

Cotswold News



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Christmas and New Year
waste collection schedule



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issues - the facts



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New website
unveiled



New 'catch-up' collections will benefit residents in severe weather

Following a recent public consultation - and an extensive review of our previous procedures - Cotswold District Council has introduced several measures to reduce the possible delays in fortnightly refuse collections when severe weather takes hold over a prolonged period.

When it is not possible to collect waste on the scheduled collection day or the following day, our waste collector (Ubico Ltd) will now operate kerbside catch-ups for refuse the following week (weather permitting) rather than residents having to wait for a further 14 days until their next scheduled kerbside collection.

When this catch-up option is activated, Ubico will suspend weekly garden waste collections temporarily, and will, instead, pick up refuse, along with the usual

weekly food waste collections.

Ubico will also make full use of emergency waste collection points at strategic locations across the district so that residents can bring refuse for disposal if necessary. Subject to safety and access considerations,

***Emergency
waste collection
points will be
made available
to clear backlog***

locations in Bourton, Cirencester, Fairford, Lechlade, Moreton, Northleach, Stow and Tetbury have been earmarked for this purpose. Residents will also have the

option of taking all their waste to Household Recycling Centres across the county - including the nearby facility at Fosse Cross.

The Ubico crews will operate priority catch-up collections in some locations served by communal bins. They will also, on request, pick up waste from residents who already have an arrangement for an assisted collection with the Council and do not have sufficient space to store excess waste - provided the crews



can access their properties safely. This will benefit those who, due to their age or disability, would find it difficult to access emergency collection points. However, there will be no extra collections of missed recyclables.

See page 2 for instructions about our new catch-up arrangements, and our Christmas / New Year waste collection schedule.

National policy impacts on housing development in Cotswolds

On pages four and five we provide some facts about the issues surrounding development in the Cotswolds, especially how we are responding to the challenges imposed on us in view of the government's drive to

increase housing numbers. We explain why changes to government planning policy have taken away significant decision-making powers from all local authorities, and the importance of our emerging Local Plan in enabling us to

mount a robust defence of our planning decisions in the future - most notably, on housing land supply. Although some people have taken issue with our evidence-based assessment of housing need - which indicates that we must

plan for nearly 7,000 new homes in the district up to 2031 - we explain why national policy has tied our hands on this matter.

More consultations are planned for early next year - details are available on page 5.

HEAVY SNOW, ICE AND FLOODING

What should you do if your refuse collection is disrupted during severe weather?

Don't assume that you have been missed if the Ubico crew is late – leave your waste out all day because they will continue to try collecting in the most accessible parts of your area rather than imposing a blanket cancellation for the day's round.

IF NO SHOW ON COLLECTION DAY

Leave your refuse at kerbside, for collection the following day. Check the Council's website or local media updates.

IF NO SHOW ON FOLLOWING DAY

Take refuse back to your property and present for collection again on next weekly food waste collection day.

NEXT FOOD WASTE COLLECTION

Crews will attempt general AND food waste pick up. Weekly garden waste collection will be suspended temporarily.



Emergency refuse site locations:

- Bourton-on-the-Water
- Cirencester
- Fairford
- Lechlade
- Moreton-in-Marsh
- Stow-on-the-Wold
- Tetbury

All should be accessible as on main trunk roads.



Garden waste

Garden waste collection will be suspended when 'catch-up' is underway but will return to normal as soon as possible.

Recyclables

No extra collections of missed recyclables.



OPTION 1

Store recyclables for collection when your next scheduled fortnightly collection is due.

OPTION 2

Take them to your nearest recycling facilities.

www.cotswold.gov.uk

In an emergency...

- 1 Catch-up collections may be made from communal bins.
- 2 Assisted collection service will be available when safe.

Keep in touch

Radio and TV stations and local newspaper websites (Standard, Echo, Cotswold Journal) will alert residents to waste collection arrangements.

ONLINE Find out the latest information on www.cotswold.gov.uk and via Twitter ([#CotswoldDC](https://twitter.com/CotswoldDC)).

PHONE Call us on **01285 623 123** for regular updates.

We will also keep Parish and Town Councils abreast of the latest situation.

