

# Cotswold News



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## Local Plan reaches next public consultation stage

Cotswold District Council has reached another major milestone in the creation of a Local Plan to guide decisions on the use of land in our district up to 2031. We are now consulting the public on a range of planning policies which will become the Council's main means of determining future planning applications.

### What exactly are these policies?

We can't deliver our objectives for the District without a robust means of doing so - that's why we need policies. Policies set out the ground rules, making it clear what we can and cannot do when delivering the objectives. The policies pay regard to national planning guidelines but add more specific detail relevant to our area.

**The consultation period runs from 6 November until noon on Monday 21 December.**

### Why are these policies so important?

The policies will enable us to promote sustainable development in line with national planning guidance and will help to deliver the Cotswold Local Plan's objectives for the future of the District.

### Why are people being asked to comment?

The Council welcomes comments to ensure the delivery of appropriate and sympathetic development. We want your help to produce clearly written and fit for purpose policies.

### Hasn't the public already been consulted on the Local Plan?

Yes - we have consulted the public



several times already over the last four years. Most recently, we asked people to provide their views on the Local Plan's objectives and development strategy - including the allocation of housing, gypsy and traveller sites across the District - and we received over 9,000 responses. We have captured this information and will take it into account, so there is no need to go over this ground again. ***This time we want your views on the planning policies only.***

### What happens when people comment on these policies?

Once the Council has received comments on the planning policies, we will take them into account, along with comments from previous public consultations, in preparing a 'pre-submission' version of the whole Local Plan. The pre-submission Plan, which

will include the development strategy, detailed site allocations and policies, will then be subject to a round of statutory public consultation in the spring of 2016. At that stage, the public will be invited to comment on the Local Plan's 'soundness' and its legal compliance. That will pave the way for the Council to submit the Local Plan - and all the related evidence - to the Secretary of State for examination by the end of 2016, and we hope that it will then gain a formal seal of approval. The submitted documents will include summaries of comments received from the public during all previous consultations.

### When does this current consultation end?

The consultation period for the development management policies runs from Friday 6 November until noon on Monday 21 December. ***Details of how to comment and other specific information relating to the***

# Cotswold Local Plan Update

Cotswold District Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning, Cllr **Nick Parsons**, assesses progress on delivering a new Local Plan.



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

The emerging Local Plan is the key policy document which will guide decisions on the use of land in our district up to 2031. It must comply with the government's National Planning Policy Framework which sets out guidelines on delivering sustainable development.

In getting to this stage we have worked with local communities to develop strategic objectives for the district up to 2031 which focus on various issues, including:

- the number of homes and jobs required;
- future retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- infrastructure requirements; and
- conservation and enhancement of our natural and historic environment.

Thousands of local residents submitted their views during our last round of public consultation on the development strategy and site allocations early in 2015. A large number of those comments related to the provision of gypsy and traveller sites.

*We need your views on the detailed policies that will help to deliver the Local Plan's objectives.*

Many also raised concerns about the number of houses - 7,600 are proposed up to 2031, including the allocation of about 2,350 on the strategic site to the south of Chesterton. Others objected to the amount of housing proposed in some of the other market towns and larger villages.

I fully understand why people are not happy with the levels of development

proposed. However, when all is said and done, housing shortages are a national issue and, like all councils, we are required to comply with government guidelines that are focused on delivering enough homes to meet future needs.

Failure to do this would result in the Plan not being approved, which would simply leave the door open for unwelcome development being allowed randomly on appeal.

The emerging Local Plan has now reached the stage where we need to gather your views on the detailed

policies that will help to deliver the Local Plan's objectives. These draft policies are deliberately succinct because we need to avoid repeating policy detail that exists at national level and concentrate on addressing local issues.

I should emphasise that we are not asking you to comment again on the objectives, housing numbers or site allocations. We have already captured your views on those matters and the comments we've received will be taken into account in preparing the pre-submission Local Plan document next spring.



KEY MILESTONE	TIMESCALE
Community involvement in development of issues and options	<b>Completed May 2013</b>
Draft Local Plan: Development Strategy and Site Allocations and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal - Public consultation	<b>Completed January - February 2015</b>
Draft Local Plan: Development Management Policies - Public consultation	<b>November/December 2015</b>
'Publication' (Pre-submission) Whole Local Plan and final Sustainability Appraisal	<b>Public consultation Spring 2016</b>
Submission of Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal to the Secretary of State	<b>Autumn 2016</b>
Adoption of Local Plan and Policies Map	<b>Dependent on Examination process</b>

The table above sets out some of the major Local Plan milestones so you can see where this latest policy consultation fits into the overall scheme of things.

