

COLN VALLEYWARD

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

## SEPTEMBER 2024

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[Recent Committee Meetings](#) (underlined texts are linked to calendars of meetings with Agendas including Report Packs & Webcasts).

Wed 9 August	2pm	<u><a href="#">Planning and Licensing Committee</a></u>
Thurs 22 August	2pm	<u><a href="#">Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire)</a></u>

There was no Cabinet nor Full Council meeting in August.

## CABINET DECISIONS

There was no cabinet meeting in August.

## WASTE COLLECTIONS

- [CHECK YOUR BIN DAY](#)
- [REPORT A MISSED COLLECTION](#)

Waste collection routes and days changed from 24 June, for great efficiency. Many villages and properties have been regularly missed out, sometimes for weeks. Green bin collection misses are particularly irksome because they are paid for as an extra cost.

So please continue to notify me if your collections are not being carried out according to your schedule. It would be very helpful to have good information about missed collections, such as:

- The address of the property (ies) including postcode (this would only be used to feed back to Ubico, it will NOT be used for other data collection)

- The date of the expected waste collection. This link is to waste services on the CDC website with the revised calendar and reporting tool: <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/>
- The type of waste which has not been collected
- Details of how the report was made - i.e. portal, email or phone.

## UNSUNG HEROES AWARD

The Unsung Heroes Awards is to acknowledge all the work being done across the district by volunteers who give up their time to help others.

Residents and businesses have nominated people in their communities who they think have made a difference, from individuals who give up their time to help neighbours, to members of local groups who volunteer to deliver local projects.

The first round of winners will be announced at the next Full Council meeting on 25 September. This will be a rolling award scheme with winners announced at every Full Council meeting going forward. You can nominate your Unsung Hero here: [www.cotswold.gov.uk/unsungheroes](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/unsungheroes)

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASK A QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL?

A parish councillor recently asked for guidance on asking a question at a full Council Meeting, and I found that guidance for doing so on the Council website is lacking.

Firstly, inform democratic services [democratic@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@cotswold.gov.uk) that you intend to ask a question at full council, it helps them as the Chair will be notified. You do not have to disclose your question if you don't want to and you have one minute to pose it.

The general advice is that you keep your question tight and precise in order to get a good answer. After your question has been answered/addressed, you are allowed to ask one follow up question.

At the meeting, the Chairman will ask whether any members of the public present at the meeting wish to ask a question and he/she will decide on the order.

This is relevant guidance from the [Council's constitution](#):

10.1 Open forum questions at Council, Cabinet and Committees

- Members of the public may ask up to two oral spoken questions at Ordinary Meetings of the Council, Cabinet and Committees. A maximum period of fifteen minutes shall be allowed at any such meeting for open forum questions. Prior notice of oral questions is not required. The time limit for an oral question is one minute.
- The Chair will decide on the order of questioners at the meeting.
- Questions must relate to any matters in connection with which the Council, its Committees or the Cabinet, has powers or duties, or which affects the economic, social or environmental well-being of the District.
- Questions must be addressed to a Cabinet Member or the Chair of Council or a Committee or Sub-Committee. If the person asking the question does not identify the Member they wish to put the question to, the Chair will decide which Member should respond, having regard to the subject matter of the question.
- An answer to an oral question may take the form of:

a) a direct oral answer;

b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or

c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated within 10 working days of the date of the meeting to the questioner. The a written response will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

If the Chair believes, at any time, that the questioner misconducts themselves by behaving irregularly, improperly or offensively or by wilfully obstructing the business of the Council, the Chair may move that the questions may not be further heard.

No discussion will take place on any question, but any Member may move that a matter raised by a question be referred to Council, Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee. Once seconded, such a motion will be voted on without discussion”.

Public questions from the public are held near the beginning of the meeting within the open forum question and answer session of fifteen minutes in total. Questions from each member of the public should be no longer than one minute each and relate to issues under the Council's remit. At any one meeting no person may submit more than two questions and no more than two such questions may be asked on behalf of one organisation.

## A417 MISSING LINK PROJECT UPDATE

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Preparation for the Stockwell Farm bridge, dry-stone walling continues at Stockwell and Cowley, and work is also progressing at the Gloucestershire Way Crossing location, following recent concrete pours for the central piers.