Christmas collection



Normal Collection	Revised Collection
Monday 23 Dec	No change
Tuesday 24 Dec	No change
Wednesday 25 Dec	Friday 27 Dec
Thursday 26 Dec	Saturday 28 Dec
Friday 27 Dec	Monday 30 Dec
Monday 30 Dec	Tuesday 31 Dec
Tuesday 31 Dec	Thursday 2 Jan
Wednesday 1 Jan	Friday 3 Jan
Thursday 2 Jan	Saturday 4 Jan
Friday 3 Jan	Monday 6 Jan
Monday 6 Jan	Tuesday 7 Jan
Tuesday 7 Jan	Wednesday 8 Jan
Wednesday 8 Jan	Thursday 9 Jan
Thursday 9 Jan	Friday 10 Jan
Friday 10 Jan	Saturday 11 Jan

Collection schedule returns to normal on Monday 13 January 2014.

Four do's:

The following four key messages are very important:

Do ensure that additional non recyclable waste is placed in refuse sacks - (following a missed collection, side waste can be presented in black sacks) and put out beside the closed wheeled bin (i.e. with the bin lid firmly down) to enable safe handling by collectors

Do place extra recycling materials in a suitable alternative box/bag and place it alongside normal recycling containers ready for collection when things return to normal

Do remember that you can take recyclable waste - such as tins, glass and newspapers - to bring banks around the district if you do not wish to wait for your next kerbside collection

Do make sure that your waste and recycling containers are presented at the kerbside by 7am on your collection day (unless you receive an assisted collection)

Is your community resilient enough?

With winter fast approaching it is possible that the district may experience more heavy snow, flooding or other severe weather events.

So what can you do to lessen the effects? Over the past six years, officers at the Council have been helping and encouraging local communities to strengthen their resilience through community emergency planning. This has resulted in local communities establishing sound procedures, networks and structures that enable them to cope in a range of potential emergencies.

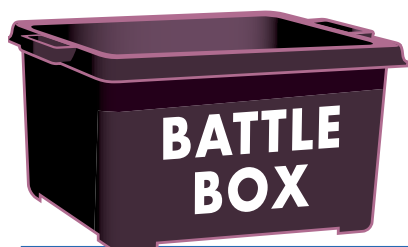
The Council has donated 'Battle Boxes' to many communities, providing them with essential equipment

Many communities have produced a list of resources available locally (such as snow ploughs and power generators) and the people who can use them. The success of these community emergency plans relies on resident volunteers in these communities and on clear communication links which are also very important.

To further support communities, the Council has donated 'Battle Boxes' to many communities, providing them with essential equipment, such as foil blankets and wind-up torches. This helps residents to support themselves and the most vulnerable members of their community during an emergency.

At present 23 communities in the district have community emergency plans in place and a further 10 communities are currently developing their plans.

For advice call **01285 623 000**.



Barnsley residents Paul Le Bars and Howard Franks (Chairman of Barnsley Parish Meeting) receive a 'battle box' from Cllr Sir Edward Horsfall (Ward Member for Ampney-Coln), Cllr Carole Topple (Cabinet Member for Communities), Roz Brazier (Emergency Planning Support Officer, Cotswold DC), and Jennifer Taylor (Community Partnerships Manager, Cotswold DC)

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Find out if your local Town or Parish Council has a community emergency plan (see the Cotswold DC website for contact details of relevant clerks.)
- If there is no plan, the Cotswold DC website contains information about developing one through using a simple template. You can also call us for advice on **01285 623 000**.
- If there is a plan, why not volunteer to help with its implementation?
- If you live by a river or other watercourse which is prone to flooding, have you thought about preparing for a flood? There is a wealth of information available to help you on the Environment Agency website.
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/31618.aspx

A better kind of freeze – garden waste licences are still only £30!

The council has frozen the price of a garden waste collection licence for a further two years – the £30 annual cost is a real bargain, especially since we currently provide a weekly collection, unlike many other local authorities which only collect fortnightly. You can apply for a licence at any time by contacting the council on **01285 623 123**.

Do you drive an electric car?

If you drive an electric car the Council would be pleased to hear from you – please help us shape our strategy for the installation of electric vehicle charging points in the district. Email **claire.locke@cotswold.gov.uk** or telephone **01285 623 000**.

