

Cotswold News



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Plastic Fantastic!

October sees the launch of kerbside collection of mixed rigid plastics in the district

The Cotswold district has been one of the top performers in the recycling stakes for a number of years. However, there is always room for improvement, and you will soon see the introduction of a kerbside mixed rigid plastic recycling service.

The collections will start in the north of the district on the week beginning Monday 8 October and in the south on the week beginning Monday 29 October.

On pages 3, 4 and 5 you will find important information about the launch of the new service, including what mixed rigid plastics are, what will be suitable for recycling, and the special storage sacks which will be distributed to all homes.

This is all being made possible because we have recently switched to the new waste and environmental services company, Ubico Ltd, which

should reduce our annual costs by about £570,000.

This considerable saving will help to freeze the cost of

your council tax until at least 2015, even though our funding from central government is decreasing.

New waste collection arrangements should save us around £570,000



Homes in the district will be able to recycle plastic bottles and containers from October 2012

How much development should we allow?



At Cotswold District Council we are developing a planning vision to take us through to 2031 – it is known officially as the Core Strategy but we often refer to it as the Local Plan.

This will set out projected future levels of development across the whole district, taking account of the natural environment and the needs and desires of communities. Our aim is to create an

environment which promotes growth, improved services and well considered housing developments.

While we are aware of national demand to create growth and build housing we need to balance this with the need to preserve the unique beauty and heritage of the Cotswolds. It is important for you to make your views known to us so that you

can help us make the right decisions.

We have already received some feedback when we consulted the public on an earlier draft last year, and it has been invaluable in guiding us towards the latest version of the Local Plan: Core Strategy.

More consultations are planned for later this year – full details are available on pages 6 and 7.

View from the top

Cotswold District Council leader **Lynden Stowe** reviews progress and sets out CDC's vision for the future

Welcome to the new look Cotswold News – we've cut down the size and changed the format.

Cotswold News will not appear at regular intervals any more either; we will only supply a copy to every home in the district when we need to tell you about very significant issues.

In this particular instance, there are two things you need to know about – the launch of the kerbside mixed rigid plastic recycling service and the forthcoming public consultation on the Local Plan.

RECYCLING

The advent of fortnightly kerbside mixed rigid plastic recycling is a major step forward, and the council wants to make sure that everyone is clued up about what types of plastic will be acceptable, and how the new service will work in practice when it begins in a few weeks time.

On pages 4 and 5 you will see all the necessary information and a contact number for a helpline if you need any more detail. Recycling mixed rigid plastics should maintain – and perhaps even improve – CDC's position as one of the top recycling authorities in the country.

The council has also frozen the price of a garden waste collection licence for a further three years – the £30 annual cost is a real bargain, especially since we provide a weekly collection, unlike many other local authorities which only collect fortnightly.

LOCAL PLAN

The council is due to produce the new Local Plan: Core Strategy next year; this is our planning vision for almost the next twenty years and it's important that you have the opportunity to influence our thinking. We are keen to hear what you have to say; later this year, and I very much



Council Leader, Lynden Stowe

hope that you will be inspired to join in the debate and help shape the future of the district.

EFFICIENCY

We aim to be recognised as the most efficient council in the country.

Looking at our plans for 2012-13, I believe we are well on the way. There will be no increases in Council Tax,

No increase in Council Tax until at least 2015 thanks to savings made

parking charges or garden waste collections until at least 2015. We can keep these sort of charges down because we are reducing the cost of services against a backdrop of severe cutbacks in central government funding. Our environmental services are now delivered by Ubico Ltd in partnership with Cheltenham Borough Council, and our 'back office' functions, such



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COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL



Rob Bell, Managing Director, Ubico Ltd

ubico way to go!

Ubico Ltd is a new company which has been established jointly by Cotswold District Council and Cheltenham Borough Council to deliver more efficient and cost-effective waste and environmental services in the Cotswolds and Cheltenham.

We have just launched in the Cotswolds with staff from the previous waste contractor, SITA UK, transferring across to our company. Because both authorities co-own Ubico we can make substantial savings on assets such as vehicles and equipment. We estimate that, in the Cotswolds alone, we can reduce annual costs of the service by £570,000.

At the time of going to press, the changeover from SITA UK to Ubico in the Cotswolds has just occurred. So far things have gone very well even though the staff have had to familiarise themselves with a different fleet of vehicles and a new depot.

The introduction of new vehicles means that they can collect all dry recycling



presented by households at the same time (replacing the previous 'two pass system' which required one vehicle to collect card and paper and one to collect glass and cans) – and, of course, they will also be able to collect mixed rigid plastics.

I know this new collection service will be welcomed, and I believe that, working together, we can all help to protect the environment by recycling even more.

