2026, this to ensure service continuity and compliance with procurement regulations.

Cabinet:

1. Approved the process to undertake a procurement exercise to appoint enforcement agent services for the council.
2. Noted that the procurement exercise would be undertaken via a Dynamic Purchasing System; and in partnership with five other Local Authorities.

Voting record:

7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Car Park Fees and Charges 2026/27

To present a revised schedule of fees and charges for 2026/27. The report also described the rationale for the revised charges compared to current charges for 2025/26. Revised charges were presented at Annex A alongside current charges for 2025/26, including the rationale for changes compared to 2025/26.

From 1 April 2026, many charges were recommended to increase by 3.8%, in line with the Consumer Prices Index, to maintain revenue and mitigate pressure on the 2026/27 budget. It was noted that all proposed charges were rounded appropriately and stated inclusive of VAT to reflect the actual cost to service users.

After discussion it was further noted that:

At 4.1 The report would be revised to propose freezing pay and stay charges of one hour or less at 2025/26 levels across all car parks.

At 4.4 There would be no season tickets available at Rissington Road car park

At 4.5 The report would be revised to propose the introduction of a tourist levy and a minimum stay of 2 hours at Maugersbury Road Car Park, Stow on the Wold.

Cabinet:

1. Endorsed the rationale for revising fees and charges as set out in the report;

2. Approved the delegation of future decisions regarding the setting of Special Area of Conservation Fees to the Head of Planning Services in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning;
3. Approved the changes to car parking arrangements detailed in section 4 of the report to align with the Car Parking Strategy approved on 20 November 2025;
4. Approved the implementation of the revised fees and charges for 2026/27, as detailed in Annex A, from 1 April 2026.

Voting record:

7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Financial Performance Report 2025-26 Quarter 2

To set out the second quarterly budget monitoring position for the 2025/26 financial year.

Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and noted the financial position set out in this report.
2. Approved the additional transfers to earmarked reserves as set in paragraph 4.13 of the report.
3. Endorsed the principle to transfer 100% of any year-end Planning Fee income (over and above the budgeted level) to the Planning Appeals earmarked reserve, as set out in paragraph 4.24 of the report.
4. Approved the reallocation of the UKSPF capital budget as follows:
 - a. £0.229m to Rural England Prosperity
 - b. £0.060m to UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF Capital)

Voting record:

7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

CDC Strategic Risk Register Q2.

To set out the current Strategic Risk Register for the Council, reviewed by the Corporate Leadership Team during Q2 and Q3 and considered by Audit and Governance Committee, with "Procurement" added as a new risk. It was noted that the Council's Risk and Opportunity Management Policy, reviewed in May 2025, set out the approach to risk management, including definitions, roles, responsibilities, and the Council's risk appetite.

Cabinet:

1. Reviewed the Strategic Risk Register and mitigation measures.
2. Endorsed the proposal for the strategic risk register to be included in the work programme for the committee with a quarterly review frequency.

Voting record:

7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Community Infrastructure Levy - CIL Bid Recommendations

To present officer recommendations on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding bids received in 2025 for approval by Cabinet.

Councillor Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, introduced the report and highlighted that a multidisciplinary panel had reviewed the bids, ensuring impartiality through voluntary participation and conflict-of-interest declarations. Cabinet approval was sought to fund suitable bids from the Strategic CIL Fund and refuse those deemed unsuitable. In line with statutory requirements the bids had been assessed within a framework to ensure that CIL was spent legally, responsibly, strategically, and accountably.

After discussion recommendation 2 was updated.

Cabinet:

1. Agreed to allocate funding for the following bids, as set out in Table 4:
 - a. Cycle parking Cotswold National Cycle Network (GCC with Walk Wheel Cycle Trust)
 - b. Farmor's School 3G Pitch (Farmor's School)
 - c. Redesdale Hall Phase 2 (Redesdale Hall Trust)

2. Delegated authority to the Assistant Director Planning Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, to progress the funding bids subject to the Assistant Director of Planning Services, Legal Services, and the Finance Service undertaking the required due diligence to ensure a formal agreement is in place prior to the release of funding in accordance with the CIL funding guidance notes.

Voting record:

7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

BY-ELECTIONS

Cllr Nigel Robbins (LibDem) has resigned his seat, Beeches Ward, with immediate effect. He is a long-standing representative of his residents, we all wish him well for the future. Arrangements are being made for a by-election for his seat

Following a Rissingtons Ward by-election held on January 22 triggered by the resignation of former councillor Andrew Macclean (Green Party), Craig Thurling (LibDem) was elected. The voter turnout was 42.8 per cent, the Conservative candidate missed out by 27 votes.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST A RETROFIT ROADSHOW?

Justine Mallinson is the Retrofit Engagement Officer at CDC and she has contacted me to say that the Retrofit Engagement Scheme has been extended until August 2026 and she is planning to run Retrofit Roadshows across the district between February and the middle of April.