Local Planning issues - *the facts*

Cllr **Nick Parsons**, Deputy Leader of Cotswold District Council and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning, explains why changes to the coalition government's planning policy have taken away significant decision making powers from local authorities.



Cllr Nick Parsons,
Cabinet Member for
Forward Planning.
Email nicholas.
parsons@cotswold.
gov.uk

WHY HAVE DEVELOPERS BEEN ABLE TO OVERRIDE DECISIONS MADE BY THE COUNCIL'S PLANNING COMMITTEE WHICH WERE FULLY SUPPORTED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS?

Like many local authorities across the country, this Council has had its decisions overturned at major planning appeals, even when the vast majority of local residents have been opposed to the developments being proposed.

This is because the government has introduced new national legislation which places emphasis on increased housing numbers regardless of local opinion – or environmental factors – when planning inspectors feel that there is insufficient supply of land for housing needs over a five-year period.

SURELY THERE MUST BE SOME SORT OF WAY TO OPPOSE THESE LAND GRABS RIGHT NOW?

At present nearly every planning appeal decision places a high emphasis on the government's drive to address the national housing shortage, through the requirement

to have a five year housing land supply. This has been made even more onerous for all authorities by the government's decision to effectively increase

the land supply requirement by between 5% to 20%. This causes a particular problem in rural areas where developers are unable - or where it would not be practicable - to build all the houses for which planning permission has been granted within a five-year period.

We've done our best to establish a five-year land supply in accordance with national guidelines

We have done our best to establish a five-year land supply in accordance with national guidelines, but in recent years planning inspectors have rejected our estimates at appeals and have agreed with figures put forward by developers. We are not alone – this has become a common pattern across the country with recent reports suggesting that almost 200 councils do not have a five year land supply. Close to home, the councils serving Cheltenham, Cherwell, Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud, Tewkesbury, and Wychavon have all recently lost major

planning appeals on much the same grounds as this Council.

MANY PEOPLE HAVE SAID THE GOAL POSTS HAVE BEEN MOVED. DO YOU AGREE?

Many local authorities – including Cotswold – were part way through a process to plan for future development only to find that the rules had changed. This led to councils across the country withdrawing or delaying the preparation of new Local Plans to reassess whether they complied with the new guidance

IS THERE A SOLUTION IN THE LONGER TERM?

The adoption of the Local Plan will enable us to mount a robust defence of our planning decisions – most notably on housing land supply. An evidence-based assessment of housing need, which will support the Local Plan, suggests that we need to plan for nearly 7,000 new homes in the district up to 2031 – and this may increase subject to factors outside of our control.

Although 7,000 is higher than many would have wished, our hands are tied because national policy requires all types of housing needs and demands to be taken into account, including the needs of people moving into the District. Indeed, if we don't comply with national guidance, the Local Plan will be





Award winning housing development in Andoversford

rejected by the Secretary of State and we will be back to square one.

On the plus side, some 2,550 houses have already been built, or permitted since April 2011, which leaves a further requirement for about 4,500 houses over the next 18 years to 2031.

Additionally, we have switched to a much quicker means of producing a comprehensive Local Plan for the district, covering the next 20 years or so, which will shave some two years off the process.

WHAT ABOUT LOCALISM?

The government said that scrapping regional plans would see the end of 'top down' planning being imposed

on communities. However, in reality, the new national policy means that we are faced with a requirement for more houses than previously envisaged.

About three-quarters of the district falls within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

It seems that 'localism' will only allow neighbourhoods to plan for more housing, not less. We recognise that locals want to have a say on development in their communities. However, the land supply requirement has become the

government's overriding, top-down consideration in planning decisions, often in spite of the wishes of local residents.

HOW DO YOU ANSWER CRITICS WHO SAY THAT COTSWOLD DC IS JUST ENGAGING IN 'NOT IN MY BACK YARD-ISM'?

About three-quarters of the district falls within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which is an important - though not overriding - constraint on development. Indeed, most of the larger towns and villages lie within, or adjoin, the AONB, so it is a major challenge to find suitable development sites to meet the future housing and employment needs of the District.

