

CDC: At the **Overview & Scrutiny** meeting we were appraised of the government targets for building new homes. You may recall that following years of failed policies by successive governments, the new Labour government has made a big policy statement to build millions of houses, and in the Cotswold district the requirement has effectively been trebled to 1000 per year, which, put into context is the equivalent of 2 Avenings every year! With these arbitrary targets, there has been no account of need in the district, the lack of infrastructure, the impact on the protected countryside, nor the unsustainability of expanding rural settlements. There has been insufficient time to adequately plan for the building, and it is contradictory to both the NPPF (National Planning Framework), and the new Local Plan. The burden is falling disproportionately on rural districts, when urban targets have actually been reduced despite these areas being more sustainable with better transport, infrastructure and facilities. As well as the lack of suitable areas for building, no thought seems to have been given to the financing of the builds (most district and councils don't have the financial capacity); who will build them (it is unlikely to be current volume builders due to the likely low profit margins on social houses, and councils don't have the expertise or staff); who will physically build them (there is a lack of skilled trades already); and how will the necessary infrastructure be provided.

The council is preparing a robust response following a very short consultation period, which isn't about 'NIMBYism', but just the sheer impracticality of the demand. I'll keep you appraised of progress.

Bins: There are still some teething issues with the new rounds, which were exacerbated by a recent bout of sickness - the service has improved but is not yet at the required standard. However, most of the repeated missed collections are being closely managed, and as the crews get used to the new rounds the problems should disappear. Incidentally, the budget for the implementation was exceeded by around £70,000.

Crime: There are ongoing outbreaks of theft in our area, so please look out for anything suspicious and check your security is as good as it can be.

Roads: I was invited to view the **A419 'missing link'** construction works in August, which were very impressive! During the tour we were given the background to the work, and told how the project has won multiple awards for its groundbreaking environmental protection. For example, ecologists collected many of the adders, slowworms, and even protected snails to rehome them prior to the work starting. The bulk of the road is being cut up to 16m below the surface to reduce the impact of noise and light, and there will be a 27m 'nature bridge' across the new road reserved for wildlife and a new public footpath. No material is being taken away from the site, but is being reused elsewhere, including building 7.5km of new Cotswold drystone walls.

The construction is on track to complete by early 2027, but the bulk of the road will be operational in 2026. Keep an eye on the National [Highways webpage](#) for more information.

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Excavators and crushing machine at Shab Hill



Construction of the 'Nature Bridge'



Viewing site plans and presentation



Discussing the site with the Comms Lead

Other updates and information for Parish Councils:

PLANNING

Just a reminder to Parish Councillors to keep an eye on new planning applications. It is important to notify the planning officer within 28 days if it is felt that there are strong material planning considerations as to why an application should be brought before the committee. Please contact me with the details, I will speak to the planning officer and then I need to submit a pro forma indicating your concerns. This is quite different to how it was before April this year, when we all had the benefit of the consultee responses and the officer's report.

COTSWOLD CROWDFUND

Cotswold District Council has launched the Autumn funding round of its crowdfunding initiative. From cycle hubs to cricket clubs, playgrounds to street murals, if you have an idea for a project, you can make it happen with Crowdfund Cotswold.

Residents know best what is needed in their neighbourhoods and have the skills and creativity to shape their local area and the future they want. Crowdfund Cotswold provides a springboard for locally-led ideas to attract funding more easily. Since its launch in 2021, Crowdfund Cotswold has supported local projects worth

over £1 million. And now you can pitch for up to £10,000 from the Council to help fund your local community project.

The deadline for the current round of funding for the scheme is fast approaching on 16 October. If you have ideas about a project in your community or want to learn more about the Crowdfund Cotswold initiative ahead of the funding deadline you can sign up to the Council's workshop.

The Project Creator workshop will be held online on Tuesday 17th September at 4pm. To sign up for the workshop see the Spacehive webpage. <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/crowdfundcotswold/>

If you have any questions about the Project Creator Workshop event or accessibility requirements, please email support@spacehive.com

People and organisations can pledge as little as £2 towards a project. To view all the active projects in the Cotswolds, please visit the Crowdfund Cotswold project page: Explore Projects (spacehive.com)

HOW TO REPORT POTHOLE

I recommend using this link, especially if you have a smartphone and can take a photograph of the pothole and identify the exact position. It is more efficient than emailing the council as officers get a daily schedule of these alerts.

Gloucestershire County Council, report a pothole:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>

FIX MY STREET

Report, view, or discuss local problems like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting. This reports back to the appropriate Council: [LINK](#)

REPORT IT

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/report-it/>

New forms for reporting graffiti, overflowing bins, dog fouling and street cleaning are now live on the Cotswold District Council Website.

A map pin drop allowing for what3words location submissions can be used.