

CLERKS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2023

Noticeboard for Arlington Green – I am awaiting the pro-forma invoice and approx. delivery date. I will then ask Mr D Smith if he will install it.

ROSPA Play Equipment Inspection – this has been booked in for April with Play Safety Limited.

Cotswolds Annual Flood Forum – link to Verbatim Minutes from the meeting held in Cirencester 21st October 2022

[https://www.biburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/uploads/21st-october-2022-cirencester-public-flood-meeting-\(amended-on-2411.pdf](https://www.biburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/uploads/21st-october-2022-cirencester-public-flood-meeting-(amended-on-2411.pdf)

HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III'S CORONATION

The Coronation ceremony for His Majesty King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey.

The Coronation programme will include the procession and service at Westminster Abbey on 6 May, the 'Coronation Big Lunch' across the country on 7 May (with a concert taking place in Windsor in the evening), and 'The Big Help Out' community activity on the bank holiday, Monday 8 May.

Cotswold District Council Planning Improvements

The planning application process has been updated by Cotswold District Council to ensure any new applications better consider the local environment and biodiversity of their area; while also making the process more user-friendly for residents.

Cabinet Member for Development Management and Licensing, Councillor Juliet Layton, said:

“By changing our checklists and improving our guidance, applicants across the district will have a better experience of submitting planning applications and improve the likelihood of applications being validated first time.”

“As a council we are always looking for ways to improve the services that we provide. This change will do just that for our planning application process, making the whole submission process a more positive experience.”

The changes, which came into effect on the 1st of February, impact the Validation Checklists; which outline the information required by applicants so that their planning submission can be considered 'valid' by the council. There are various documents that are required by law to accompany a planning application; so ensuring these checklists are as clear as possible is vital.

A review showed that some 40% of applications were not validated because of missing or inadequate information. Therefore, by changing these checklists it's hoped applicants will be more successful in their provision of the correct information, saving them time and resources.

In addition to this, there'll also be new requirements implemented that mean applications will have to consider the impact they are having on local biodiversity and the environment. This means they will have to provide information on the environmental impact of their developments, such as:

- Biodiversity Statements.
- Energy and Climate Statements.
- Sewage and air quality impact assessments.

This aims to bring the process in line with the council's commitment to tackling the climate emergency.

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning, Councillor Rachel Coxcoon, said:

“It's great to see our council make another change in the pursuit of a greener future. All applicants, from small to large housing developments, will have to consider impacts on the local environment more in their housing.”

“It is important that any new development at any level considers the impact on the local environment if we are to make headway in reducing our carbon footprint and protecting wildlife. If we are to make a difference we need to be planning for a more sustainable future and these updates to our processes will help those submitting planning applications to more comprehensively work through the environmental impacts of their proposals.”

We anticipate that applications will come to us with correct supporting documents, however, we will advise and guide applicants during a short period of transition, as the new validation checklists become more familiar.

The updated validation lists and all planning related information can be found on our website here -

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/validationchecklists>

Dark Skies – Cotswold National Landscape have just undertaken a feasibility study looking into whether the Cotswolds National Landscape may in the future be able to strive for IDA Dark Skies reserve status. This included a survey to understand how parish and town councils, local authorities, and a wide range of stakeholders view the importance of Dark Skies in the Cotswolds, what protection currently exists, and whether there is support for doing more.

“Dark night skies are important for landscape, heritage, wildlife, recreation and enjoyment and health and wellbeing. The Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) has a significant and extensive area of naturally dark night skies, allowing us to enjoy the nocturnal wonder and beauty above us.

Dark skies are an identified ‘Special Quality’ of our designated landscape but they are under continued pressure from increasing light pollution from commercial and domestic security lighting, development and street lighting. The area of darkest night skies within the CNL has diminished by more than 40% since 1993, with no indication this decline will be slowed.”

Community Wellbeing, Cotswold District Council:-

Janey Gibney is the new Community Support Officer for Town and Parish Councils.

“Janey, has extensive experience in community engagement and her role will hopefully enable our team to become even better connected with T and P councils, and to give us an even better understanding of the real issues being faced in our towns and villages.”

Holiday activities and food (HAF) programme for children in the Cotswolds and the Cotswold Connected Food programme

The Holiday Activity and Food Programme goes live on 1st December for bookings to activities. Below is the link to the Cotswold District programme which will run from 19th December – 22nd December. Please encourage families to book activities through this link from **1st December 2022**;

<https://www.haf.worldjungle.org.uk/>

Free Transport and helpline

Gloucestershire County Council have asked Barnardo’s to manage the holiday transport offer. If any families do not have access to transport and wish to get to activities beyond walking distance they can contact Barnardo’s directly. The County Council will also provide a helpline for families who are having difficulties with the

children's activity booking system (CABs). This will operate from 10am until 4pm weekdays. Information and details for both of these offers are currently being finalised and will be posted onto the county website soon, the link is below:
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/>

Cotswold Connected Community and Food Programme – Funding support for local projects

This programme is open to not-for-profit Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and Social Enterprises. We would also like to hear from individuals or small un-constituted groups with a great idea. Projects must demonstrate how the funding will be used to increase community resilience and enhance people's lives. There may be such groups in your area:

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/communities-and-leisure/community-grants-and-funding/cotswold-connected-community-and-food-programme/>

Examples for projects include:

- Community Food projects such as Community Fridges/larders/pantries
- Community Hubs
- Friendship/Talking Café's
- Intergenerational projects
- Community Activities aiming to connect people
- Community transport
- Development of Community Partnerships
- Any initiatives aiming to support mental and physical wellbeing