Our record on house building shows that we are not a NIMBY authority. Since 2011, for example, 931 houses were built, which exceeded the annual target by 35%. We also delivered 194 affordable homes during 2012-13, which was almost double our target of 100.

This Council recognises that, regardless of the District's undoubted heritage and landscape constraints, we need to encourage young people and families to stay in the Cotswolds, otherwise communities will die. We need more younger residents to ensure that the local economy thrives and the District continues to be a pleasant place in which to live, work and visit.

Local Plan – progress update

- We've conducted a successful consultation for the Local Plan: Preferred Development Strategy, and received over 2,000 comments from 667 individuals and organisations.
- These responses will be made public when all the comments have been considered by our Forward Planning team.
- We conducted a successful call for sites for potential housing, employment and commercial development land, receiving over 200 submissions.

The sites are being assessed, and this will feed into the site-specific work for the Local Plan.

- We are planning an independently facilitated training event for parish and town councils soon, which will start a process of working with communities to take forward site allocations.

NEXT STEPS

Feedback from previous consultations, planned community workshops, and any updated evidence will be used to

draft the Local Plan document, which will go through a further two rounds of consultation before being submitted to the Secretary of State and Planning Inspectorate for examination.

IN THE MEANTIME:

- You can be notified automatically about future Local Plan consultations by registering at www.cotswold.gov.uk
- Alternatively, send your details to localplan@cotswold.gov.uk and we will add them to our contact list.

OUR TOP FIVE

Ways in which we provide a better deal for the community

We are working towards our aim of being recognised as the most efficient council in the country. Here are five of our achievements against our Medium Term Financial Plan. Cotswold District Council leader Cllr Lynden Stowe reviews recent achievements.

The savings we have generated have played a major part in protecting our provision of services to residents at a time of significantly reduced central government funding. This has allowed us to freeze many of our charges over the last two years including Council Tax, Garden Waste, Car Parking and Leisure, and has also helped to fund the 5% cut we made to our share of this year's Council Tax bill – the biggest reduction in the country.

1. JOINT WORKING WITH OTHER COUNCILS

We have been looking for ways to save money by sharing staff and services across neighbouring councils, especially West Oxfordshire District Council. Joint working between the two councils has resulted in savings of about £1.7 million per year while maintaining the quality of services to residents.

In total, there are plans for us to save up to £3 million per year by introducing further joint

working and we are confident that we can achieve this target while maintaining all our frontline customer services.

As part of this achievement, we have successfully brought together the personnel, finance, procurement and payroll functions for this Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Forest of Dean District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and Ubico Ltd

under one umbrella organisation known as GO (Gloucestershire-Oxfordshire.) This represents an annual cost saving of £125,000 for this Council alone and almost £700,000 jointly for all the partners.

2. INTRODUCING FORTNIGHTLY KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF RIGID PLASTICS

For the first time ever, residents can now recycle rigid plastics at their kerbside. Ubico Ltd – which was established jointly by this Council

Our savings have allowed us to freeze many of our charges



Cllr Lynden Stowe

and Cheltenham Borough Council – introduced the new service across the district just over a year ago, thanks to the use of more efficient recycling vehicles.

This has contributed to our continuing high levels of recycling in the district – residents recycle about 60% of waste collected. Setting up Ubico Ltd to provide our waste services has saved us over £850,000 in the first year compared with our previous arrangement – another significant cost saving.

3. COMPLETION OF FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES

We are committed to help improve resilience in our communities, including protection against flooding. Major flood alleviation improvements have now been completed at Chipping Campden, Lower Slaughter, and Weston sub Edge. Other flood relief schemes are underway, including at Moreton-in-Marsh, Lechlade and Fairford. We have secured additional County Council funding of £250,000 to support this work.



The Corinium Museum, Cirencester

4. COTSWOLD LEISURE AND CORINIUM MUSEUM TRANSFER TO 'EVERYONE ACTIVE'

We have transferred the management of our leisure centres at Bourton, Cirencester and Chipping Campden and the multi award-winning Corinium Museum to 'Everyone Active'. This should save about £3 million over 10 years whilst maintaining the excellent levels of service. The public can rest assured that the Council will retain ownership of the buildings and assets and will manage the contract with 'Everyone Active' closely.

