

SEPTEMBER 2026



@ErminWard

I post helpful information, including road closures for infrastructure repair etc., on my Ward Councillor Facebook page. Please could you mention this in your Parish News and Village Website. **Underlined text is linked.**

Cllr Julia Judd, Ermin Ward District Councillor julia.judd@cotswold.gov.uk
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Parliamentary constituency is North Cotswolds CLIFTONBROWNG@parliament.uk
County Division is Cirencester North with Ermin - Mark.Harris@gloucestershire.gov.uk
GCC Cabinet Member for Highways - Mark.Harris@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Coberley County Division Bourton-on-the-Water & Northleach
Paul.Hodgkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Forthcoming Committee Meetings (underlined texts are linked)

Monday 7 September	4.00 pm	Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday 9 September	2.00 pm	Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee
Thursday 10 September	6.00 pm	Meeting of Cabinet
Tuesday 15 September	9.43 am	Gloucestershire Local Government Reorganisation Joint Scrutiny Panel
Wednesday 23 September	6.00 pm	Meeting of Council
Thursday 24 September	2.00 pm	Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading
Friday 25 September	2.06 pm	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Recent Committee Meetings

Monday 3 August	4.00 pm	Meeting of Extraordinary, Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 6 August	6.00 pm	Meeting of Extraordinary, Cabinet
Tuesday 11 August	2.00 pm	Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee
Wednesday 12 August	6.00 pm	Meeting of Extraordinary meeting., Council
Thursday 20 August	2.00 pm	Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading

CABINET DECISIONS - 6 August 2026

Local Plan

To consider a series of recommendations relating principally to the Publication of the new Cotswold Local Plan for 2026-2043 (Regulation 19) for a six-week consultation from 24 August to 5 October 2026 and its subsequent submission to the Secretary of State in December 2026 for independent examination.

Councillor Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, introduced the report. The Local Plan would provide the planning framework for the district. The Regulation 19 consultation was the final stage before independent examination, timely submission was important to avoid having to restart under the new planning system. The examination was anticipated in 2027, with adoption of the Plan expected in March 2028. The plan had been informed by extensive consultation and engagement and sought to provide a framework for housing, employment, infrastructure and environmental improvements. The importance of ensuring that development was supported by appropriate infrastructure was emphasised, alongside the need to provide affordable and appropriate housing and to protect the character and environment of the district.

Cabinet also considered the comments and recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its consideration of the Local Plan at the meeting on 3 August 2026. These included matters relating to infrastructure provision at strategic sites, transport infrastructure, accessibility of consultation information, communication with the public about the need for the plan, water and sewage infrastructure, and the impact of tourism on infrastructure.

Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee It was noted that work on transport infrastructure could continue alongside the Regulation 19 consultation and that arrangements would be made to ensure the consultation was accessible, including public exhibitions and meetings, the availability of hard copies of documents and communications to households across the district.

Members also considered a number of proposed material changes to the draft Local Plan, including amendments to housing site allocations, changes relating to Cirencester town centre, the inclusion of a potential very light rail corridor between Kemble and Cirencester, and amendments relating to habitat sites. Cabinet recognised the significant concerns expressed regarding the scale of housing growth required by national targets, but noted the importance of having an up-to-date Local Plan in place to provide greater control over development, infrastructure and design standards and to reduce the risk of speculative development. Members also thanked the Planning Policy team for the significant work undertaken in preparing the plan and its supporting documents.

Cabinet RESOLVED to recommend to Council to:

1. Agree that the Cotswold Local Plan 2026 – 2043 (Regulation 19) document, including the material changes agreed by Cabinet (supplement E), be published for six weeks consultation from 24 August 2026 to 5 October 2026.
2. Agree that thereafter, the Cotswold Local Plan 2026 – 2043 (Regulation 19) document be submitted to the government for independent examination.
3. Provide delegated authority for the Director of Communities and Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning, to make any minor corrections prior to consultation, including for typographical and formatting purposes AND following the Regulation 19 consultation to prepare an 'Additional Modifications' Schedule for submission if required.
4. Note the technical supporting evidence in preparation for publication alongside the Cotswold Local Plan 2026 – 2043 for consultation.

