

# COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT MARCH 2024

## MEETINGS THAT TOOK PLACE IN FEBRUARY

Thurs 1 Feb 6pm [Cabinet](#)

Wed 7 Feb 2pm [Planning & Licencing](#)

Tues 20 Feb 2pm [Licensing Sub-Committee \(Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading Consent Matters\)](#)

Wed 21 Feb 6pm [Council](#) Budget Meeting

Tues 27 Feb 4pm Overview & Scrutiny

## CABINET DECISIONS

The Leader announced that the Corporate Plan item on the agenda was being withdrawn as further consideration was required before it could be considered by Members.

### **2024/25 Budget Consultation Feedback Report**

This report provides feedback to Cabinet from the recent consultation on the Administration's budget proposals and considers it as part of the formulation of the 2024/25 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Update To update Cabinet on the progress of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund projects, to approve the recommendations of the UKSPF Assessment Panel for 2024-25 projects and to seek delegated authority for the use of the remainder of the funding.

### **Council Tax, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support Penalty and Prosecution Policy**

Cabinet:

AGREED to adopt the Council Tax, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support Penalty and Prosecution Policy.

### **Review of Parking Charges and Season Tickets**

Changes to pay and stay parking charges and season ticket charges. The report also proposes the introduction of charges for Sunday parking based on the tariff for Monday to Saturday pay and stay charges. The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Dale and seconded by Councillor Every.

Cabinet APPROVED:

1. The revised pay and stay parking charges set out in Annex B of the report effective from 1 April 2024.
2. The revised season ticket parking charges set out in Annex C of the report effective from 1 April 2024.

3. That the differential applied to season ticket charges for the Whiteway Car Park is increased from 71.3% to 75.3% as set out at paragraph 3.3.
4. The introduction of charges for Sunday parking based on the tariff for Monday to Saturday pay and stay charges effective from 1 April 2024.
5. That the charging period for Sunday parking is as set out in the table at paragraph 3.5.
6. That chargeable times on Sunday at Mangersbury Road are changed from 10am - 4pm to 10am - 6pm to align with the wider proposals for Sunday charging set out in this report.
7. An update to the Parking Order to consult on the implementation of recommendations a to f set out above.
8. Delegating authority to consider the Parking Order consultation responses to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance.

## **CAR PARKING CHARGE INCREASES**

FROM 1 April 2024, Car Park charges increase and Sunday Car Park charges will be at the following car parks:

Abbey Ground, Cirencester 12pm to 6pm

Beeches 10am to 6pm

Brewery 10am to 6pm

Forum 10am to 6pm

Leisure Centre 10am to 6pm

Old Station 10am to 6pm

Sheep Street 12pm to 6pm

Waterloo 10am to 6pm

Old Market Way, Moreton in Marsh 10am to 6pm

Church Street, Tetbury 12pm to 6pm

West Street, Tetbury 10am to 6pm

Mangersbury Rd, Stow on the Wold 10am to 6pm

Abbey Ground, Sheep Street and Church Street car parks are in close proximity to places of worship so Sunday charging will not come into force until midday.

## **FREE PARKING DESTINATIONS**

**On Street (restricted) free parking:**

Cecily Hill, Purley road, Querns Lane (unrestricted) and Ashcroft Road, Querns (unrestricted) and Dyer Street, Old Tetbury Road (mix of unrestricted and restricted), Old Tetbury Road (mix of unrestricted and restricted), The Waterloo.

### **The Green Infrastructure Strategy**

To update the 2017 version of the Green Infrastructure, Open Space and Play Space Strategy. The strategy is an evidence paper that supports the Local Plan and its update being Green to the Core. Cabinet APPROVED the Green Infrastructure Strategy for adoption.

Cotswold District Local Plan Update and the Cirencester Town Centre Framework Masterplan.

