

AUGUST 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 3 August	4.00 pm	Meeting of Extraordinary, Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 6 August	6.00 pm	Meeting of Extraordinary, Cabinet
Tuesday 11 August	2.00 pm	Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee
Wednesday 12 August	6.00 pm	Meeting of Extraordinary meeting., Council
Thursday 20 August	2.00 pm	Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading

[Recent Committee Meetings](#)

Wednesday 1 July	6.00 pm	Meeting of Cabinet
Wednesday 8 July	2.00 pm	Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee
Thursday 9 July	2.00 pm	Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee (Licensing Act 2003 Matters)
Wednesday 15 July	6.00 pm	Meeting of Council
Thursday 23 July	2.00 pm	Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading
Monday 27 July	4.00 pm	Meeting of Audit & Governance Committee

[CABINET DECISIONS - 1 July 2026](#)

Planning Enforcement Update

To provide an update on the performance, staffing, and capacity of the Planning Enforcement Team following the transition of planning services back into the Council in November 2024 and the subsequent PAS PeerReview.

Cabinet RESOLVED to:

1. Endorse the Chief Executive's decision under delegated authority (Part C4 of the Constitution and section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972) to establish and appoint to a time-limited Enforcement Leadership role and
2. approve the additional budget provision required to fund the role to be funded from the Council's earmarked 'Capacity Building Reserve'.

Consider a further report, at January 2027 Cabinet which would outline the service performance and highlight any problems or particular highlights.

Service Performance Report - Q4 2025/26

To provide an update on progress on the Council's priorities and service performance for Q4 2025/26.

Cabinet RESOLVED to note the overall progress on the Council priorities and service performance for 2025-26 Q4 (January – March 2026).

Financial Performance Report - Q4 2025/26

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

Cabinet RESOLVED to:

1. Review and note the outturn financial position set out in this report.
2. Approve the transfer to and from reserves as set out in Section 6 and Annex C.
3. Approve the carry forward of unspent capital budget included in paragraph 7.5 of £0.858m into the 2026/27 Capital Programme.

Strategic Risk Register - Q4 2025/26

To provide an update on the Strategic Risk Register and the mitigation measures in place.

Cabinet reviewed and noted the Strategic Risk Register and mitigation measures.

DRAFT REVISED LOCAL PLAN PUBLISHED 24 JULY 2026

It sets out how around 18,900 new homes could be delivered in the district between 2026 and 2043 in response to the revised government target of housing delivery, which more than doubled the annual target to 1,036 homes per year. Subject to approval by councillors, residents will get to have their say during a six-week consultation from 24 August to 5 October 2026. This represents the formal Regulation 19 stage of the planning process, serving as the final opportunity for the public to comment before the document is submitted to the central government for examination.

Before the consultation goes live, the draft plan must pass through the following final internal review committees:

- 3 August 2026: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 6 August 2026: Cabinet review and recommendation
- 12 August 2026: Full Council meeting for final sign-off

Residents and local communities have expressed deep concern over mapped infrastructure changes, such as proposed roads cutting through residential spaces, and the sheer volume of over 2,000 homes targeted in specific local areas.

90% of the new housing is targeted at 10 designated strategic sites in areas like Cirencester, Moreton-in-Marsh, Mickleton, Siddington, Driffield, and Fairford.

The 10 proposed strategic sites in the updated Local Plan are mapped out to absorb over 11,300 homes of the district's 18,900 target by 2043. The strategy clusters the largest developments around the Cirencester area and established market towns to preserve the protected Cotswolds National Landscape.

The Cirencester Cluster (Nearly 8,000 Homes) bear the vast majority of the proposed housing capacity:

Down Ampney: Earmarked for a massive expansion of 1,658 homes.

Preston: Targeted for 1,368 homes.

South of Driffield: Set for an entirely new standalone settlement of 1,090 homes, with designated potential for expanded growth extending past 2043.

East of Kingshill Lane (Cirencester): Split across two specific land allocations to deliver 613 homes.

South of The Steadings (Cirencester): Allocated for 585 homes, with scope for long-term expansion after the current plan period concludes.

Siddington: Allocated for 372 homes.

North and East Market Towns

The remaining major strategic sites focus on expanding existing infrastructure hubs farther north and east:

Moreton-in-Marsh: Earmarked for a major expansion of 2,217 homes.

Mickleton, Fairford, and Kemble: These account for the remaining allocations, each selected because they sit outside the strictly protected landscape boundaries but can accommodate the minimum threshold of 350+ homes per site required for strategic planning status.

How to Participate

To write an effective Regulation 19 representation must focus strictly on legal compliance and the four tests of soundness: positively prepared, justified, effective, and consistent with national policy. Submissions should clearly reference specific parts of the plan, state why it fails a test, and provide evidence.

You can submit feedback through the following official channels:

- Online Portal: Submissions can be made directly via the Cotswold District Council Engagement Website. This is the council's strongly preferred method because it links comments directly to specific site numbers or policy chapters.
- By Email: Comments can be emailed directly to Local.Plan@cotswold.gov.uk.
- By Letter: Written representations can be posted to: Planning Policy, Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX.
- In-Person Viewing: Hard copies of the sprawling 2026–2043 draft framework will be made available for public viewing at the main council offices and libraries in Cirencester and Moreton-in-Marsh.

We need to push back harder against the heavy top-down housing quotas enforced by the central government, the feasibility and environmental strain of doubling local build numbers has to be questioned. As one resident has said in an email to me 'We all, I hope agree, that we do need additional homes for people, but not by destroying what we have today'.