Working together, we can all help to protect the environment by recycling even more

Green is the colour!

Cotswold District Council is currently near the top of the national recycling charts. This speaks volumes about the way residents in the district respond eagerly to green initiatives and take such a pride in doing their bit to return scarce global commodities back into the manufacturing chain.

CDC has achieved this high placing without a kerbside mixed rigid plastic recycling service. This suggests to me that there is now scope for the council to aim even higher. I am delighted that the new fleet of vehicles we have procured will now allow us to collect a wide variety of rigid plastic recyclables. This is great news for the district because it should enable residents to cut back even more on the amount of waste going to landfill.

Additionally, the introduction of this new service means that CDC will be at the forefront of good practice.

Nationally, only a third of the local authorities collect mixed rigid plastics from households, despite the fact that recycling one tonne of this material produces environmental savings equivalent to 0.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide. There's also economic benefit – these recycled rigid plastic materials are growing in value and this will help offset the cost of providing the service.

I am confident that the introduction of a fortnightly kerbside mixed rigid plastic recycling service will be a huge success and will sustain – perhaps even surpass – our high ranking in the national recycling stakes. Ideally, we not only want to be seen as one of the most efficient councils in the country but one of the greenest as well!



Clr David Fowles, CDC Cabinet Member for the Environment

Everything you need to know about plastic recycling

WHAT SORT OF PLASTICS CAN BE RECYCLED?

A large range of rigid materials including plastic bottles, food trays, boxes, yoghurt pots and many more.

SO WHAT SORT OF PLASTICS WON'T BE RECYCLABLE?

Plastic bags, pouches, food wrap and cling film will not be recycled but we will continue to review this option.

WHEN DO PLASTIC COLLECTIONS BEGIN?

You will receive correspondence from the Council confirming the start of your plastic collection dates. The table below shows when your new fortnightly kerbside collection service will be introduced - please note that the service will begin three weeks earlier for homes in the north of the district compared with homes in the south. Find out whether you are north or south by entering your postcode on the www.cotswold.gov.uk/waste page or call **01285 623123**.

WHY IS THERE A THREE WEEK GAP BETWEEN LAUNCH DATES IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE DISTRICT?

We are keen to get started on this new recycling service but we want to get it right. By leaving this gap, we are allowing ourselves time to review progress on the collections in the north. If necessary, we will iron out any teething problems and put lessons learned into practice before we expand the service to cover the whole district.

HOW WILL I BE ABLE TO STORE PLASTICS READY FOR RECYCLING?

Very soon a white sack will be delivered to your home, together with a sticker specifying when your fortnightly plastic recycling service begins. You will be able to place mixed rigid plastics in the sack for recycling. The sack is weighted at the bottom to prevent it blowing away and has handles at the top to make it easy to lift and carry.

On the appropriate fortnightly recycling collection day, the white sack should be left at the kerb by 7am at the latest (but no earlier than 6pm on the previous evening) alongside the usual fortnightly recycling containers (blue sacks for card and cardboard, and black boxes for paper, magazines, glass bottles/jars, cans/tins and

aerosols). The white sack will be emptied and then left at the kerbside for you to retrieve and refill. The sacks are collapsible and can be stored outside or inside, although storing them inside will prolong their life.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MIXED RIGID PLASTIC AND OTHER RECYCLING SERVICES?

Visit www.cotswold.gov.uk for details about mixed rigid plastic collections and all of the other fortnightly recycling services we provide, including a very comprehensive guide to what we do and do not accept. You can also obtain details about our weekly garden waste service which only costs £30 per year.

You may also wish to subscribe to our new waste text service which is free of charge and provides updates on a range of waste issues such as adverse weather delays, changes to collection times and other important information. Feedback from users has been very positive and it is proving to be a useful way of keeping in touch with residents. If you want to subscribe, text your name, full address and mobile number to "WASTE" on 07950 080 762 or email the details to textwaste@cotswold.gov.uk and we'll add you to our list.

WHO CAN I CONTACT BY PHONE TO DISCUSS ANY WASTE OR RECYCLING ISSUE?

Call the Waste Hotline **01285 623123** for any queries you have about waste.



DATE AREA COLLECTIONS

| DATE | AREA | COLLECTIONS |
|----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Week commencing 8 October | North South | Refuse, Recycling, Garden Waste*, Food Waste AND PLASTIC Garden Waste* and Food Waste Only |
| Week commencing 15 October | North South | Garden Waste* and Food Waste Only Refuse, Recycling, Garden Waste*, Food Waste, NO PLASTIC |
| Week commencing 22 October | North South | Refuse, Recycling, Garden Waste*, Food Waste AND PLASTIC Garden Waste* and Food Waste Only |
| Week commencing 29 October | North South | Garden Waste* and Food Waste Only Refuse, Recycling, Garden Waste*, Food Waste AND PLASTIC |

*Paid for service

One do and two don'ts...

