

OVEMBER 2024

Dear Colleagues, Please find my attached report for distribution to fellow Councillors who may not have received their own copy.

Best wishes David Fowles

Cllr David Fowles Coln Valley Ward District Councillor

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

Thurs 3 October 6pm [Cabinet](#)

Wed 16 October 2pm [Planning & Licensing](#)

Thurs 24 October 4pm [Audit & Governance](#)

Wed 25 September 2pm [Council](#)

Tues 29 October 2pm [Licensing Sub-Committee \(Taxis, Private Hire](#)

CABINET DECISIONS

Petition: Retain the Public Toilets in the High Street/Market Square, Stow-on-the-Wold

Cabinet to consider a petition submitted under the Local Petition Scheme (Part F of the Constitution) which has been referred to Cabinet by Full Council.

Cabinet AGREED to the petition request to keep open the public conveniences in the High Street / Market Square, Stow-on-the-Wold and instead close the public conveniences in Mangersbury Road. Voting Record - 6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Green Economic Growth Strategy Refresh

To agree a refreshed version of the Council's Green

Economic Growth Strategy for consultation and to note the adoption by

Gloucestershire County Council of the Gloucestershire Economic Strategy.

Cabinet

1. APPROVED the draft Green Economic Growth Strategy for a four-week

period of consultation as set out in Section 4.

2. AGREED to a further report setting out the results of the consultation and any amendments to the strategy arising from it to enable Cabinet to consider the strategy for adoption.

3. NOTED the adoption of the Gloucestershire Economic Strategy by Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet.

Public Health Funeral Policy

To consider and approve a new policy in respect of Public Health Funerals.

Cabinet APPROVED the Public Health Funeral Policy.

Storage of Non-Motor Vehicles and Structures on the Public Highway Policy

To consider and approve a new Policy in respect of the enforcement of Storage of Non-Motor Vehicles and Structures on the Public Highway.

Cabinet APPROVED the Policy set out in Annex A

Long-Term Empty Property Strategy 2024 - 2029

To present an updated Long Term Empty Property Strategy to support the management of long-term empty properties within Cotswold district.

Cabinet APPROVED the implementation of the Long-Term Empty Property Strategy for 2024 – 2025.

Assets of Community Value - Process Review

to evaluate the current procedures and practices involved in the determination of Assets of Community Value (ACV). This review aimed to assess the efficacy and transparency of the process by which assets are nominated, reviewed, and ultimately listed or rejected as ACVs. By identifying strengths and weaknesses in the current process, this review sought to provide actionable insights and recommendations to enhance decision-making, and ensure compliance with legal and policy frameworks, to better serve the interests of the community.

Cabinet AGREED the recommendations in the annexed review; AGREED to the proposal to formally notify ward members on validation of Asset of Community Value nominations.

Menopause Policy

To seek members' approval to adopt the updated Menopause Policy & Procedure as shown in Appendix A.

Cabinet APPROVED the updated Menopause Policy & Procedure for implementation.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY to the Chief Executive in consultation with Cabinet Member for the Cost of Living and Inclusion to make subsequent amendments that may be necessary in line with legal changes and best practice.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Between 1 April 2024 and 30 October 2024, Cotswold District Council has collected Neighbourhood CIL in a number of areas (Neighbourhood CIL April to October 2024). The funds are available to invest in local infrastructure. Please check with CDC to find out if your area has received any funds

You are allowed to combine CIL monies received over a longer period to save up for a larger project, however they must be spent within 5 years of receipt; any unspent monies will need to be returned to the District Council. A report template for any expenditure made in 2024/25 will be provided at the start of the next financial year, to ensure you comply with the reporting criteria in the CIL legislation. If you would like me to enquire as to any CIL payments in your parish, please let me know.

MP LIAISON

I am delighted to say that I have regular meetings with North Cotswolds MP Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown which have resumed following his election at the General Election and his recent appointment as Chair of the Public Accounts Committee. Our local Conservative Office (which I visit most days) is next door to Sir Geoffrey's constituency office which makes contact relatively easy. Please contact me if there is anything you would like me to raise with him.

NORTH COTSWOLDS MP FLOOD MEETING

Friday 6th December 2024 from 10am to 12.30pm

Redesdale Hall, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 0AX.

Only flooding and river pollution problems in the new North Cotswolds constituency will be discussed following the constituency boundary change as Sir Geoffrey no longer represents Cirencester, Fairford, Lechlade, South Cerney and Tetbury

Please submit questions in advance to cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk by Monday 2nd December so that they can be put to the relevant agencies to help them prepare answers in advance of the meeting. In addition to Thames Water, Severn Trent Water have been invited to attend the meeting.

