

COLN VALLEY WARD COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

OCTOBER 2024

1. RECENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The (underlined texts are linked to calendars of meetings with Agendas including Report Packs & Webcasts).

Mon 2 September 4pm Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Thurs 5 September 6pm Cabinet

Wed 11 September 2pm Planning & Licensing

Wed 25 September 2pm Council

Thurs 26 September 2pm Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire

2. CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR MP, SIR GEOFFREY CLIFTON BROWN

Following nominations and elections, Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP was elected Chair of the Public Accounts Committee on 11 September 2024. This is the most powerful committee in Government, over 570 MPs voted, illustrating the very high regard that Sir Geoffrey is held in by his peers.

The Public Accounts Committee examines the value for money of Government projects, programmes and service delivery. Drawing on the work of the National Audit Office the Committee holds government officials to account for the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of public spending.

3. GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HAS A NEW LEADER.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne recently stepped down as leader of GCC. He spent 14 years as leader and a true champion for Gloucestershire both locally and nationally, which had helped the county punch above its weight. I am delighted that Cllr Stephen Davies was elected as the new Leader on 11 September, particularly as I know him well, having campaigned with him on many occasions.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-september-2024/new-council-leader-elected/>

4. CABINET DECISIONS

National Planning Policy Framework Consultation and the implications for Cotswold District Cabinet AGREED as amended

1. To delegate the submission of the Council's response to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services (a delegated decision meeting took place on 12 September 2024 at 4pm. Community Infrastructure Levy and Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace Spending 2024

To review officer recommendations on external bids for funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy and Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (Cotswold Beechwood's SAC) funds held by the Council.
Cabinet

1. AGREED to fund the following bids:

- Bid 1 – Kemble to Steadings Greenway (Sustrans)
- Bid 2 – Cirencester to Kemble Cycle Link (GCC)
- Bid 3 – Bourton-on-the-Water Interchange Hub (GCC)
- Bid 4 – Footpath in Moreton-in-Marsh (GCC)
- Bid 5 – The Forum Interchange Hub (GCC)
- Bid 7 – Sherborne Big Nature, Better Access (National Trust)

2. AGREED to fund bid 3 – Bourton-on-the-Water Interchange Hub (GCC) on the understanding that the funds for the bus stop 'opposite the War Memorial' will not be released until an agreement is reached between GCC and Bourton-on-the-Water PC on the final design and layout.

3. NOTED bid 6 – Moreton-in-Marsh Transport Hub / Interchange and Station Improvement Works (MiM TC/GWR) and encourage resubmission once the issues raised at paragraph 8.3 have been resolved.

Infrastructure Funding Statement 2023/24

To notify Cabinet of the Infrastructure Funding which provides an overview of all Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 monies collected, held and spent. As well as setting out the Council's recovery policy in regards to unpaid CIL debts.

Cabinet

1. NOTED publication of the Infrastructure Funding Statement.
2. AGREED to the CIL Recovery Policy.

Service Performance Report 2024-25 Quarter One

The purpose of the report was to provide an update on progress on the Council's priorities and service performance.

RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED overall progress on the Council priorities and service performance for 2024-25 Q1. Financial Performance Report 2024-25 Quarter One

The purpose of the report was to set out the initial budget monitoring position for the 2024/25 financial year.

Cabinet:

1. Review and NOTED the financial position set out in this report.
2. AGREED to the recommendation in paragraph 8.3 that Cabinet continue to review in-year opportunities with Publica and Ubico to mitigate the forecast financial Position.

5. WASTE COLLECTIONS

Following three months of regular missed collections in the District, I can report that in the Coln Valley we were lucky not to have too many missed bins. However, throughout this period some residents have been unable to use the CDC website missed waste reporting tool, because a missed collection in their area had already been reported.

This caused great frustration and concern, not only because missed collections could not be logged, but they could not tell what type of waste had already been reported, so people were left in the dark. Furthermore many villages who had reported missed collections were not included in the published list.

The waste team is committed to reviewing and improving the reporting processes following the recent round re-organisation. This review will include an evaluation of the entire online process, from residents reporting missed collections to crews addressing the issue, ensuring it is effective and allows residents to accurately report missed containers.

The review will also look into the messages residents receive when reporting missed collections. This will include issues like 'gate checks,' where crews may indicate bins weren't placed out for collection or were contaminated, which currently prevents residents from logging missed bins.

Key stakeholders, including customer services and the digital team, will be involved in the review, and extensive user testing will be conducted to ensure the tool is accessible and easy to use.

On behalf of CDC, I apologise to residents who have been inconvenienced because of the issues that have arisen following the recent reorganisation.

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.