The following three key messages are very important:

WASH 'n' SQUASH

DO wash and squash your rigid plastics before you recycle them - it is a great help if you can compress the plastics and rinse them with water before they are collected.

This means the vehicles can store more recyclables, and less time and energy is wasted in collecting them and in processing them afterwards.

DO NOT hoard plastic weeks in advance of the new recycling service starting

Up - Ubico have looked at similar schemes elsewhere and estimated what a typical load will comprise. They will not be able to cope easily with much greater amounts, and have advised residents to dispose of their plastic recyclables as usual before the launch and only present up to two weeks worth of plastics at the start of the service.

DO NOT place plastic carrier bags, pouches, food wrappings or cling film in your collection sack

- these materials will not be recycled. The equipment on the recycling vehicles cannot handle these items and could easily malfunction; this could necessitate a return to the depot for urgent repairs, causing a long delay in collection times.



Recycling

What goes where?

With the introduction of the plastic kerbside recycling please also remember to make full use of the existing kerbside collection services available to all residents.

(FORTNIGHTLY) BLACK KERBSIDE RECYCLING BOXES - CAN BE USED TO RECYCLE ALL OF THESE DIFFERENT ITEMS:

- ✓ Newspapers, magazines and junk mail
- ✓ Telephone directories and Yellow Pages
- ✓ Envelopes - please remove plastic windows where necessary
- ✓ Catalogues and brochures
- ✓ Letters and general paper
- ✓ Shredded paper - provided it is inside a paper bag or large paper envelope

- ✓ Food and drinks cans - please wash and squash
- ✓ EMPTY aerosol cans - do NOT squash
- ✓ Glass bottles and jars - please wash

(FORTNIGHTLY) REUSABLE BLUE SACK - USE THIS FOR RECYCLING THE FOLLOWING:

- ✓ Cardboard boxes/packaging - please cut into pieces no larger than 1 metre square
- ✓ Cereal boxes and egg boxes
- ✓ Food packaging boxes
- ✓ Greeting cards

(WEEKLY) GREEN KITCHEN CADDY - ITEMS ACCEPTABLE FOR THIS RECYCLING SERVICE ARE:

- ✓ Meat and fish - raw and cooked, including bones
- ✓ Dairy products including eggs, egg shells, butter and cheese
- ✓ Raw and cooked vegetables and fruit
- ✓ Bread, cakes and pastries
- ✓ Rice, pasta and beans
- ✓ Uneaten food from your plates and dishes
- ✓ Used tea bags and coffee grounds
- ✓ Cat and dog food

(WEEKLY) GREEN GARDEN WASTE BIN (IF SUBSCRIBED TO THE SERVICE) - ACCEPTABLE ITEMS ARE:

- ✓ Grass cuttings
- ✓ Leaves, bark and tree prunings
- ✓ Twigs and small branches up to 5cm (2in) across
- ✓ Tree stumps up to 10cm (4in) across
- ✓ Bedding from herbivore pets (e.g. rabbits and guinea pigs)

Finally, please ensure that your waste and recycling containers are presented at the kerbside by 7am on your collection day (unless you receive an assisted collection)

By placing materials in the correct containers, you'll speed up collection times.



PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

Frequently asked questions & answers

WHY DO WE NEED TO BOTHER WITH A LOCAL PLAN?

Every local authority must develop a forward-looking plan which will help shape communities and, crucially, serve as a blueprint for the future use of land, taking account of local needs.

The Plan's policies will be used for controlling development and will guide most day-to-day planning decisions.



Core Strategy Planning Team

CAN I HAVE SOME BACKGROUND TO WHERE WE ARE NOW?

Earlier this year the government announced a range of measures to reform the planning system, including a powerful new presumption in favour of sustainable development. This means that planning applications that promote development and growth, should be approved without delay if they accord with the local plan.

If the local plan is absent or out-of-date, permission should be granted unless it compromises the key principles of sustainability set out in national planning policy.

The government wants to remove centrally imposed, top down, targets that have dictated levels of development in the past.

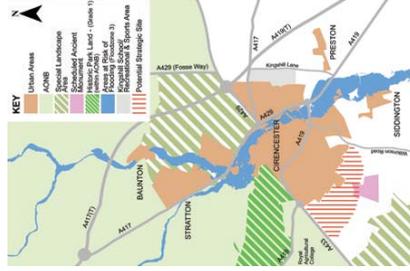
However, councils are still required to use robust evidence to set housing levels for their area and to meet the challenge of identifying the most sustainable locations for growth in their areas.

In doing so, councils will have regard to protecting the environment, including maintaining important open spaces and other environmental considerations.

