**District Councillor’s Update for Blockley Parish Council, April 2025**

Residents can contact me, Clare Turner, at Clare.Turner@cotswold.gov.uk
**Privacy Statement**As a Councillor I may need to collect personal data to process constituents’ requests for assistance or respond to their enquiries. As a Councillor I will only collect the personal data from constituents that is needed to provide them with relevant information, services or support. I will not give information about you to anyone else or use information about you for any other purpose, unless the law allows me to. Further privacy information see our Councillor Privacy Notice <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/support/privacy-and-data/service-privacy-notices/councillors-privacy-notice/>

1. The last month has been a little quieter than usual because we are in the regulated period ahead of the County Council elections on May 1st. Many business as usual activities have continued however.
2. The Planning Service has been the subject of a Peer Review and a feedback session highlighted the importance of moving quickly to update CDCs Local Plan, to avoid leaving the council vulnerable to speculative development as a result of the increased housing numbers being imposed by the Government. The full report is pending and will be published in due course.
3. Funding has been secured for a business-to-business database to make it easier for local companies to do business together. The new database was funded by a Strategic Economic Development Funding (SEDF) grant and will launch in July 2025. It’s a Together Gloucestershire project, so it will be interesting to see how, if at all it helps businesses in our area because it may be more practical for them to collaborate with businesses in Warwickshire/Worcestshire/Oxfordshire.

For further information or to register your interest in the project visit [www.togethergloucestershire.co.uk](http://www.togethergloucestershire.co.uk/)

Press release: <https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/boost-for-gloucestershire-economy-as-funding-secured-for-business-to-business-database>

1. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, on which I sit, met at the end of March but the only substantial item was the quarterly financial review; nothing new to report.
2. I attended the first working group meeting reviewing the impact of **Inheritance Tax reform on the farming community**. Largely about agreeing next steps: identifying existing relevant data, identifying stakeholders to contribute to evidence gathering and preparing a framework of research questions and how to address them.
3. A business owner has been fined more than £12,000 for allowing waste, litter, and debris to build up in public areas and at a neighbouring property. The owner of Overbook Automotive – a classic car restoration and sales business – based in Chipping Campden, pleaded guilty at Cheltenham Magistrates Court to breaching duty of care in relation to waste control under Section 34(1) of the Environmental Protection Act.

The premises in Chipping Campden had also fallen into a state of disrepair, causing further waste issues. After failing to pay two Fixed Penalty Notices related to the offences, Cotswold District Council had no choice but to pursue prosecution.

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/gbp-12-000-fine-for-man-who-allowed-build-up-of-toxic-waste-at-his-chipping-campden-business>

1. An event for Parish Councils has been organised for 4th June:

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| **The role of town and parish councils is set to become even more important in meeting the needs of local people, as local government sits on the cusp of fundamental change.**As reforms looms large, you are invited to join fellow councillors and clerks from across the Cotswold district for a devolution special. This is an afternoon dedicated to the crucial role that town and parish councils will play in serving residents following reorganisation. The event will feature a roster of speakers who have first-hand experience of local government reorganisation.**Boutflour Hall, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester on Wednesday 4 June, from 2pm - 6pm** [**Click here to register**](https://cotswold.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ab7a7e62881dc95c541265556&id=4d6e8d33d2&e=0c95a7e36b) |

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| **Special guests confirmed so far include:*** **Jackie Weaver**, social media star and Chief Officer, Cheshire Association of Local Councils
* **Matthew Kirby**, Deputy Chief Executive, Chippenham Town Council
* **Andrew Tubb**, Chief Executive Officer, Cirencester Town Council
* **Barbara Pond**, Head of Operations, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
* **Sabrina Dixon**, Community Development Officer, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
* and more to be confirmed!

If you have any questions about the event, please contact:townandparish.councilsummit@cotswold.gov.uk |

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