*We helped deliver
194 affordable homes
during 2012-13
- almost double our
target of 100*

5. PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOMES.

We helped to deliver 194 affordable homes for local people during 2012-13 – almost double our target of 100. This included new affordable homes in Cirencester (Kingshill North and South), Andoversford and Longborough.

These homes will help to meet the needs of different groups, including older people and those living in rural areas. For the record, over 300 affordable new homes were built in the District between 2005 and 2011.

Please remember that you can email me with your comments and suggestions – lynden.stowe@cotswold.gov.uk



Council Officer Lonel Lancu familiarises himself with the new website

Come and visit our new website:
www.cotswold.gov.uk

We're just about to launch a brand new Cotswold District Council website and we believe it will make a huge improvement to the delivery of our services to residents.

Before we started work on this project, we asked users for comments about our previous website. You said it was cluttered and cumbersome and that it needed to be simpler and clearer so that users could find what they were looking for quickly and easily. You also said parts of the site did not use plain English, making it difficult to read.

Based on this feedback and other research, we have re-designed, re-written and re-structured our website, focussing on the most popular tasks and information. As well as providing a better service for residents, we hope that the new website will encourage more users to carry out transactions online, such as renewing garden waste licences or applying for planning permission. This will help

reduce the cost of more expensive communications such as letters, telephone, email and face to face meetings, all of which helps us keep down the cost of council tax.

More refinements will be added to the new website as we progress. We are also keen to hear your comments at any time.

See www.cotswold.gov.uk to view the new website and provide feedback.

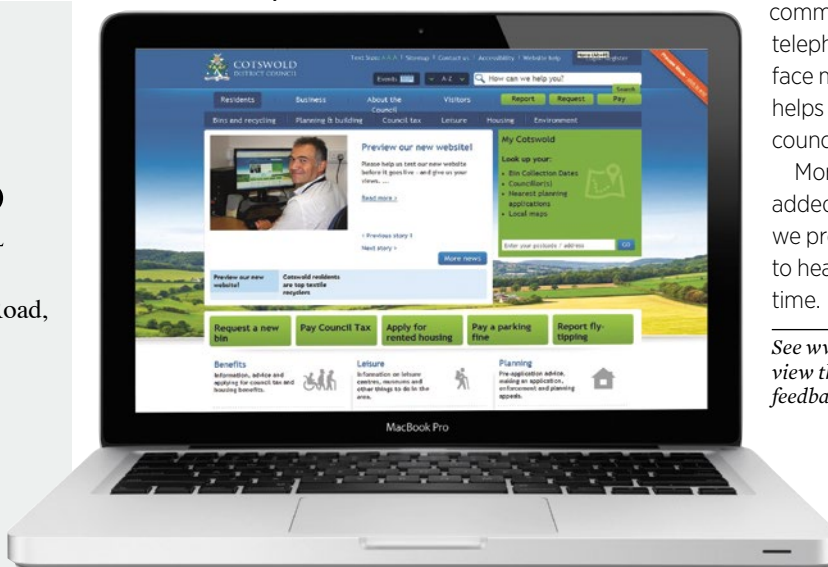


**COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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cdc@cotswold.gov.uk

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Rocking around the Christmas tree...

**JOIN AND GET
2 MONTHS
FREE***
MEMBERSHIP!

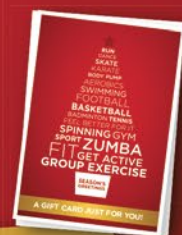
**AND
PARTNERS CAN
JOIN FOR
FREE***

**PLUS GET AN
EXTRA
£40***
OFF!

**JOIN
TODAY!**



VOTED
'NUMBER 1'



**GYM MEMBERSHIP
MAKES A GREAT
CHRISTMAS GIFT!**
GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE IN CENTRE

**Cotswold
Leisure Bourton**

01451 824 024

**Cotswold
Leisure
Cirencester**

01285 654 057

**Cotswold
Leisure
Chipping
Campden**

01386 841 595



**COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Everyone Active manage these
facilities in partnership with
Cotswold District Council
EOA4622

 **everyoneactive.com**



**everyone
ACTIVE**

Feel better for it

*Terms apply, see website for details.