Cabinet:

1. AGREED to recommend to Council that Cotswold District Council begin the preparation of a new Local Plan that would extend the plan period from 31 March 2031 to 31 March 2041 and approves the Vision, Objectives and Development Strategy consultation document, as presented at Annex B, to be published for a six week public consultation;
2. APPROVE the draft policies consultation document at Annex C for a six week public consultation;
3. APPROVE the updated Local Development Scheme as presented at Annex D is approved;
4. APPROVE changes to the Statement of Community Involvement as presented at Annex E;
5. APPROVE the emerging Cirencester Town Centre Framework Masterplan 'initial ideas' consultation document for a six week public consultation as presented at Annex F;
6. NOTED upcoming national policy changes and the impact this may have on the preparation of the Local Plan at Annex G; and
7. DELEGATED AUTHORITY to the Forward Planning Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, to agree questionnaires and make minor and typographical corrections to the consultation documents prior to being published for public engagement.

### **LOCAL PLAN UPDATE CONSULTATION**

The Local Plan for the Cotswold District, which sets out what the district will look like in future, is being updated. It includes plans on where new homes are to be built, as required by Central Government. How climate change is tackled and how more affordable homes for local people can be provided. Your views are needed at this early stage in its development.

### **CHANGES TO THE PLANNING PROTOCOL - SCHEME OF DELEGATION and THE PLANNING REVIEW PANEL**

On 24 January, the Full Council voted to approve an update to the Scheme of Delegation following recommendations by the PAS (Planning Advisory Service). I support the creative and dynamic suggestions drawn up by the sadly outgoing Interim Development Manager, David Morren.

[https://cotswold.public-tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/839591?fbclid=IwAR2SLKpDOno6aSlCwMP4QebrFUZRFWk9uEhP6evj7JS9J3Bi6zrkVgjdil4](https://cotswold.public-tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/839591?fbclid=IwAR2SLKpDOno6aSlCwMP4QebrFUZRFWk9uEhP6evj7JS9J3Bi6zrkVgjdil4)

START FROM 1:02:00

## THE PLANNING ENFORCEMENT TEAM

The current enforcement officer is a contractor and his contract ends at the end of March. Efforts are being undertaken to ensure there remains adequate short term cover (i.e. extend his contract). Helpfully resources have been made available to recruit two permanent enforcement officers and these will be going out to be advertised soon. Also a new assistant enforcement officer has been appointed.

## OPEN PORTAL

You can view all your bills on your own online account by signing up to the Open Portal service. This helps reduce postage saving taxpayers' money and helps to tackle the climate emergency.

Click [HERE](#)

## A417 MISSING LINK UPDATE

I attended a very useful A417 Missing Link update meeting, hosted by Kier. The new temporary roundabout at the end of the A436 where it merges with the Leckhampton Hill road will also feed the forthcoming vast site entrance opposite. There was positive feedback - quicker exit from Cheltenham, improved flow and some said why wasn't this put in years ago! However the forest of signs is confusing some drivers causing one driver to drive over the roundabout. It always takes us all a while to get used to new road layouts but this one looks to be an instant winner.

The new site will become the main depot for the construction team, a home for the site crusher, hard standing, training centre, porta cabins etc. and will be open sometime in March.

**Traffic England.** All roadworks and planned road closures on motorways and major A roads published, including the A417.

<http://www.trafficengland.com/>

National Highways. A Road Closure Report, which includes a seven day look ahead of planned road closures, updated twice daily, Monday to Friday except bank holidays.

<http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/road-closure-report/>

Gloucestershire Highways. For local road closures managed by Gloucestershire County Council visit:

[https:// www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/)

A417 Communications Team on 0300 123 5000 or email:

[a417missinglinkatairballoon@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:a417missinglinkatairballoon@nationalhighways.co.uk)

## **Cotswold District Council Rural England Prosperity Fund**

Community Infrastructure Capital Grants offer between 2K and 10K for improving community buildings. There are three application rounds, with deadlines of 27<sup>th</sup> March, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, and 12<sup>th</sup> July.