LOCAL PLAN

It sets out how around 18,900 new homes could be delivered in the district between 2026 and 2043 in response to the revised government target of housing delivery, which more than doubled the annual target to 1,036 homes per year. Subject to approval by councillors, residents will get to have their say during a six-week consultation from 24 August to 5 October 2026. This represents the formal Regulation 19 stage of the planning process, serving as the final opportunity for the public to comment before the document is submitted to the central government for examination.

Residents and local communities have expressed deep concern over mapped infrastructure changes, such as proposed roads cutting through residential spaces, and the sheer volume of over 2,000 homes targeted in specific local areas.

90% of the new housing is targeted at 10 designated strategic sites in areas like Cirencester, Moreton-in-Marsh, Mickleton, Siddington, Drifffield, and Fairford.

The 10 proposed strategic sites in the updated Local Plan are mapped out to absorb over 11,300 homes of the district's 18,900 target by 2043. The strategy clusters the largest developments around the Cirencester area and established market towns to preserve the protected Cotswolds National Landscape.

The Cirencester Cluster (Nearly 8,000 Homes) bear the vast majority of the proposed housing capacity:

Down Ampney: Earmarked for a massive expansion of 1,658 homes.

Preston: Targeted for 1,368 homes.

South of Drifffield: Set for an entirely new standalone settlement of 1,090 homes, with designated potential for expanded growth extending past 2043.

East of Kingshill Lane (Cirencester): Split across two specific land allocations to deliver 613 homes.

South of The Steadings (Cirencester): Allocated for 585 homes, with scope for long-term expansion after the current plan period concludes.

Siddington: Allocated for 372 homes.

North and East Market Towns

The remaining major strategic sites focus on expanding existing infrastructure hubs farther north and east:

Moreton-in-Marsh: Earmarked for a major expansion of 2,217 homes.

Mickleton, Fairford, and Kemble: These account for the remaining allocations, each selected because they sit outside the strictly protected landscape boundaries but can accommodate the minimum threshold of 350+ homes per site required for strategic planning status.

Not enough viable sites have come forward to deliver the Government's targets. If the Council can't deliver the target, what is the point in delivering bad, unsustainable planning if penalties will be incurred anyway? My conscience and upholding of the Nolan Principles of a Councillor do not allow me to support a local plan which is undeliverable.

unsustainable, damaging to the character and beauty of our Cotswold National Landscape and does not reflect the needs of the people or the area.

Cotswold District Council have launched a consultation:

Cotswold District Council is inviting representations on the Publication Version of the Cotswold District Local Plan 2026-2043.

The consultation will run for six weeks from 24 August 2026 until 5 October 2026.

The Local Plan sets out the Council's proposed planning strategy for the district to 2043, including policies and proposals for housing, employment, infrastructure, environmental protection and sustainable development. Once adopted, the new Local Plan will replace the adopted Cotswold District Local Plan 2011-2031 and will form the basis for determining planning applications across the district.

This consultation represents the final stage of plan preparation before the Local Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

Unlike earlier consultation stages, the purpose of the Regulation 19 consultation is to invite formal representations on whether the Publication Local Plan is legally compliant and 'sound'.

We will be sending copies of the Plan to Towns and Parishes in the week commencing 31st August. Hard copies of the Plan can be collected from libraries or Council offices in the meantime.

[Click here for more information and to access the consultation](#)

Public exhibitions

Residents are welcome to attend CDC drop-in exhibitions to find out more about the proposed Local Plan and speak with planning officers about the consultation process. Please encourage your communities to attend their nearest event if they have questions about the consultation, or the Local Plan more generally. The Cirencester based drop-ins were published too late for this newsletter.

- Tuesday 15 September, 1pm to 7.30pm, Redesdale Hall, Moreton-in-Marsh
- Tuesday 22 September, 1pm to 7.30pm, Chipping Campden Town Hall, Chipping Campden

There is no need to book in advance.

How to Participate

To write an effective Regulation 19 representation must focus strictly on legal compliance and the four tests of soundness: positively prepared, justified, effective, and consistent with national policy. Submissions should clearly reference specific parts of the plan, state why it fails a test, and provide evidence.

You can submit feedback through the following official channels:

- Online Portal: Submissions can be made directly via the Cotswold District Council Engagement Website. This is the council's strongly preferred method because it links comments directly to specific site numbers or policy chapters.
- By Email: Comments can be emailed directly to Local.Plan@cotswold.gov.uk.
- By Letter: Written representations can be posted to: Planning Policy, Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX.
- In-Person Viewing: Hard copies of the sprawling 2026–2043 draft framework will be made available for public viewing at the main council offices and libraries in Cirencester and Moreton-in-Marsh.

