

Minutes of Somerford Keynes Parish Council Meeting

Village Hall, 9th March 2026

Present: Cllr A. Clark (AC), Cllr M. Keegan (MK), Cllr N.Hunt (NH), Cllr J Whitwell (JW), CDC Cllr M McKeown (MM),

Also present: Clerk K.Holdsworth (KH) and three members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr H.Collins (HC), Cllr M.H-Oldland (MHO), Cllr G.Valentine (GV)

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Public Session

The Head of Oaksey school and a parishioner with children there explained the projects they have planned which our offer as set out in last month's minutes will contribute to. They expressed their appreciation for the financial support, the Parish Council (PC) is delighted to help with these projects.

4. Approval of Minutes of 9th February 2026 Meeting

Proposed MK, seconded AC

5. Report from CC Lisa Spivey

CC Lisa Spivey's report is in Appendix One

6. Report from District Cllr M.McKeown

Cllr MM's report is in Appendix Two

7. Follow up from February's Meeting

7.1 Potholes

THE PC have written to County Councillor Joe Harris to ascertain whether CIL funding could be used to accelerate the fixing of potholes in the parish. No response has been received yet.

Action: KH will chase.

The PC have also written to Highways concerning damage to the road to Ewen at the Sculpture Park end. Increased use of this road by lorries had been noted, the owner of the farm to which these are delivering to stated that they are approaching from the SK end as the amount of vans parked by The Wild Duck made it difficult to approach with large vehicles from that way. Now The Wild Duck is open and refurbishment complete that may change. But based on its early popularity and potential parking limitations it may not!

7.2 Bleed Packs

KH has engaged with defibrillator 'owners' to check how best to store bleed packs with them. The conclusion is that separate lockers will be needed. The total cost is likely to be a little over £1k which the PC approved.

Marcus Gibbons will specify what needs to be purchased and from where and has also offered to include training on their use in the sessions he runs. Once again, the PC thanks Marcus for his work in this important area.

Action: KH to engage Marcus to progress to purchase.

8. Community Infrastructure Levy

8.1 Primary Schools Funding

We have confirmation that the proposal set out in last month's minutes complies with CDC CIL rules. As per section three, Oaksey have identified projects in progress to use this funding for as have Ashton Keynes. We will write to South Cerney school to ensure they are aware.

Action: MK to obtain contact details from Shorncote residents with children at South Cerney.

8.2 Swing at Neigh Bridge

This is a project previously approved though slow to progress as the Lakes Trust's preferred contractor for such work was not available until this spring. Even then there was a caveat that a wet winter would bring delays. Unfortunately we have certainly had one of those.

Action: KH to write to Lakes Trust to confirm their ongoing interest and to get a view of likely timescales.

A number of additional suggestions have been provided as below, we thank parishioners for their suggestions;

8.3 Outdoor Table Tennis Table

The PC were supportive of this suggestion, we would be interested in the opinions of parishioners so please write to clerk@somerfordkeynes-pc.gov.uk if you have a view. The likely cost would be less than £2k, the only viable location is the village hall car park.

Action: AC to engage the village hall committee.

8.4 Marquee for Village Events

The view was that storage might be an issue and there doesn't really seem to be a case for significant use. Though there is a suggestion in AOB!

8.5 Storage Shed/Extension for Village Hall

This is one for the Village Hall Committee. They have been discussing the possibility of an extension for a little while, obviously such projects take some considerable resource and over the past couple of years they have undertaken the kitchen refurbishment and the electrical infrastructure upgrade. Should they go ahead we can look at using some CIL funding in addition to the reserves the Village Hall holds.

8.6 Shelter at The Village Lake

Perhaps a small covered area where people can gather. This came up in the meeting and would need to be fleshed out in terms of what it might be used for and a precise location.

9. Litter Pick, Saturday March 28th

KH has arranged for the provision of equipment, Marcus Gibbons has kindly agreed to support with a risk assessment.

Last year saw a good level of participation, it's a simple way to do something for the community and given that in previous surveys people have complained about the issue of litter it would be nice to see a good turnout.

If you can attend please drop a line to Karen at clerk@somerfordkeynes-pc.gov.uk so the appropriate amount of refreshments can be provided.