HAVE PLANNERS IDENTIFIED ANY SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT SITES SO FAR?

Although the Council is not yet in a position to propose specific sites for future housing, we have identified one general location in Cirencester which is shown below as a potential strategic site. We envisage this area being a mix of well designed housing, employment and community uses, including all necessary infrastructure to make this area a logical and seamless extension of the town.

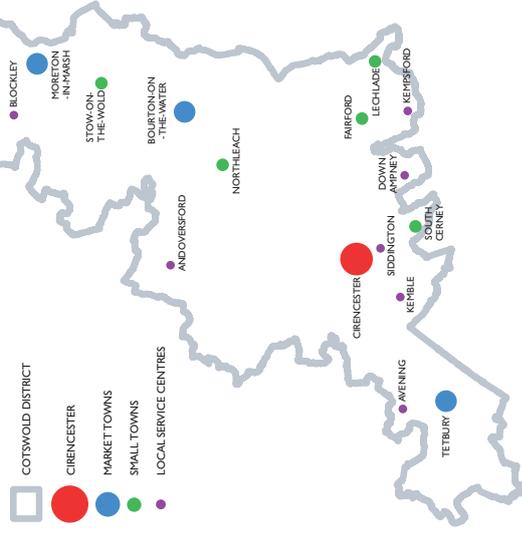
The Core Strategy will, however, indicate how much development should take place in certain locations. Specific sites will be identified in a future site allocations document.



IS THIS A CHARTER TO CONCRETE OVER THE COTSWOLDS?

Definitely not! We are extremely fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of England and we intend to make sure it remains that way, while at the same time aiming to cater for the future needs of the community.

MAIN SETTLEMENTS IN COTSWOLD DISTRICT



Planning for success

We all have our views about what might happen in the district over the next 20 years or so. At CDC we want to identify and set out a clear vision showing how we think the district should cope with growth and other changes while ensuring a good quality of life for residents. This will form our new Local Plan, which will run to 2031, and the first part of the plan that we're preparing is the Core Strategy.

To help inform our thinking, the Core Strategy team has been developing detailed profiles of the towns and larger villages across the district. They have assessed the latest data on issues such as population, jobs, travel and commuting, services and facilities. They have also refreshed our information about future housing requirements, and analysed how much future growth could be accommodated in various settlements.

That's not all. The council has also looked in detail at economic requirements, with a focus on projected employment trends in sectors such as tourism, manufacturing and retail. This has all been pulled together to form a draft Local Plan: Core Strategy which will be available for public consultation later this year.

Please keep an eye on the District Council's website for updates, including the deadline for responses.



Clr Nick Parsons, Cabinet Member for Forward Planning

HOW CAN I COMMENT?

Later this year you can view the latest draft Local Plan: Core Strategy at www.cotswold.gov.uk and once you have registered, you can submit your comments easily online. Alternatively, you will be able to email comments to LDP@cotswold.gov.uk or send written comments to Local Plan: Core Strategy Consultation, Forward Planning Team, Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I COMMENT?

Once we have consulted you on the draft Local Plan: Core Strategy later this year, we will make amendments in the light of comments received. We will then prepare a Pre-Submission Core Strategy and will stage a formal round of consultation for a six week period during the first half of 2013.

Importantly, any comments at that stage should only refer to legal compliance (how we prepared or consulted on the Core Strategy) or soundness (whether the content of the Core Strategy is justified, effective, and/or consistent with national policy). We will then submit the documentation, along with associated evidence, for independent examination during 2013.

WHERE DO PLANNERS THINK HOUSES SHOULD BE BUILT?

Our studies show that some places can support more sustainable development than others, especially when considering the types of services and facilities that are needed.

Not surprisingly, we believe that Cirencester and other main settlements are best placed to cater for the majority of future growth.

The diagram above is taken from the previous Core Strategy consultation and shows the district's main settlements.

SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

- We need to know what you think about our plans so far.
- How do you want to see our towns and villages develop?
 - How do you want to see the district develop over the next 20 years?
 - Are we getting this right?

Let's get behind the youngsters

Last year Cotswold District Council agreed to allocate funding of about £1,100 to each councillor to help promote youth activities in their wards. Here are some of the outcomes.



1. Rafting at South Cerney.
2. Skateboarding at Moreton (photo courtesy of Gloucestershire Echo).
3. Chipping Campden football.
4. Table Tennis at Lechlade.
5. Snooker at Kempsford.
6. Youngsters at Wild Rock, Northleach.
7. Archery practice for youngsters from Stow.
8. Archery practice for youngsters from Lechlade.
9. Lanterns at Cotswold Water Park (photo courtesy of Wilts & Glos Standard).

 Please recycle your Cotswold News