We need to push back harder against the heavy top-down housing quotas enforced by the central government, the feasibility and environmental strain of doubling local build numbers has to be questioned. As one resident has said in an email to me 'We all, I hope agree, that we do need additional homes for people, but not by destroying what we have today'.

Summary of Cotswold District Council Other Planning News (July–August 2026)

- Appeals Defeats: The central Planning Inspectorate overturned the council's refusal for 54 homes in Lechlade-on-Thames and approved a distillery development in Birdlip.
- Moreton-in-Marsh Defense Abandoned: The council withdrew from defending an appeal for 195 homes in Moreton-in-Marsh, conceding that central government policy heavily favors housing near train stations.
- Enforcement Overhaul: To clear a persistent backlog and combat recruitment shortages, the council created a temporary Enforcement Leadership post funded by its internal capacity reserves.
- Local Plan Defense: Council chiefs warned that the new 18,900-home Local Plan must be advanced immediately to shield the district from further aggressive, speculative developer appeals.
- Political Backlash: Local political factions united to oppose top-down government housing quotas, warning that forcing major developments into market towns risks permanently damaging the Cotswold landscape.

DEVOLUTION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

[Future Gloucestershire](#) (website link)

Local government reorganisation in Gloucestershire: an update for town and parish councils

Wednesday, 9 September, 6:00 pm

[Join this webinar to hear the latest updates on local government reorganisation \(LGR\) in Gloucestershire.](#)

A 90 minute session is tailored specifically to parish councils, and will share what is known now, what is still to be decided and what happens next following the Government's decision to create a single unitary authority in Gloucestershire.

It will provide an opportunity for clerks and councillors to ask questions, share thoughts and understand how and when they can get involved with the work that starts now to create a new council.

A dedicated Neighbourhoods and Communities Programme has been established to shape how local communities will engage with the new authority. Gloucestershire Association of Local Councils [GALC](#) is represented on the Programme Board, which receives fortnightly updates from five workstreams, and is playing a leading role in the Parish and Town Council Partnership Project. This work is developing future partnership arrangements between the new unitary council and Gloucestershire's parish and town councils, while ensuring local councils are represented across the wider implementation programme.

A joint update from Gloucestershire's seven councils will be issued to parish and town councils in September outlining progress made to date, including the work taking place across the various implementation projects. The Future Gloucestershire website will also include a dedicated bulletin for the parish and town council sector.

I will liaise with the Devolution Working Group, ensuring the needs of my parish councils inform the work of the Neighbourhoods and Communities Programme workstreams and that Ermin Ward Parish Councils remain at the heart of the conversation.

REPEATED FROM MY JULY UPDATE:

Steve Reed, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced in the House of Commons at 12:30pm on July 16 that Gloucestershire will have just one Unitary Council from 1 April 2028. There will be elections to a shadow authority on May 6, 2027, which will make the key decisions related to the creation of the new council.

Residents should continue to access Council services in the normal way.

The government has said that the single unitary option best met the criteria. This was particularly the case in three respects: it provides a sensible geography for economic growth and housing, it is easier to deliver joined up public services, and a good platform for community empowerment.

A single unitary council was the preferred option for Stroud District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Cotswold District Council. Cheltenham Borough Council favoured two councils with an east/ west split, while Gloucester City Council favoured two councils with a 'Greater Gloucester' at the centre. The Forest of Dean District Council decided not to back any of the proposals. The single unitary council was also preferred by Gloucestershire's stakeholder groups - teachers, GPs, colleges, police, voluntary, faith and business sector leaders.

The Councils have been working together to prepare the delivery of the government's decision and will ensure that residents and businesses continue to receive services as normal. However, the announcement does raise further questions, not least how to ensure that the new council is properly resourced from day one and how one unitary council, covering around 700,000 people, will take on everything currently delivered by the district, borough and county councils.

The important question for me is how will smaller, rural communities be adequately represented when many already feel distanced from the decision makers?

[Local government reorganisation in Gloucestershire - GOV.UK](#)

[Future Gloucestershire : Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire](#)

****REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS**** for your urgent attention

The Electoral Matters Working Group has considered a review of polling stations, on Monday 7 September, **so please submit any responses to me before the end of this week.**

The report will ask Council to approve a consultation with parish and town councils on the attached proposals (I attach separately to this report) for changes to polling stations in the district.