10. Planning

26/00313/FUL

Full Application for Extension of existing barn to create playroom, including sliding doors and extension of existing timber, removal of existing tree and re-planting of replacement tree and retrospective installation of hot tub and associated timber decking. at Maison Minety 21 Minety Lake Lower Mill Estate Somerford Keynes Cirencester

No Objection

26/00466/FUL

Full Application for Erection of stand-alone sauna at 67 Minety Lake Lower Mill Estate Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire

No Objection

26/00089/FUL

Full Application for Erection of 2nd floor extension with balcony at 12 Spinney Lake Lower Mill Estate Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire

No Objection

25/04037/FUL

Full Application for Erection of three-storey rear extension and single-storey front extension with associated works at Peregrine House 19 Clearwater Village Lower Mill Estate Somerford Keynes Cirencester

No Objection

11. February 2026 Income and Expenditure

<u>Income</u>	£190.69	Interest Earned February 2026
Total Income	£190.69	
<u>Expenditure</u>		
February 2026	£407.25	Backdated clerks' salary increase
	£32.39	Laptop Security
Total Expenditure	£439.64	
Village Lake	£600.00	Tree Felling
VL Total Expenditure	£600.00	
CIL Expenditure		
November		
Church Staircase 3rd Payment	£2,234.40	
Total CIL Spend	£2234.40	
Transfers	£None	
Petty Cash Expenditure	£None	

12. Correspondance

Suggestions on what to spend CIL money on were received, see section eight.

13. Dates for Diary

Village Litter Pick Saturday 28th March

PC AGM will be held on Friday 15th May in the Village Hall

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Parish Clerk

KH will be standing down as Clerk due to family commitments she needs to attend to. She will remain in role for the next couple of months to see the PC through the 2025/26 audit process.

The councillors thank Karen for her hard work over the past two and a half years. As well as day to day tasks Karen has moved our banking online and managed the finance in an efficient way and one that has delivered significant interest payments. During her tenure there has also been an increase in work associated with CIL projects and a higher level of governance and scrutiny required in the audit process.

The PC can't operate without a clerk so we are urgently seeking a replacement. The pay is £15.31 per hour from April and the contract is for five hours a week though we pay for actual hours worked which has typically been a little more than this over the past year or so. Aside from attending the monthly meetings working hours are very flexible.

Please drop a line to clerk@somerfordkeynes-pc.gov.uk if you are interested in the role, Karen is happy to have an informal conversation to provide a little more insight into what it involves should that be of interest.

14.2 Community Summer Event

It was felt that some kind of event would be a nice for the community. This is not a PC thing but the PC could provide funding. It would need a group of willing people to organise, perhaps some looking at activities for children and others for adults. If you would be interested in participating please let us know at clerk@somerfordkeynes-pc.gov.uk

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Date of next meeting Monday 13th April 2026

Appendix 1 **CC Lisa Spivey's report**

February Update

LGR

The government consultation is now open (access here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-gloucestershire>) and closes on **26 March 2026**. For further info and links to the proposals you can visit Future Gloucestershire - <https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk/>

Budget

We passed our landmark Budget at full council on 18 February. We are investing in the things that matter most to our communities. It hasn't been easy, but Liberal Democrats are making the tough choices needed to deliver a stronger future for Gloucestershire.

This is a budget that resets our financial foundations and invests in Gloucestershire's future. The provisional funding settlement left us £9.5 million worse off than we had expected in December and we also had to deal with the failures and lack of investment in key areas of the previous administration.

Our budget resets and invests. It deals head-on with the financial position we inherited and aligns us with the new Fair Funding landscape to put us on a strong stable footing.

However, we are also investing in the areas most important to our communities, including –

- £15 million extra for Highways, the largest cash boost for generations
- £2 million for road safety
- 3 new care homes
- 2 new special schools

We have also established £32 million in efficiency savings to make at the council.

Highways

We are working hard to improve our highways and have committed a whopping additional £15 million into roads over the next few years.

The incredibly wet weather over the last couple of months has hugely affected our roads. Teams are working as hard as they can, however, the wet weather makes it incredibly hard to fill in potholes and increases the likelihood of more evolving.

Peer Review

- The external team has completed the peer review and given very positive feedback.
- They highlighted areas to keep developing, such as member/officer relationships, work with town and parish councils, repair quality, and governance processes that can slow things down.
- An action-planning day is being organised for March 2026.

