

District Councillor's Update for Blockley Parish Council Meeting, 19 June 2025

Residents can contact me, Clare Turner, at Clare.Turner@cotswold.gov.uk

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1. Leadership changes

Last month I reported that Cllr Mike Evely was set to be the new Leader of the Council: he took over from Joe Harris on the 21st May. This week, it's been announced that Chief Executive Robert Weaver is stepping down from his role as Chief Executive, effective Monday 30 June. Councillors will attend an Extraordinary full council meeting on 26/06/25 to appoint an interim Chief Executive while recruitment for a permanent successor takes place. Press release can be found here:

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/rob-weaver-to-step-down-as-council-chief-executive>

2. Overview and Scrutiny Committee

June's Overview and Scrutiny Committee was cancelled due to the lack of agenda items that would be ready for the scheduled meeting date and a second meeting has been scheduled in July. You can find the work agendas, minutes and the diary of scheduled meetings here:

<https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=1165&Year=0>

3. Planning - Enforcement

Some new staff members have been successfully recruited into the Enforcement team and I was recently provided with an update on an old issue in our Parish which has now been resolved. There is still a large backlog to get through but it might be worth BPC reviewing any outstanding enforcement issues within the Parish that are still causing concern and creating a priority list for me to follow up with the team.

4. Planning – Land Supply report and briefing for Town and Parish Councils

A report was published this month which sets out the housing requirements and land supply position for Cotswold District, taking into account changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) (the NPPF), current Planning Policy Guidance (PPG), recent appeal decisions, case law and Planning Advisory Service (PAS) guidance. You can read it in full here:

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/asmiz0cv/m-1-09-housing-land-supply-report-jun-2025.pdf>

The number of homes needed in Cotswold District has changed significantly since the Local Plan was adopted in 2018. In December 2024, the government introduced a new methodology (known as the 'standard methodology') for calculating the number of homes needed in an individual local planning authority. For comparison, when the Local Plan was adopted in 2018 the local housing need was calculated to be between **390 and 475 homes a year. The number of homes needed in the district calculated by the new standard methodology is 1,036 homes a year.**

National planning policy requires the five year housing land supply to be measured against the standard methodology local housing need figure where the relevant Local Plan policies are more than five years old and where there has been a significant change to the local housing need. This is the case for Cotswold District.

Taking account of a 5% buffer, the housing land supply is:

- 7.3 years when the supply is measured against the Local Plan housing requirement; and
- 1.8 years when the supply is measured against the government's revised 'standard methodology' for calculating local housing need.

Effectively this leaves the District vulnerable to speculative development. CDC are running a briefing session for Town and Parish Councils at **6pm on 9th July 2025** which I would encourage councillors to attend (note the date change: previously 25/06/25). Let me know if you have not already received a Teams invitation.

5. Local Government Reorganisation (Devolution update)

CDC have a web page dedicated to sharing updates on Local Government reorganisation:

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/news-items/devolution-update/>

The government shared high-level feedback to interim proposals in May, which set out how proposals should be backed with robust evidence and analysis, with consideration given to impact on public services. The deadline for final proposals is 28 November 2025.

6. Unsung heroes

A new category has been created to recognise young unsung heroes (aged 25 and under).

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/young-heroes-to-shine-as-new-award-announced>

Let me know if you would like someone to be recognised or you can make nominations directly here:

https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/unsungheroes?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR33dsieqlEw2t1HpWmsc3mLLAlB80c4sQXexsP5pBiyijmAURFQXP_WfL4_aem_KLA24dRGwvi0H6dlrXEo_g

7. Casework

A range of casework picked up in the last month: a few small issues around waste collections have been followed up and some in progress still. I've noted the bins around the shop/park in Blockley are getting full quickly now the weather has improved too. Reporting full bins via <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/litter-street-cleaning-and-dog-fouling/> is the most effective way to provide evidence that more frequent emptying is required.