Over 40,000 vertical drains, some up to 20 metres into the ground, are being installed at Crickley Hill and Shab Valley. The drains will give residual water beneath the surface a way out. By allowing it to escape which will reduce the settlement period for earthworks from around 2-3 years to only 3-4 months, which significantly shortens the programme of construction.

Vertical drains are traditionally used in flat areas of already free draining material such as sand or gravel. On this scheme, however, the drains are being installed on the hillside, so a series of small platforms which step up the 10% incline at Crickley Hill have been installed, developed specifically for this project due to its unique topography. Since these works began in June this year, the team has installed over 8,000 drains, which is around 550 a day and expected to be finished in December.

Upcoming roadworks

Overnight closures on the A436 eastbound

From Monday 2 September the A436 eastbound from the Air Balloon Roundabout to Crickley Hill will be closed between 9pm and 6am for 14 nights, including weekends. This is for drainage work for the changes at Leckhampton Hill.

Phases one and two now complete at Leckhampton Hill. The final phase of work is taking place between Tuesday 27 August and Sunday 22 September. Access to Crickley Hill via Leckhampton Road leading into Leckhampton Hill. The Crickley Hill entrance will be on the right-hand side, at the top of Leckhampton Hill. National Star College and Cotswold Hills Golf Club remain open as usual – please follow signs for access.

Please plan ahead and follow signed diversion routes during the closures

## **A417/A419 essential maintenance**

Separate from the Missing Link scheme, maintenance is taking place to the A417 and A419. This work is essential to keep the concrete carriageway safe and reliable for drivers. This work will be carried out in phases during weekends to minimise disruption.

There will be full weekend closures, from 8pm on Friday until 6am on Monday, on the following:

- Friday 30 August to Monday 2 September: A417 northbound closed between Burford Road Interchange and Quarry Interchange
- Friday 6 September to Monday 9 September: A419 northbound closure between Spine Road junction and Burford Road Interchange
- Friday 13 September to Monday 16 September: A419 southbound closed between Burford Road Interchange and Spine Road junction
- Friday 20 September to Monday 23 September: A419 southbound closed between Spine Road junction and Lady Lane junction.
- Friday 27 September to Monday 30 September: A419 closed between Turnpike junction and Spine Road junction

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/)

Email: A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk

Phone: 0300 123 5000

X: @HighwaysSWEST

Facebook: @HighwaysSWEST

## PLANNING

Just a reminder to Parish Councillors to keep an eye on new planning applications. It is important to notify the planning officer within 28 days if it is felt that there are strong material planning considerations why an application should be brought before the committee. Please contact me with the details, I will speak to the planning officer and then I need to submit a pro forma indicating your concerns. This is quite different to how it was before April this year, when we all had the benefit of the consultee responses and the officer's report.

## COTSWOLD CROWDFUND

Cotswold District Council has launched the Autumn funding round of its crowdfunding initiative. From cycle hubs to cricket clubs, playgrounds to street murals, if you have an idea for a project, you can make it happen with Crowdfund Cotswold.

Residents know best what is needed in their neighbourhoods, and have the skills and creativity to shape their local area and the future they want. Crowdfund Cotswold provides a springboard for locally-led ideas to attract funding more easily. Since its launch in 2021, Crowdfund Cotswold has supported local projects worth over £1 million. And now you can pitch for up to £10,000 from the Council to help fund your local community project.

The deadline for the current round of funding for the scheme is fast approaching on 16 October.

If you have ideas about a project in your community or want to learn more about the Crowdfund Cotswold initiative ahead of the funding deadline you can sign up to the Council's workshop.

The Project Creator workshop will be held online on Tuesday 17th September at 4pm. To sign up for the workshop see the Spacehive webpage.

<https://www.spacehive.com/movement/crowdfundcotswold/>

If you have any questions about the Project Creator Workshop event or accessibility requirements, please email [support@spacehive.com](mailto:support@spacehive.com)

People and organisations can pledge as little as £2 towards a project. To view all the active projects in the Cotswolds, please visit the Crowdfund Cotswold project page: Explore Projects ([spacehive.com](https://www.spacehive.com))

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

Mon 2 September	4pm	<u><a href="#">Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</a></u>
Thurs 5 September	6pm	<u><a href="#">Cabinet</a></u>

Wed 11 September	2pm	<a href="#">Planning &amp; Licensing</a>
Wed 25 September	2pm	<a href="#">Council</a>
Thurs 26 September	2pm	<a href="#">Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire</a>