Summary of Cotswold District Council Other Planning News (July–August 2026)

- Appeals Defeats: The central Planning Inspectorate overturned the council's refusal for 54 homes in Lechlade-on-Thames and approved a distillery development in Birdlip.
- Moreton-in-Marsh Defense Abandoned: The council withdrew from defending an appeal for 195 homes in Moreton-in-Marsh, conceding that central government policy heavily favors housing near train stations.
- Enforcement Overhaul: To clear a persistent backlog and combat recruitment shortages, the council created a temporary Enforcement Leadership post funded by its internal capacity reserves.
- Local Plan Defense: Council chiefs warned that the new 18,900-home Local Plan must be advanced immediately to shield the district from further aggressive, speculative developer appeals.
- Political Backlash: Local political factions united to oppose top-down government housing quotas, warning that forcing major developments into market towns risks permanently damaging the Cotswold landscape.

DEVOLUTION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

[Future Gloucestershire](#) (website link)

A dedicated Neighbourhoods and Communities Programme has been established to shape how local communities will engage with the new authority. Gloucestershire Association of Local Councils [GALC](#) is represented on the Programme Board, which receives fortnightly updates from five workstreams, and is playing a leading role in the Parish and Town Council Partnership Project. This work is developing future partnership arrangements between the new unitary council and Gloucestershire's parish and town councils, while ensuring local councils are represented across the wider implementation programme.

A joint update from Gloucestershire's seven councils will be issued to parish and town councils in September outlining progress made to date, including the work taking place across the various implementation projects. The Future Gloucestershire website will also include a dedicated bulletin for the parish and town council sector.

I will liaise with the Devolution Working Group, ensuring the needs of my parish councils inform the work of the Neighbourhoods and Communities Programme workstreams and that Ermin Ward Parish Councils remain at the heart of the conversation.

REPEATED FROM MY JULY UPDATE:

Steve Reed, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced in the House of Commons at 12:30pm on July 16 that Gloucestershire will have just one Unitary Council from 1 April 2028. There will be elections to a shadow authority on May 6, 2027, which will make the key decisions related to the creation of the new council.

Residents should continue to access Council services in the normal way.

The government has said that the single unitary option best met the criteria. This was particularly the case in three respects: it provides a sensible geography for economic growth and housing, it is easier to deliver joined up public services, and a good platform for community empowerment.

A single unitary council was the preferred option for Stroud District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Cotswold District Council. Cheltenham Borough Council favoured two councils with an east/ west split, while Gloucester City Council favoured two councils with a 'Greater Gloucester' at the centre. The Forest of Dean District Council decided not to back any of the proposals. The single unitary council was also preferred by Gloucestershire's stakeholder groups - teachers, GPs, colleges, police, voluntary, faith and business sector leaders.

The Councils have been working together to prepare the delivery of the government's decision and will ensure that residents and businesses continue to receive services as normal. However, the announcement does raise further questions, not least how to ensure that the new council is properly resourced from day one and how one unitary council, covering around 700,000 people, will take on everything currently delivered by the district, borough and county councils.

The important question for me is how will smaller, rural communities be adequately represented when many already feel distanced from the decision makers?

[Local government reorganisation in Gloucestershire - GOV.UK](#)

[Future Gloucestershire : Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire](#)

A417 MISSING LINK

A417 Missing Link Weekend road closures

The A417 will be closed in both directions between the A46 Brockworth junction and Air Balloon roundabout:

- 11pm on Friday 14 August to 6am Monday 17 August
- 11pm on Friday 21 August to 6am Monday 24 August

These closures are necessary to allow us to divert a water main, clear vegetation, and complete surfacing works.

Please follow our A46 Brockworth junction to Air Balloon roundabout diversion route, which is detailed below.

The Air Balloon roundabout will be open to traffic travelling between Cirencester, Leckhampton Hill, Oxford and the New A436 and A417.

Overnight road closures

The new A436 and A417 will be closed in both directions between the Air Balloon and Ullenwood roundabout and A429 Burford Road overnight:

- 9pm on Monday 24 August to 6am Friday 28 August

These closures are necessary to allow the installation of signage, fencing and communications infrastructure.

Please follow our Air Balloon roundabout to A429 Burford Road diversion route, which is detailed below.

The A417 will be closed in both directions between the A46 Brockworth junction and Air Balloon roundabout

- 9pm on Monday 17 August to 6am Friday 21 August

The closure is required to carry out works on the Grove Farm Underpass.

Road closure dates may change at short notice. Please make sure you are signed up to our email distribution list and regularly check the A417 webpage for updates.

Fully signposted diversion routes will be in place during the closure. Please follow the official, signed diversion route and not satnav. Access for emergency services will be fully maintained during the closures.

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.

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

Ermin Ward villages have a new PCSO (Except Frampton Mansell who still have Beverley Rowe)

Edmund Maina (Ed)

PCSO 249346

Tetbury Neighbourhood Policing Team

Gloucestershire Constabulary

The Forum | South Way | Cirencester | Gloucestershire | GL7 2PG

Group: 01452907215 |

www.gloucestershire.police.uk | [Twitter page](#) | [Facebook page](#)

Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown is your MP for North Cotswolds cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk

Cllr Mark Harris is your Gloucestershire County Council councillor, responsible for

Highways - Mark.Harris@gloucestershire.gov.uk except Coberley which is in

Bourton-on-the-Water & Northleach Paul.Hodgkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Cotswold District Council [NEWS](#)