The proposals have been developed using the average cost per elector at each polling station, looking at those stations with lower than average electorates and/or higher costs.

Every polling station needs a Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk, along with the necessary stationery and equipment to run the poll effectively. Other costs include building hire and delivery/collection of polling screens. These figures have been included in the attached current and proposed polling station scheme so you can see where proposed changes are. The aim of the changes is to make savings and improve efficiency while still ensuring polling places remain convenient for electors.

What are your views on the proposals?

Any comments can be taken into account before the proposals are finalised. The final proposals will be considered by Council on 23 September and if approved, a formal consultation process will take place with parish councils, county councillors and MPs. At the end of the consultation a set of final recommendations will be presented to Council in December for consideration. Any approved changes will take effect at the Shadow Council / town & parish council elections in May 2027.

A417 MISSING LINK

Public Information Event

You're invited to a Public Information Event on **Wednesday 2 September**, between 3pm and 7pm. The team will be on hand to answer your questions regarding the next major milestone on the A417.

The event will be held in the A417 Project Office at the Crusher Compound (GL4 8JX | What3Words: [///shaped.quietest.payback](#)).

Please find the directions to our site below.

Northbound to the new B4070

1. Travelling on the A417 from Cirencester, continue until you reach Shab Hill Junction. Take the slip road off the new A417 and turn right at the roundabout onto the new B4070.

2. Continue on the B4070, then turn right at the Crossroads.
 3. Continue for approximately 100 metres, then turn right and follow the road past Acorn House (formerly McCarthy-Taylor Systems), which will be on your right.
 - Please do not stop at Acorn House.
 - Go through the traffic lights and take the road to our site compound (Crusher).
 - Our gate person will be at the entrance to advise you if needed.
 - Site restrictions must be adhered to, which is 10mph. Please Reverse Park.
-

Southbound to the new B4070

1. From Air Balloon and Ullenwood roundabout, join the new A436 slip road.
 2. Continue (for approx 750 metres) up to the new Shab junction and turn right to continue through the underpass.
 3. Take the first exit over the roundabout to the new B4070, then turn right at the Crossroads.
 4. Follow the road past Acorn House (formerly McCarthy-Taylor Systems), which will be on your right.
 - Please do not stop at Acorn House.
 - Go through the traffic lights and follow the road to our site compound (Crusher).
 - Our gate person will be at the entrance to advise you if needed.
 - Site restrictions must be adhered to, which is 10mph. Please Reverse Park.
-

Facilities & Access

- ACCESS: The building is wheelchair accessible. Please bear in mind that there is a set of stairs to the viewing platform, though the rest of the exclusion zone will be accessible.
- TOILETS: To use the toilets, please inform a Kier staff member who will provide access to the Main Office or escort you to the facilities.

Any updates will be communicated on the project website nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link.

Check the National Highways website for updates and other works in the region.

To receive National Highways updates, opt in to ensure compliance with GDPR, [please follow this link](#).

Visit the [A417 Missing Link web page](#).

The Customer Hub, located at the crusher compound at Shab Hill, is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am until 2pm. You can visit any time during these hours, without pre-booking an appointment. Members of the team will be on hand to answer questions. 10 mph and site restrictions. Please Reverse Park.

A417 Project Office, Birdlip, Gloucester, GL4 8JX

What3words: <https://what3words.com/shaped.quietest.payback>

Site visits for members of the public. If you are interested, please contact A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk

All roadworks and planned road closures on motorways and major A roads, including the A417, are published here: <https://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:
<https://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:

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-west/a417-missing-link/>

Email: A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk

Phone: 0300 123 5000

X: @HighwaysSWEST Facebook: @HighwaysSWEST

Please report highway issues, such as potholes, and track their progress online at
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fixmystreet Or download the app: FixMyStreet

Ermin Ward villages have a new PCSO (Except Frampton Mansell who still have Beverley Rowe)

Edmund Maina (Ed)

PCSO 249346

Tetbury Neighbourhood Policing Team

Gloucestershire Constabulary

The Forum | South Way | Cirencester | Gloucestershire | GL7 2PG

Group: 01452907215 |

www.gloucestershire.police.uk | [Twitter page](#) | [Facebook page](#)

Cotswold District Council [NEWS](#)