

CLERKS REPORT – NOVEMBER 2021

Parking Traffic Regulation Order – No new update received as yet.

20 mph Speed Limits through villages – there is a new ‘20 is plenty’ action group asking for Gloucestershire County Council to adopt a 20mph Residential speed limit through Gloucestershire. The group are calling on residents to write to the County Council/County Councillors requesting the change. (Note Cotswold District Council are also recommending that the default speed limit through built up areas should be 20mph.).

Defib – Rack Island. Quotes are being sought to replace the cabinet, as the current cabinet is showing signs of severe wear and tear.

Planning Enforcement – several potential planning breaches in Ablington have been reported to the Planning Enforcement Department, who advice that they will be taking appropriate action.



The old noticeboard from opposite the Village Hall has now been completely refurbished. It has been fitted with a new pin board and glass front. The noticeboard has now been installed at Arlington Fields.

From Cotswold District Council:

Regeneration of Brownfield Sites to provide 100 new affordable homes for local people

Cotswold District Council continues to build upon its commitment to provide truly affordable housing for local communities by regenerating existing sites to provide modern and affordable homes for the people who need them most.

In recent years, Cotswold District Council has approved over 100 affordable homes in Cirencester and Kempford through a range of regeneration schemes in partnership with Bromford Housing.

Cllr Lisa Spivey, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, said; “In the face of a growing affordability crisis, we are committed to increasing the number of genuinely affordable homes across the district for local people.

“The fundamental role a secure home plays in every aspect of our lives cannot be underestimated; literally everything grows from that space, and for those who find themselves in insecure tenancies or homeless, it can be difficult, if not impossible, to engage positively with the world.

“That’s why we have been working hard with housing providers to deliver on our ambitions to deliver truly affordable housing for local people through a range of regeneration schemes and new affordable housing projects across the Cotswolds.

Community House funding:

Cotswold District Council is working to promote alternative means of rural affordable housing provision by encouraging a new community-led housing approach.

As part of the Council’s commitment to delivering truly affordable housing for local people, the Council is looking to work alongside Community Land Trusts and other community-led housing groups to identify opportunities to deliver rural affordable housing to meet local need.

Cllr Lisa Spivey, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, said: “I’m thrilled that Cabinet has supported the Community Housing Fund (CHF) small grants scheme. This scheme will allow local communities to bid for funding and access the support they need to achieve their ambitions of delivering rural affordable housing in their areas so that local people can stay local.

“As a Council, we are working hard alongside housing associations to provide truly affordable homes across the district through a number of schemes, from new developments to regeneration schemes that will improve on affordable housing that is no longer fit for purpose.

“The CHF small grants scheme is an excellent tool that will empower local communities to deliver good quality social rented homes in their areas. Local

communities know their areas best and this scheme will allow local people to ensure affordable housing is provided where it is needed most.”

The Community Housing Fund small grants scheme will be made available to community-led housing groups and established organisations to bid for a start-up grant of up to £1000 to assist groups in forming, gaining membership and incorporating and a pre-development grant of up to £10,000 to progress their project to the planning application stage.

The initial start-up fund is for new groups to help them get established and pay towards the costs of incorporation, legal advice, capacity building, publicity or general costs such as meeting room hire.

The pre-development grant is aimed at established incorporated groups in the site and planning stages of their housing development project. It is aimed at helping fund up-front costs which may be incurred in trying to bring housing projects forward. This could include the appointment of consultants, financial feasibility appraisals, solicitor’s fees, setting up a website or planning application fees.

In line with the Council’s community-led housing ethos, applications to the community housing fund will only be considered where they can demonstrate that they meet the following criteria:

- That the community must be integrally involved in key decisions throughout the process;
- Community groups play a long term role in ownership, management or stewardship of the homes;
- Benefits to the local area and/or specified community must be clearly defined and legally protected in perpetuity.

For more information about the Community Housing Fund and apply for the CHF small grants scheme, please contact housing.strategy@cotswold.gov.uk

Cotswold District Council has been successful in a funding bid to trial new, innovative digital platforms to help improve engagement with residents and make consultation more accessible for local people.

The trial is due to take place in the New Year as part of a consultation in the Cotswold District Local Plan which will look to make the plan ‘green to the core’ and better help tackle the climate and ecological emergencies.

Councillor Rachel Coxcoo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning said, “It is so important that councils make the planning process, and

other consultations, as easy as possible for people to access, understand and then provide their feedback. It is key for transparency and helping people effectively take part in local democracy.

“It is really exciting that we have been successful with this Government funding to bring in new digital tools as part of a wider approach to engaging all residents, and I hope this trial will really improve the consultation process for residents.

“This sort of approach has worked really well in other areas and the consultation platforms we will look to use can make the Local Plan consultation process much more accessible.

“This is a critical part of our ambition to build trust and confidence in us as your council and provide the high quality services we all expect. It will help us be more transparent and make it easier for residents to have their say, helping us all build a better Cotswolds.

The Council has been awarded £53,193 through the Governments PropTech Engagement Fund which was launched in August 2021, with only 13 councils across the country successful in their bids and awarded funding.

Local planning authorities were invited to submit bids to the fund to run pilots to boost engagement in Local Plan consultations, better publicise proposed developments, or to analyse consultation responses.

Being part of the project, Cotswold District Council will be helping the Government better understand how to engage residents in planning processes and improve the approach across the country.