## HOW TO COMMENT

You can view the consultation document relating to development management policies online at [www.consult.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.consult.cotswold.gov.uk) Once you have registered your details online, it is easy to submit comments on any section of the document or provide feedback on the document as a whole.

As well as viewing the interactive online version, you can also see the entire document and download a copy by visiting the Council's website [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk)

Don't forget, this consultation exercise is not an opportunity to repeat representations you may have submitted previously in response to earlier consultation documents. Please be assured that previous representations have been recorded and will be taken into account in preparing the pre-submission version of the Local Plan.

When making comments, please make it clear which policy, paragraph or map your comments relate to, your reasoning, and evidence to back up your arguments. It would be very helpful if you could make your comments clear and concise. If you wish to propose alternative wording for a particular part of the Plan, include this in your representation. Please remember to provide your name and contact details.

In addition to the Council's website, copies of the consultation document and associated supporting papers are available to view at the Council offices in Cirencester and Moreton-in-Marsh and at libraries across the District.

If you cannot or do not wish to submit comments online, it is possible to email your comments to [localplan@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@cotswold.gov.uk)

Written comments can be sent to:

**Local Plan Consultation  
Forward Planning Team  
Cotswold District Council  
Trinity Road  
Cirencester, GL7 1PX**

The Council is required to make all comments publicly available to view on its website and cannot accept anonymous representations.

Please ensure your comments reach us by noon on Monday 21 December. We are unable to guarantee that comments received after the deadline can be taken into consideration.



## Don't forget our FREE parking offer!

Motorists can now park free of charge from 7am to 7pm on weekends and public holidays in Cotswold District Council's staff car park in Trinity Road, Cirencester.

We trialled a free offer at weekends and public holidays earlier this year to provide additional parking spaces when the Forum Car Park in Cirencester was being refurbished, and we've extended the offer for the

foreseeable future to cope with peaks in general demand.

There are 70 spaces and two disabled parking bays available at Trinity Road during weekends and public holidays.

The car park is less than ten minutes' walk from the centre of town, and should be easy to find - just enter the postcode GL7 1PX on satellite navigation systems.

## Parking Demand Project for Cirencester



spaces. Once we have shortlisted potentially suitable sites, more detailed work will be carried out.

We hope to provide solutions which will ease the current pressure for parking in the town and improve future provision for all users, including residents, businesses and visitors to the town.

If we decide to build one or more decked car parks, it will be critical to ensure an appropriate design that blends with its surroundings. There are now many examples of excellent car park design nationally and internationally which are a far cry from the harsh grey concrete structures built several decades ago. The Board will be considering the best examples and the Council will employ an architect to propose suitable designs.

We are already consulting key local representatives and will continue to liaise with those representing communities and businesses in the town. We will ensure that they are involved in the decision making process and are given plenty of opportunity to have their say as the project progresses.

The Council launched a project in April which aims to meet future parking needs within Cirencester. A Board led by Councillors is meeting regularly to review current parking capacity and consider the likely increase in parking demand based on projected residential and commercial development in the emerging Local Plan. The Council's Cabinet recently agreed to fund a professional survey which will assess all of our existing car parks in the town. This will enable them to identify those which might be suitable for redevelopment with a decked car park, significantly increasing the number of available



# Thanks for your “brilliant” response to our recycling campaign!

Demand for free new recycling containers in Cotswold District has been exceptional recently. This follows a recent campaign which specifically promoted the take-up of caddies for kerbside food waste recycling.

As an added bonus, many people requesting new or replacement caddies also placed orders for other types of recycling containers.

The success of the campaign is reflected in the fact that, during a five-week period in September and early October, the Council received requests from residents for almost 1,350 food waste recycling caddies and also processed orders for a total of over 1,100 other kerbside recycling containers – black boxes for newspapers, cans and glass bottles; blue sacks for cardboard; and white sacks for rigid plastics.