Member Influence Process

- As set out in the budget papers, most maintenance work must follow a county-wide, needs-based approach so the network stays in good condition and investment is fairly spread.
- Officers are developing a process for members to influence local highway priorities. This may include:
 - Local surgeries or depot open days twice a year, with sessions on planned works and priorities.
 - LHMs contacting each member at least quarterly to discuss local issues.
 - Clear ways for members to suggest locations for deep cleans, impact schemes, and find-and-fix work.
- Feedback from the February Peer Review will also be included.
- More detail will be developed and brought to the Highways Board in March.

Resurfacing Coming Up

- See this webpage: [County Resurfacing Works | Highways](#)

District	Scheme	Operational Hours	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date
Forest	3/45 Grange Court Road Westbury-On-Severn	Restricted Days (09:30 to 15:30)	06/02/2026	02/03/2026
Cheltenham	4/90036 Harp Hill Cheltenham	Restricted Days (09:30 to 15:30)	09/02/2026	24/02/2026
Forest	3/352 Parkend Road Coalway	Restricted Days (09:30 to 15:30)	12/02/2026	26/02/2026
Cotswold	3/120 Hidcote Road Ebrington	Unrestricted Days (07:00 to 19:00)	18/02/2026	09/03/2026
Forest	3/21 Mill End Clearwell	Unrestricted Days (07:00 to 19:00)	24/02/2026	02/03/2026
Tewkesbury	3/382 Gloucester Road & Church Street Tewkesbury	Nights (19:00 to 07:00)	26/02/2026	07/03/2026 (Saturday)
Tewkesbury	3/86 Gloucester Road to Stoke Road Tredington	Nights (19:00 to 07:00)	04/03/2026	16/03/2026
Cotswold	A44 Bourton Road Bourton-on-the-Hill	Nights (20:00 to 07:00)	05/03/2026	13/03/2026

Stroud	3/257 Bradley Green Wotton-under-Edge	Nights (19:00 to 07:00)	05/03/2026	11/03/2026
Stroud	3/268 Cirencester Road Minchinhampton	Restricted Days (09:30 to 15:30)	10/03/2026	25/03/2026
Cotswold	A429 Fosseway Broadwell	Nights (20:00 to 07:00)	12/03/2026	19/03/2026
Cotswold	B4035 Paxford Road Chipping Campden	Nights (19:00 to 07:00)	13/03/2026	23/03/2026

Road Safety Needs Assessment

Gloucestershire's Road Safety Partnership published their Road Safety Needs Assessment urging every road user to take simple, life saving actions.

The assessment shows that the biggest factors behind serious collisions are speeding, distraction and impaired driving. Residents are being asked to:

- Slow down, particularly on rural and residential roads
- Watch for pedestrians and cyclists, especially at junctions and crossings
- Never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Stay focused and avoid in-car distractions

These small changes can significantly reduce the likelihood of devastating collisions.

Read the full assessment here - [Road Safety | Inform Gloucestershire](#)

Gully monitoring pilot project to tackle flood risks

Radar sensors have been added to gullies along Cirencester Road in Charlton Kings, St Georges Road and Pittville Circus. The system uses sound waves to monitor water levels in key gullies.

The devices, managed by Kaarbon Tech, will collate information and send automatic notifications to the Flood Risk Management Team. The aim is that it will reduce reliance on manual surveying and lead to improved operational efficiency and response times.

Coombe Hill development

Residents and local businesses are being invited to attend a public drop-in event to find out more about proposals Coombe Hill.

This is on **4 March 2026 from 3:30pm to 7:00pm at The Swan Inn, Tewkesbury Road, Coombe Hill GL19 4BA.**

The proposals would see 27 acres of Gloucestershire County Council land transformed into a modern, multi use site designed to deliver essential services and support future growth. Current proposals include:

- A new training facility for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service
- A state-of-the-art highways depot
- A much-needed 80-bed care home
- The sale of a small parcel of land for the development of around 25 new homes

All the latest information on the Coombe Hill development can be found at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/coombe-hill, where you can also sign up to receive email updates.

We celebrated our foster carers at a special thank you event

The annual celebration, which was held at Tortworth Court near Wotton-under-Edge, was an opportunity for us to recognise the vital role foster carers play in keeping children and young people safe, by providing loving, stable homes for those in care.

The evening brought foster carers together to acknowledge their commitment, compassion and the difference they make to children's lives every day.

Anyone interested in fostering can find out more by visiting www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering.



Boosting Apprenticeships

We pay into the national Apprenticeship Levy, and any unspent funds are reclaimed by the government after two years. So to keep this money in Gloucestershire, we transfer part of our unused levy to local employers so they can take on apprentices or upskill staff at no extra training cost.