These events provide residents with practical advice and information on home energy efficiency improvements, helping them reduce energy costs and carbon emissions. She is looking for new locations, as well as returning to areas that hosted events last summer.

Would your Parish be interested in hosting a roadshow event? She would like to discuss this further with you if your village hall might be a suitable location. Please get in touch with me if you are interested.

SPACEHIVE - CROWDFUND COTSWOLD

[Cotswold District Council](#) is working with Spacehive to help community groups create, fund, and deliver local projects. Up to £10,000 is available towards each community crowdfunding project.

SIGN UP FOR THE WORKSHOP [12th February at 12pm](#) to find out how to get involved.

ENFORCEMENT

You will see in the Council Decision notices above that the Council aims to initiate a procurement process to tender for the provision of Enforcement Agent services.

Planning breach enforcement investigations are confidential, primarily due to GDPR/Data Protection and ensuring complaints can be made freely without fear of reprisal and the details of the investigation itself remain private, though formal enforcement notices become public record.

I'm afraid there is and always has been rapid turnover of enforcement personnel. Planning breach enforcement is a discretionary power for Local Planning Authorities, not a statutory duty. However they must investigate complaints but they only take formal action if it's deemed necessary and in the public interest, usually due to clear harm to public amenity or policy conflict. Usually a proportionate informal resolution is sought in the first instance.

A Section 215 notice, under the UK's Town and Country Planning Act 1990 empowers local authorities to compel owners/occupiers to clean up land or buildings whose poor condition negatively affects local amenity (appearance/enjoyment). These notices specify required actions (like removing rubbish, clearing debris) and a timeframe (e.g., 28 days to 6 months) for compliance, serving as a key tool to tackle blight, dereliction, and improve environments, with penalties for non-compliance.

If you have previously raised an enforcement, I advise (unfortunately) that it is probably worthwhile while raising it again. Please take note of the details in the acknowledgement email for further reference.

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-permission/report-breach-of-planning-regulations/>

FAKE PARISH.UK PAGES

I reported Fake parish.uk pages to the CDC ICT department recently, after they were brought to my attention at a recent Parish Council meeting.

They are operated by a private company that aggregates publicly available data about parishes; they are not an official parish council website nor part of the government.

Because they republish open public data, they are acting lawfully and cannot be compelled to remove their sites unless they publish inaccurate information.

The best parish councils can do is make clear to residents which website is the official one eg: <https://elkstoneparish.gov.uk/>.

There is concern about misleading content; however, unless any such content appears, there is no formal action the parish council can take. However out-of-date content might appear and be misleading.

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 and I have been told that some green bins have been replaced with new, smaller ones in some areas. As you pay a licence for these which should cover the cost of the collection, I asked if there are grounds for compensation and I have been told there are none.

FLY TIPPING

Councillor Tony Slater (Con) traced McDonald's receipts in discarded fast-food bags, resulting in culprits being issued with fixed penalty notices. CDC issued a £500 fine to an individual who littered fast-food packaging. Environmental Crimes Officer Kevin Lea, who led the investigation, has been highly praised for his thorough work.

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

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

Upcoming closures

There will be weekend and overnight closures during February and March, which may affect your journeys:

Friday 13 February A417 overnight closure (9pm – 6am)

- Northbound from the A429 Burford road to the Air Balloon roundabout
- Southbound from Air Balloon Roundabout to the Highwayman Inn
- The road will be open in the daytime as normal.

These works are being carried out to repair urgent potholes and complete additional work where possible.

16 February – 13 March A417 weeknight closures (9pm – 6am)

- The A417 will be closed in both directions between the A46 Brockworth junction and the Air Balloon roundabout overnight, Monday to Friday
- The road will be open in the daytime as normal.

Earthworks, drainage and surfacing works are being carried out to prepare for traffic to be moved onto the new A417.

Access for traffic travelling towards Cirencester via the A417, Leckhampton Hill, and the A436 will remain open via the Air Balloon roundabout, including entry to Crickley Hill Country Park. There is no pedestrian access between the A46 Brockworth junction and the Air Balloon roundabout during the overnight closures, and no other walking routes are affected.

A436 Weekend closures

The A436 will be closed in both directions between the Air Balloon roundabout and the Seven Springs roundabout:

- From 9pm on Friday 6 March to 6am Monday 9 March
- From 9pm on Friday 20 March to 6am Monday 23 March

Please note that these works can change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances. Any updates will be communicated on the project website nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link.

Check the National Highways website for updates and other works in the region.

Access for emergency services will be fully maintained during the closures.

Fully signposted diversion routes will be in place during the closure. Please follow the official, signed diversion route and not satnav.

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

To receive National Highways 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.gloucestershire.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

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

Cllr Mark Harris is your Gloucestershire County Council councillor, responsible for Highways - Mark.Harris@gloucestershire.gov.uk