The food waste campaign, organised by the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Team, took place across most of the county; waste crews placed stickers and attached notes on all residual waste bins, reminding residents about the benefits of recycling mealtime leftovers, food past its ‘sell-by’ date, tea bags, bones and egg shells.

The increase in demand for all containers has delighted Cllr Sue

Coakley, Cabinet Member for Health, Environment and Communities at CDC:

“This brilliant response to the campaign speaks volumes about the support we receive from residents across the District when it comes to environmental issues. A similar campaign in Somerset led to a significant increase in the volumes of recycled waste presented for collection at the kerbside, and we are now hoping for a real boost in our district totals too as we look to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.”

To order food waste caddies or any other recycling containers – all free of charge – please contact Cotswold District Council on **01285 623000** or place an order directly through our website [www.cotswold.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling)

*For detailed information about what to place in food caddies, black boxes, blue sacks and white sacks please see [www.cotswold.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling/kerbside-recycling](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling/kerbside-recycling)*

## Did you know?

About 10,000 tonnes of food waste per year are currently being recycled in Gloucestershire, which means that 20,000 tonnes are still going to landfill, at a cost of over £80 per tonne.

Food waste, which is collected weekly in Cotswold District, along with garden waste (subscribers only - £30 per year) is composted on a farm in the north west of the county, and is used to manufacture soil enhancer. This is available to purchase from all Household Recycling Centres, including Fosse Cross, at £3.50 for a 40 litre sack. The quality of the material is so good that it should not be used directly as compost, but rather as a conditioner to be dug in with existing soil.

## If adverse weather disrupts your scheduled waste collection...

### Leave your waste out longer

If the Ubico crews are delayed they will try to collect it on the following day.

### If your waste remains uncollected after 48 hours

Store it until your next food waste collection day the following week. The Ubico crews start collecting from 7am onwards so make sure you don't delay putting it out (unless you receive an assisted collection). Please ensure that additional non-recyclable waste is placed in refuse sacks (black sacks are allowable) and put out next to the closed wheeled bin (i.e. with the bin lid firmly down to enable safe handling by collectors).

Ubico will suspend the weekly garden waste collection while this ‘catch up’ is underway but will aim to return to a normal schedule as soon as possible.

### If you don't want to wait until collections resume

You can take your waste to your nearest Household Recycling Centre if roads are safe enough for driving. The most convenient site for most residents is Fosse Cross, six miles north of Cirencester off the A429 (postcode GL54 4NW).

The Council also has the option of establishing emergency refuse sites at any of the following locations, all of which should be accessible: Bourton-on-the-Water, Cirencester, Fairford, Lechlade, Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold, and Tetbury.

## Hang on to your Recyclables!

Ubico will not carry out ‘catch up’ collections of missed recyclables. Please store them until your next scheduled fortnightly collection and then place the extra items – such as tins, glass and newspapers – in a suitable box/bag alongside normal recycling containers ready for collection. Alternatively, take the items to your nearest recycling facilities.

See [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk) for details of locations.



## Waste collection arrangements for the forthcoming Christmas and New Year period in Cotswold District



Normal Collection Day	New Revised Collection Day
Friday 25 Dec	<b>Monday 28 Dec</b>
Monday 28 Dec	<b>Tuesday 29 Dec</b>
Tuesday 29 Dec	<b>Wednesday 30 Dec</b>
Wednesday 30 Dec	<b>Thursday 31 Dec</b>
Thursday 31 Dec	<b>Saturday 2 Jan</b>
Friday 1 Jan 2015	<b>Monday 4 Jan</b>
Monday 4 Jan	<b>Tuesday 5 Jan</b>
Tuesday 5 Jan	<b>Wednesday 6 Jan</b>
Wednesday 6 Jan	<b>Thursday 7 Jan</b>
Thursday 7 Jan	<b>Friday 8 Jan</b>
Friday 8 Jan	<b>Saturday 9 Jan</b>

Collection schedules will return to normal on the week beginning Monday 11 January 2016



## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE LATEST LOCAL NEWS

- Radio and TV stations and local newspaper websites (Standard, Echo, Cotswold Journal) will be issuing bulletins if waste collection arrangements change.
- You can also get the latest information on our website [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk) and via our Twitter feed ([#CotswoldDC](https://twitter.com/CotswoldDC))
- Alternatively call us on **01285 623123** for regular updates.