Since 2019, we've transferred over £1.5 million to local employers, mainly supporting adult social care and early years, as well as apprenticeships in health, construction, engineering, education and youth services.

Each year we publish our funding pledge on the national apprenticeship website, where Gloucestershire employers can apply online.

Our New Gloucestershire Business Board (GBB)

This replaces the previous Economic Growth Board and will take a more dynamic, business-led approach to supporting growth, investment and innovation. It will provide strategic oversight of Gloucestershire's economic development agenda, ensuring that business insight directly informs countywide policy and major investment decisions.

The GBB will be co-chaired by Cllr Julian Tooke, cabinet member for business, economic development, planning and infrastructure at Gloucestershire County Council, and Rob Stemp, an experienced cyber security leader, entrepreneur and board advisor.

Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy goes live

Nature across the UK is under extreme pressure. The country is one of the most nature depleted in the world. The interactive online LNRS map shows how we can take action anywhere in the county to help nature recover.

The LNRS provides a vital tool for planners, farmers, landowners, organisations and communities to work together on shared priorities for nature.

From today all local councils will be required to have regard to Gloucestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy in decision and plan making. This means they have to consider the priorities set out in the LNRS when determining how relevant plans contribute to and enhance the local natural environment at a plan-making level. The LNRS and its map become a 'material consideration' in the planning system today, based on the individual circumstances of the case.

Access it here - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/ecology-and-landscape/gloucestershire-local-nature-recovery-strategy/>

Fire safety guidance for hosts ahead of Cheltenham Festival

The four-day event from 10 to 13 March 2026 brings around 250,000 racegoers to the town each year, and many stay in short-term accommodation across the county.

GFRS is reminding property owners that hosting visitors, even for a short period, creates legal responsibilities under fire safety legislation. Owners are being given advice so they keep guests safe and reduce the risk of fire. They should ensure:

- Escape routes are clear, accessible and well signed
- Smoke alarms are fitted, tested and compliant
- Guests receive simple instructions on what to do if a fire starts or an alarm sounds
- Electrical appliances and wiring are in good condition and regularly checked
- Combustible materials are kept away from radiators, heaters and open flames

Further guidance and fire safety resources - <https://gloucestershire.gov.uk/glosfire>

Cheltenham Races traffic

In collaboration with local agencies, we have been working behind the scenes to accommodate the influx of visitors. We will postpone all planned roadworks in the area, including minor repairs and major projects such as the A435 cycleway. In the event of any urgent streetworks that cannot be postponed, we will coordinate with utility companies to minimise disruption as much as possible.

Arle Court Transport Hub will run a park and ride service to Cheltenham Racecourse every 15 minutes with Stagecoach. Buses depart from 9:15am to 2:30pm, with returns from 4pm to 7:30pm; the car park closes at 10pm. Tickets cost £15 per car per day and cover up to five passengers.

Celebrating over a year of Youth Hubs supporting young people across Gloucestershire

We are celebrating over a year of impact from our commissioned Youth Hubs, delivered in partnership with three not-for-profit organisations working across the county. Together, these services form the Gloucestershire Commissioned Youth Service (GCYS) which is a coordinated network that offers early help, prevention, and positive opportunities for young people aged 11 to 25.

GCYS launched in October 2024 to ensure young people feel safe, supported, and able to thrive within their local communities. Over the past year, delivery partners The Children's Society, Family Action, and Gloucestershire Gateway Trust, have created vibrant and welcoming youth spaces across the county that have welcomed over 14,000 visits from young people.

Fostering Service celebrates debut novel of young person in care

We were proud to celebrate the achievement of a young person in care as he published his debut novel at 17-years-old. Craigson Palmer held a book launch at Shire Hall for his novel *Deepfaded*, providing a chance to recognise the achievement and celebrate the potential of children in care across Gloucestershire.

A first draft of the book, which is a psychological thriller and coming-of-age story, was completed when Craigson was just 14 and all earnings from the sale of the novel will be donated to the charity Women's Aid.



Appendix Two

Report from Cllr Mike McKeown

Kemble Ward Monthly Report – February 2026

Prepared by: Mike McKeown

Councillor for the Kemble Ward

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Digital Services

Cotswold District Council (CDC)

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Kemble Ward

I was delighted to see the **Wild Duck Inn in Ewen** reopen recently and I am looking forward to seeing the **Tunnel House Inn in Coates** reopen next month. It is great to have two important local pubs returning after being closed for many years, and I wish the new operators every success.