6. UNSUNG HEROES

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 were announced at the Full Council meeting on 25 September. This will be a rolling scheme with winners announced at every Full Council meeting going forward.

Please nominate your Unsung Hero here: www.cotswold.gov.uk/unsungheroes

7. COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANS

How would you prepare for an emergency? In a newly launched website, the government is encouraging people to think about

what they would do if they and those around them were exposed to risks ranging from floods to fires to power cuts. The website provides simple and effective steps people can take to be more prepared, at gov.uk/prepare. Taking action in advance will make it easier to manage an emergency if it does happen.

Five simple things you can do now:

1. Find out if you are eligible to sign up to your gas, electricity and water supplier's Priority Service Registers, so companies know that you need additional support.
 2. Set a reminder in your phone or make a note on your calendar to check your smoke alarm once a month.
 3. Write down important phone numbers on paper such as the number to report a power cut (105) and the numbers of anyone you might want to contact in an emergency.
 4. Talk to your children about how and when to call 999 and what they should do if there's an emergency, such as a fire at home.
 5. Check your long term flood risk and sign up for flood and weather warnings.
- There's also advice on how to work with your local community to be more prepared – please see: Information for communities and community groups - Prepare.

There's local guidance at Emergency planning - Cotswold District Council. We're also keen to support anyone interested in becoming a Flood warden. For more information, please head to the Government Prepare Website

8. ANOTHER PARKING SURVEY

Views on parking in Cotswolds sought for a second time from residents

Cotswold residents are invited to give their views for a second time this year on parking in the district as Cotswold District Council launches its second consultation on current parking provision.

The first consultation ran in January 2024 and helped establish baseline data for how the public uses and perceives our parking provision. The second consultation, which begins in September 2024 will take into account the changes in parking behaviour in the summer when tourism and summer holidays are at their peak, through to autumn when schools and colleges restart.

Since the Parking Strategy was adopted 2016 several factors have influenced transport and parking behaviours, such as the climate agenda, the Coronavirus pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis and the wider economy.

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Parking said, "We are delivering a second consultation so that we can get a holistic view of parking across

the year. We appreciate parking demand fluctuates with the seasons, and a second consultation will provide us with a robust set of data to work with. Your views will enable us to develop a parking strategy that is fit for our car park users.

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/resources/ve7sq-c3o6s-n19cj-kbeo4-cw9c5>

9. A417 MISSING LINK PROJECT UPDATE

The team was named Project Team of the Year at the CECA (Civil Engineering Contractors Association) Awards 2024 and they also won the Environmental Excellence Award.

Leckhampton Hill works are completed and the new road opened to traffic as planned at the end of September.

Preparations for the new Gloucestershire Way Crossing are underway. Earth is being removed and foundations laid for the central pier. Dry-stone walling is progressing well at Stockwell and Cowley, and piling work continues in preparation for Stockwell Farm bridge.

Upcoming roadworks A436 Air Balloon Roundabout to Ullenwood Manor Road and so they will be closing the A436 overnight from the Air Balloon Roundabout to Ullenwood Manor Road to install drainage, gullies and kerbs, and carry out surfacing and ducting work:

- Monday 7 October to Friday 11 October (inclusive) - 9pm to 6am each night
- Monday 14 October to Friday 18 October (inclusive) - 9pm to 6am each night

Reminder: Barrow Wake car park closure. Please remember that Barrow Wake viewpoint car park will remain closed until March 2025. This is so that a new dry-stone wall can be built to stop glare from vehicle lights and drainage tanks installed under the carriageway. Local businesses will remain open as normal.

A417/A419 essential maintenance

The five weekend closures recently advertised to complete essential maintenance work on the A417 and A419 are now completed.

This was separate from the A417

Missing Link scheme. Details of other maintenance works being carried out locally are on maintenance schemes webpage.

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

10. PLANNING

Just a reminder to Parish Councillors to keep an eye on new planning applications. If it is felt that there are strong material planning considerations why an application should be brought before the planning committee, it is important that I notify the planning officer within 28 days of validation (when you receive notification).

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 used to be, when we all had the benefit of the consultee responses and the officer's report.

11. 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 go to

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

Or please email

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)

12. GRCC

New Councillors may not be aware of this fantastic resource.

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council works countywide to support people in Gloucestershire to develop and enhance their communities in the ways that work best for them. Find out more about their services by clicking below, emailing

info@grcc.org.uk, or calling them with your questions on 01452 528491.

<https://www.grcc.org.uk/>

13. FORTHCOMING MEETINGS(underlined texts are linked)

Thurs 3 October 6pm Cabinet

Wed 16 October 2pm Planning & Licensing

Thurs 24 October 4pm Audit & Governance

Tues 29 October 2pm Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire)

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