We will also keep Parish and Town Councils abreast of the latest situation and they may pass on the details to you.

# Flood alleviation update

Since the widespread flooding in 2007, the Council has been working with a range of organisations - including the County Council, Town and Parish Councils, the Environment Agency, and Thames Water - to improve resilience across the District.

Here is a sample of the flood prevention work which has been done over the last year or so:

## MORETON-IN-MARSH

Works included the installation of Property Level Protection in 21 properties, the completion of the Moreton Flood Relief Channel Flow Control, the London Road culvert upgrade at the old electricity sub-station and Matcon areas, and the installation of two 750 mm diameter pipes under the Stow Brook Bridge on the A429.

The next stage will be the installation of a flood defence pipeline which will divert storm water into the brook and away from properties.

## MICKLETON

In partnership with Gloucestershire County Council, a new headwall, trash

screen and access fencing were installed at the Butts.

## NAUNTON

Watercourse clearance works and river embankment repairs were carried out, and two sections of open channel were reinstated.

## FAIRFORD

The final stage of the Environment Agency-led scheme was agreed and completed. Additionally, the Council worked with Thames Water to update maps of the sewage and drainage networks. We have also involved local people in identifying historic issues to enable targeted interventions such as sewer lining and the sealing of manholes. A similar exercise has just started in South Cerney.



Cllr Nigel Moor (Gloucs County Council), Cllr Sue Coakley (CDC), Cllr Robert Dutton (CDC) and CDC Principal Engineer Laurence King inspect the completed Stow Brook improvement works near Moreton

## BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER

Works included extensive ditch clearance in partnership with Ubico Ltd and riparian owners, and the completion of a flood defence wall at the ford. Property Level Protection and drainage improvements were carried out at two houses in Mousetrap Lane, which were flooded during summer 2014.

## SOUTH CERNEY

Obstructed culverts were cleared at Upper Up crossroads. Additionally, we have involved local people in identifying historic issues to enable targeted interventions such as sewer lining and the sealing of manholes.

## LECHLADE

A flood relief culvert was laid adjacent to the Priory caravan park. Remaining work - including improvements to flood relief culverts at the A417 Downington roundabout - will be completed by Spring 2016.

## SOMERFORD KEYNES

Watercourse clearance works were completed; we continued discussions with local landowners regarding the potential construction of flood relief culverts on Spratsgate Lane and Spine Road.

We also administered a number of schemes to help homeowners and businesses recover from severely adverse weather. This resulted in funding for work worth a total of almost £120,000, to pay for flood resilience measures for homes; and seven Business Support Scheme applications worth almost £9,000 in total to help cover uninsured costs to businesses, including clean-up costs and loss of trade.

The Council continues to play a major role in the Cotswold Flood Action Group which was formed in 2013 to co-ordinate a multi-agency response to tackling flooding problems.

# Jobcentre Plus to be co-located with Council at Trinity Road

Cirencester's Jobcentre Plus services will soon be co-located with Cotswold District Council at our Trinity Road headquarters.

The co-location - which is expected to take place early in 2016 - will allow both organisations to provide a more joined up face-to-face service for customers. By working more closely together as key partners, we will also save on overheads and reduce costs to the taxpayer.

The move fits very well with the Government's programme of welfare reform and service transformation and will further support the delivery of Universal

Credit which went live in Cotswold District from May 2015.

It is anticipated that all the staff who currently work at the Cirencester Jobcentre will re-locate to Trinity Road and will continue to deliver the same range of services. When the move is completed, the existing Jobcentre in Southway, Cirencester will close.

Nick Browning, the Jobcentre Plus District Manager, comments: "The relocation of our Jobcentre to the Cotswold District Council offices in Cirencester presents us with an exciting opportunity to work alongside a key local partner in delivering improved services

to people in the area, and will support the future delivery of Universal Credit to Cotswold customers."

CDC Leader Cllr Lynden Stowe, adds: "We have been in discussions with the DWP about this co-location for some time and I am grateful to everyone who has been involved in making this possible. As well as enabling co-located service delivery in Cirencester for the first time, all taxpayers should be pleased to hear that we will be making best use of excess office accommodation at Trinity Road and reducing both our running costs."