Bledisloe House – Walled Garden Application (Coates) Planning permission was granted in February for a walled garden at Bledisloe House in Coates. During the application process a number of residents raised concerns that, given other proposals in the area, the garden might potentially be used for events or commercial activity. I worked with Coates Parish Council to ensure these concerns were clearly raised and that a robust condition was requested. The permission now includes a condition stating that the development may only be used for purposes **ancillary to the residential use of Bledisloe House**. This means it cannot be used independently for commercial events or similar uses. This condition was particularly important given the earlier refusal of the Bledisloe Barns tourist accommodation proposal, where concerns were raised about potential noise and disturbance in this rural location.

Kemble Wick Solar Farm Now Operational

The Kemble Wick Solar Farm is now fully operational and exporting electricity to the grid. Solar power is now the lowest-cost source of electricity generation globally and projects like this make an important contribution to reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality. The project will also begin generating funds for a **community benefit fund**, which will accumulate over the coming year and will support local projects from 2027 onwards. A group of local volunteers is currently being established to help manage the distribution of these funds to community initiatives in the surrounding area.

Alongside the energy generation benefits, the developer (Aura Power), the landowner (the Bathurst Estate), and Cotswold District Council have worked together to implement **flood mitigation measures** designed to reduce the risk of flooding in Kemble Wick.

This collaborative approach has ensured the project delivers both environmental benefits and practical local improvements.

Kemble Airport – Runway Festival Proposal

Parish councils and residents have contacted me regarding the proposed **Runway Festival** event at Cotswold Airport and the potential impacts it could have on nearby communities. I have heard a significant level of concern from residents, particularly around issues such as noise, traffic, safety and the scale of the event. In response, I have been working closely with **Kemble & Ewen Parish Council and Rodmarton Parish Council** to ensure that robust responses were submitted as part of the consultation process.

I have also been in contact with officers at Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council, and discussions have taken place with Wiltshire Council, which is responsible for determining the licensing application.

Given the objections that have been submitted, the application will now be considered by the **Wiltshire Council Licensing Committee**, where the issues raised by local residents and councils can be formally reviewed before a decision is made.

[Kemble–Cirencester Cycle Path](#)

Work continues behind the scenes on the proposed **Kemble to Cirencester cycle path**. This project aims to provide a safe, off-road cycling and walking connection between Kemble and Cirencester, improving sustainable travel options and linking the railway station to the town and surrounding communities.

Discussions with partners and landowners are continuing as the project develops, with further updates expected later in the year.

[Climate and Environment \(Cabinet Portfolio\)](#)

As Cabinet Member responsible for Climate Change and Environmental policy, I continue to work on initiatives supporting nature recovery and climate resilience across the district.

[Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#)

Gloucestershire's **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)** is progressing and represents an important step in coordinating nature recovery across the county.

The strategy will identify priority areas for habitat restoration, biodiversity improvement and nature-based climate solutions. It aims to guide investment and action across local authorities, landowners and community organisations.

For rural districts such as the Cotswolds, this work is particularly important in helping restore wildlife habitats, strengthen ecological networks and improve resilience to climate change.

[Digital Services and Artificial Intelligence \(Cabinet Portfolio\)](#)

As Cabinet Member responsible for Digital Services, I am leading work on the council's approach to the responsible adoption of Artificial Intelligence.

[Responsible Adoption of AI in Council Services](#)

Work continues on the council's approach to the **responsible use of Artificial Intelligence** to improve services while maintaining strong governance and safeguards.

One of the first visible improvements will be an **AI-assisted upgrade to the council website**, which will provide a significantly improved level of **24/7 customer support** compared with the current simple chatbot.

The new system will use modern language-model technology to help residents find information more easily and receive clearer guidance on council services.

Alongside these practical improvements, I will be bringing forward both a **Responsible AI Policy** and a **Responsible AI Strategy** for consideration at the **April Cabinet meeting**. These documents set out the governance framework, principles and practical approach the council will use to adopt AI safely and responsibly.

More broadly, officers are exploring a number of areas where AI can assist staff and improve services, including:

- Using AI tools to help analyse large volumes of consultation responses
- Supporting customer service teams with case classification and response suggestions
- Assisting officers in summarising complex reports and planning material

The aim is to use AI as a tool to support officers and improve services, while ensuring human oversight, transparency and strong governance remain central.