As has been the case for previous meetings, we have requested written reports from the key stakeholders which will be circulated to those on the distribution list.

Sir Geoffrey is regarding this first meeting as a trial, and is prepared to adapt future meetings accordingly, if necessary.

WASTE COLLECTIONS

Please continue to report missed collections to me, if I hear nothing, I will be delighted!

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

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

This scheme was first announced at my last report. 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

Community Emergency Plans

How would you prepare for an emergency?

I referred to this in my October report. 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](https://www.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 [Government Prepare](#)

A417 MISSING LINK PROJECT UPDATE

A436 Air Balloon Roundabout to Ullenwood Manor Road overnight closures

Monday 4 November to Saturday 9 November 9pm to 6am - The A436 will be closed in both directions from the Air Balloon Roundabout to the Ullenwood Manor Road to undertake the

installation of permanent drainage and gullies, installation of kerbs, surfacing and ducting works. This work is part of the A417 Missing Link scheme.

Barrow Wake car park closure

Barrow Wake viewpoint car park will remain closed until March 2025. This is so that we can build a new dry-stone wall to stop glare from vehicle lights and to allow for the installation of drainage tanks under the carriageway.

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.

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

Family Farm Tax

The APR change in the budget means that inheritance tax of 20% will effectively apply on the full value of farms and rural estates above £1m.

The proportion of income spent on food in the UK has halved over the past 60 years. In 1957, 33% of total spending went on food, in 2022 the average household spent 11.8% of their income on food. Food prices have come down, and so has farmers' income.

The Coln Valley is a rural, agricultural ward, farming food for the nation does not pay the bills. Most farmers find creative ways to stay afloat by doing two or more jobs, or starting up a sideline business as they make little income from the one they work long, lonely hours for, providing food.

Farmers tend to be asset-rich and cash poor. Farming is not a popular vocation due to the low pay, difficult work and increasing risk of having crops ruined by extreme weather. Farming is like nursing, it is a vocation, often handed down from father to son or daughter. If they cannot afford to pass their business down to relatives, the family farm will die out, along with localised knowledge - every farm is unique having different topography, soils, weather exposure etc. and food security will decline.

Family farmers are caretakers of our landscapes, the countryside would look completely different without them.

A sobering thought: Anna Daroy, Chief Executive of BACP (British Association of Counsellors and Psychologists) said in September 2023 that even before the cost-of-living crisis, male farm workers were three times more likely to take their own lives than the national male average and that the UK government's mental health supports for rural communities are not enough as "much more is needed to recognise the on-going impacts of the cost-of-living crisis alongside other factors such as Covid-19, Brexit, the war in Ukraine, farm succession, and labour shortages".

PLEASE! NEVER PUT BATTERIES IN YOUR GENERAL WASTE

Recycling operators and vehicles could be put in real danger.

A 2021 study claims that Li-ion batteries cause about 48% of all UK waste fires per year, resulting in millions in damage to waste operators, fire services and the environment. Recycling centres are full of combustible materials and too many 'zombie' batteries are going into either recycling bins or black rubbish bags, even small lithium-ion batteries explode "with a rocket flame" if punctured. The ESA has launched a campaign called Take Charge which encourages people to dispose of batteries properly.

How can you help fight the zombies?



Never put a battery in the bin



Take batteries out of electricals (phones, vapes, cameras etc.) before recycling



Always use the right recycling facilities for batteries. Check [waste wizard](#)



if you aren't sure.

Gloucestershire Association of Town & Parish Councils

If you are a new parish councillor or wish to know more about how Parish Councils work, please refer to this fantastic service [GATPC](#) . 'Parish and Town Councils are the heart of communities; they are the most trusted tier of government and are closest to the people they represent.'

Please take advantage of the training for Parish Councillors, I would highly recommend that at least one councillor per parish takes advantage of one of the planning modules.

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council

GRCC is another fantastic resource and 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/>

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

Mon 4 November 4pm [Overview & Scrutiny](#)

Thurs 3 November 6pm [Cabinet](#)

Wed 13 November 2pm [Planning & Licensing](#)

Thurs 21 November 4pm [Audit & Governance](#)

Wed 27 November 2pm [Council](#)

Thurs 28 November 2pm [Licensing Sub-Committee \(Taxis, Private Hire\)](#)

Cllr David Fowles

Conservative District Councillor

Coln Valley Ward, Cotswold District Council