# 2020 Vision



CDC Leader Cllr Lynden Stowe

**C**DC Leader Cllr Lynden Stowe outlines the benefits of more joint working with other authorities.

We consulted residents earlier this year to gather views on proposals to reduce the cost of providing our services, through sharing management and staff with three other local authorities and making better use of IT.

This is known as the 2020 programme and it is guided by a vision which envisages CDC, West Oxfordshire, Forest of Dean and Cheltenham councils "retaining their independence and identity, but working together and sharing resources to maximise mutual benefit leading to more efficient, effective delivery of local services".

The partner councils already share human resources, finance and payroll services and, building on this excellent foundation, in the first phase we plan to extend the shared services to encompass: Information technology, Public protection, Building control, Legal, Property, Customer services, Revenues and benefits. (NOTE: Not all partners will necessarily be involved in each of the above projects).

This first phase will deliver immediate annual financial benefits of £1.83m. Further areas will be considered for sharing over the next 12-18 months before a formal decision to consider establishing a jointly owned local authority company to deliver services in 2017.

The partners are setting up a joint committee in early 2016 to make the changes required and, if agreed, they will look to establish a local authority company to take over the running of the services in 2017.

## What has motivated CDC to go down this route?

Each partner council needs to make savings while continuing to provide good quality services to residents in the face of drastic reductions in government funding.

Shared key objectives of the four councils include:

- Respect and retain the political independence of each authority.
- Deliver annual savings of £5.7m after 5 years.

## How long will this all take to complete?

Implementing the 2020 Vision will be a major and complex programme and it might take several years to deliver the whole programme - hence the title '2020 Vision'. Nevertheless, there will probably be some quick wins to help the four councils achieve savings sooner.

## Has this been done elsewhere?

Most local authorities are examining ways of delivering efficiencies through closer partnership working. Although no other council has developed a model exactly like the 2020 Vision, there are already examples of local authority companies being formed to provide a range of services and also selling their expertise to other councils.

## Each council will retain its own identity

## What changes will residents see?

Hopefully very few - unless there are some improvements to note!

Each council will retain its own identity, have its own elected members and continue to make decisions taking account of the needs of its local community. There will still be staff working in each location, as at present. Some members of staff will provide a service predominantly to one Council; others will provide a service for more than one council. It may also be that some members of staff will have a different employer - this happens now with the provision of shared services for finance, procurement, human resources and payroll services - and it is all quite seamless from a resident's viewpoint.



Photo l to r: Andy Jones (CDC), Louisa Hanbury (owner), Simon Hanbury (owner), Cllr Sue Jepson (CDC), Mike Cahill (contractor), Andy Nurden (contractor), James Slater (designer)

# Cotswold barn conversion wins major award

An award-winning barn conversion to create holiday accommodation and a corporate event facility in Cotswold Park, Woodmancote recently won the 'best change of use of an existing building or conversion' category at the Western Region Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Building Excellence Awards.

Cllr Sue Jepson, the Council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing, comments:

"This was a challenging project which had to balance the needs of the end user with the constraints of a listed building, as well as the requirements of the building regulations. The LABC judges all agreed that the resulting design solutions and quality of workmanship were of the highest standard.

"I am particularly pleased that the relationship of the design team with all elements of development management and building control was described as excellent at the regional awards ceremony. This included a very good relationship between building control surveyors and the contractor on site."

Andy Jones, the Joint Building Control Manager at CDC, added: "The Woodmancote conversion will now be entered into the national LABC awards which are judged later this year. We are keeping our fingers crossed that it will win first prize"

## About CDC Building Control Services

We have an experienced team who provide a high quality service to our customers. We can provide you with:

- Independent professional advice with local knowledge of the area
- Free pre-application discussions and technical expertise
- Competitive charges as we work on a not-for-profit basis
- Responsive, same day site inspection service
- A Completion Certificate on satisfactory completion of your project

01285 623000 or email [building.control@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@cotswold.gov.uk)



For a healthier life, we should all be doing 30 minutes of activity 5 times a week.

Your local facilities are located in Cirencester, Bourton and Chipping Campden.

- ✓ UNLIMITED use of fantastic gyms with all the latest machines, plus group exercise classes and swimming pools
- ✓ NO membership contract
- ✓ DISCOUNTS with partners and free activity passes

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Cotswold Leisure - Cirencester

01285 654 057

Cotswold Leisure - Chipping Campden

01386 841595



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