Planning and Local Plan Local Plan Update

Work continues on the update to the **Cotswold District Local Plan**, which is being revised in response to significantly increased national housing targets.

As part of the ongoing **call for land supply**, additional sites have been proposed for potential development across the district.

Officers are currently assessing these sites and a further consultation on potential changes will take place before the formal **Regulation 19 consultation** later this year.

The Regulation 19 stage will present the final draft of the Local Plan before it is submitted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate. Mike McKeown – February 2026 Monthly Report 5

Cotswold District Council Updates Recognition for Planning Leadership

Helen Martin, Cotswold District Council's Director of Communities and Place, has been named as one of **The Planner's Women of Influence 2026**.

The accolade, awarded by the Royal Town Planning Institute's official magazine, recognises women who have made a significant impact in the planning profession.

Helen was recognised for her leadership in shaping inclusive and resilient communities and for her influence across the planning sector.

Read more: <https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/helen-martin-recognised-as-one-of-the-planners-women-of-influence-2026>

Counter Fraud Unit Wins National Recognition

Emma Cathcart, Assistant Director of the Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit (CFEU), has been awarded **Female Pioneer of the Year** at the Public Sector Counter Fraud Awards.

The shared service CFEU, which supports six councils including Cotswold District Council, was also shortlisted for Team of the Year.

The unit investigates complex fraud cases and works to protect public funds across a wide range of services.

Read more: <https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/cfeus-emma-cathcart-wins-female-pioneer-of-the-year-at-public-sector-fraud-awards>

Data-Driven Support Helping Residents

The council's **Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT)** programme has helped more than **9,300 residents access over £341,000 in financial support** since its launch.

The data-driven system identifies households at risk of financial hardship and proactively connects them with support they may be entitled to.

A targeted Pension Credit campaign alone enabled 96 pensioners to secure more than £339,000 in additional income.

Read more: <https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/targeted-data-driven-support-puts-money-back-into-the-pockets-of-cotswold-residents>

Balanced Budget Approved for 2026/27

Cotswold District Council has approved a balanced budget for 2026/27 which protects frontline services while maintaining strong financial stability.

The council continues to operate from a stable financial position without the need for exceptional financial support from government.

A £10.5 million capital programme has been agreed and will be funded **without borrowing**, protecting the council's long-term financial position ahead of local government reorganisation.

Read more: <https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/cotswold-district-council-delivers-balanced-202627-budget-with-zero-borrowing>

Investment in Community Facilities and Active Travel

Nearly **£1 million of Community Infrastructure Levy funding** has been allocated to three projects across the district.

These include:

- A new all-weather sports pitch at Farmor's School in Fairford
- Roof repairs to Redesdale Hall in Moreton-in-Marsh
- New cycle parking infrastructure across several towns

The projects aim to strengthen community facilities, improve opportunities for sport and support greener travel.

Read more: <https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/cotswold-district-set-for-nearly-gbp-1m-investment-in-sport-community-spaces-and-cycling>

Government Consultation on Local Government Reorganisation

Residents across Gloucestershire are being encouraged to take part in a government consultation on proposals for reorganising local government in the county.

The consultation is considering options that would replace the current county and district councils with one or two new unitary authorities.

A government decision is expected in summer 2026, with any new structure likely to come into effect from 2028.

Read more: <https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/gloucestershire-residents-encouraged-to-share-their-views-on-reorganisation-of-councils> Mike McKeown – February 2026 Monthly Report 7

Local Plan Housing Target Debate

Cotswold District Council has written to the government outlining the strong public response to the Local Plan consultation and the significant concerns expressed by residents about the scale of new housing targets.

Nearly 2,000 responses were received during the consultation, reflecting widespread concern about the potential impact on rural communities and the character of the district.

The council has asked ministers to meet to discuss the implications of the new housing targets.

Read more: <https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/a-wanton-act-of-vandalism-cotswold-district-council-relays-scale-of-local-anger-over-housing-targets-in-new-letter-to-government>
Cotswold Homes and Interiors Festival

The Cotswold Homes and Interiors Festival will take place in Cirencester on **21-22 March** with talks, workshops and trade stalls focused on home design, renovation and sustainable living. The event includes talks from a range of designers and local businesses, including television designer Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen.

Read more: <https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/line-up-of-talks-for-cotswold-homes-and-interiors-festival-revealed>

As always, please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss any of the above or raise local issues affecting your parish.