The application process is being administered by GRCC on behalf of the council. For information and advice about applying, please contact Grants and Admin Officer Louise Fletcher [louisef@grcc.org.uk](mailto:louisef@grcc.org.uk) or call 01452 528491.

[https://www.grcc.org.uk/news-events/news-events/post/278-cotswold-district-council-rural-england-prosperity-fund-community-infrastructure-capital-grants?fbclid=IwAR0Ms4hWz6-yc3qUInbB62N8h4wz34BcDNibmNHkvf-kvRhPGkGcfrA\\_tlo](https://www.grcc.org.uk/news-events/news-events/post/278-cotswold-district-council-rural-england-prosperity-fund-community-infrastructure-capital-grants?fbclid=IwAR0Ms4hWz6-yc3qUInbB62N8h4wz34BcDNibmNHkvf-kvRhPGkGcfrA_tlo)

## **Village Halls Small Grants Fund**

Grants of between £2,000 and £5,000 are available for improvements to rural community buildings in England, as the latest part of the Queen's Jubilee grant fund released by DEFRA. These grants can cover up to 20% of project costs, and the fund is expected to stay open until December 2024. Applications are being administered by ACRE, the umbrella body for GRCC and the other 36 Rural Community Councils in England.

<https://acre.org.uk/village-halls-small-grants-fund/?fbclid=IwAR3fnc1VIVBSFK-MWsz11TW5ZYuG2DRaKRxnDunElufvdNM3J0rCdVlbnb8>

## **GWR Customer and Community Improvement Fund 2024/25**

GWR are delighted to announce they will soon be inviting bids to their Customer and Community Improvement Fund for the financial year 2024/25.

The fund will open to bids on Monday 26 February 2024 and close to bids at 23:59 on Monday 25 March 2024. The Customer and Community Improvement Fund is designed to support small and medium rail-related projects that can be completed over the course of the 2024/25 financial year.

## **FLOOD AND RIVER POLLUTION MEETINGS**

Sir Geoffrey's next flood meetings will take place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

The Moreton-in-Marsh meeting will be from 10-12am at the Moreton Area Centre, and Cirencester will be from 3-4pm at the Cotswold District Council Chamber.

Please note that Sir Geoffrey will also be holding a separate public meeting on river pollution on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 10-12am at the Cotswold District Council Chamber. Any constituent is welcome to attend.

## **Are you ready for the elections?**

Voters are encouraged to make sure they are registered and have photo ID ahead of the May Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

Anyone applying to vote by post will need to provide their national insurance number as part of the application. If you have an existing postal vote arrangement, you will not need to apply again.

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=chris%20nelson>

## **Election Day Staff Needed At Cotswold District Council**

Cotswold District Council is looking for temporary staff for election days, working 7.30am until 10pm, at polling stations and at the count. Pay is £180 to £250 per day, plus fees for attending training. For more information please call Katrina Keylock on 01285 623227, or use the button below to email the electoral services department.

EMAIL [elections@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:elections@cotswold.gov.uk)

## **COTSWOLD CYCLING EVENT - Sunday 24 March**

Birdlip, Winstone, Daglingworth, Edgeworth, Sheepscombe and Coopers Hill are a few of the villages the Cotswold Sportive cycling event will pass through.

<https://www.bagman.website/cotswoldcross/?fbclid=IwAR3xL4SdX9ypPIWduoP0qgkYDMimciLEYESb6SJNSz0U-NJSjeXFHSe3X7o>

## **Forthcoming Committee Meetings (underlined texts are linked)**

Thurs 7 March 6pm [Cabinet](#)

Wed 13 March 2pm [Planning & Licencing Committee](#)

Wed 20 March 2pm Council

Thurs 21 March 2pm [Licencing Sub-Committee](#) (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading Consent Matters)