

## Report from District Councillor Mansilla

The fifth council meeting of the year 2024 was held on 31 July 2024.

The main decisions made by the Cotswold District Council (CDC) were:

- (1) the approval of the implementation of Phase 1 of the Publica Transition. The Detailed Transition Plan sets out the services proposed to transfer and the process including cost implications and timelines;
- (2) The approval of the draft of the amended Pavement Licensing Policy and Fees following The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act making the temporary pavement licensing regime permanent. Changes in legislation include:
  - Increasing the minimum consultation period from 14 days to 28 days.
  - Expanding the licence validation from 12 months to 24 months.
  - Increasing the capped fees for a new licence from £100 to £500.
  - Introducing a renewal fee, capped at £350.
  - Enforcement powers to give notice to businesses without the required licence and enable the Council to remove and store furniture from the relevant highway and recover the costs from the business.

Proposals for the new costs for this service is as follows:

- New Licence Fee £185.00
- Renewal Fee £150.00;

(3) the approval of a temporary member of Upper Rissington Parish Council, enabling the Parish Council to become quorate; and

(4) the annotation of the decision taken by the Chief Executive under urgency powers.

Full details of the event can be found at the following link: <https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1154&MId=2272&Ver=4>

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### Economy & Communities

#### **Funding**

##### **a. Grants approved - Fairford**

Fairford Town Council - Secondary glazing

##### **b. Cotswold Lakes - LKFS**

The CDC has awarded £27,000 to the Cotswold Lakes Trust to support the revamp of their website to reflect the change of name from the Cotswold Water Park to the Cotswold Lakes and to improve functionality.

### Environment & Climate

##### **a. Street Maintenance - Lechlade**

The replacement of the street sign for Kent Place, Sherborne St, Lechlade, GL7 3AH has been scheduled for November 2024.

##### **b. Support available to town and parish councils for the installation of EVCPs - LKFS**

###### **(1) On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS)**

This scheme may provide town and parish councils with funding for the installation of on-street residential EV chargepoints in areas where off-street parking is not available. The government covers up to 60% of the capital costs of installing chargepoints, with a maximum of £7,500 per chargepoint. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/electric-vehicle-chargepoint-and-infrastructure-grant-guidance-for-installers>

CDC have just very recently set out forthcoming plans on EV charging infrastructure. This includes what CDC is doing at present, the support CDC is offering to the district in terms of EV charging infrastructure, the financial assistance that has been secured and the implementation schedule for these EVCPs. <https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/documents/s10602/ORCS%20Business%20Case%20Cabinet%20Report.pdf>

I have been told that going forward EV charging infrastructure funding is being allocated to Gloucestershire County Council. They have begun their EV charging roll out and have plans to install 1000.

They are actively seeking feedback on suitable locations. Therefore, this may present town and parish councils with a good opportunity to put their cases forward. <https://transportandenergy.com/2023/09/04/gloucestershire-begins-electric-vehicle-charging-roll-out/>

The link to Connected Kerb's website may allow town and parish councils to share views of where councillors think the infrastructure would be best deployed in our area.

<https://connectedkerb.com/charge-your-car/community-pages/gloucestershire#:~:text=To%20further%20Gloucestershire's%20Climate%20Change,in%20the%20next%203%20years.>

#### (2) UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

This fund can be used by town and parish councils for various projects, including EV charging infrastructure. The amount varies depending on the project and CDC's allocation <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/news-items/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/>

Applications for 2024/2025 are now closed, and the CDC Council's Cabinet approved allocation of the remaining funds to projects for 2024/25 at their meeting on 11 January 2024. I will let you know should more funding opportunities arise for CDC.

#### (3) Community Energy Fund – Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

A grant for community groups purchasing, managing, generating, or reducing consumption of energy. This includes, but is not limited to, electric vehicle charging points. Profits raised from projects are reinvested back into the communities which they power.

The programme is being delivered through the government's Local Net Zero Hubs and further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-net-zero-support-for-local-authorities-and-communities/local-net-zero-central-support-for-local-authorities-and-communities>

#### (4) Energy Savings Trust Support

The Trust may not directly offer funding but may be able to guide towns and parish councils in accessing available funds and maximizing their use.

#### (5) Private Sector Partnerships

Town and parish councils may also seek partnerships with private companies that provide EV charging solutions. These companies sometimes offer to install and maintain chargepoints at no upfront cost to the council, with a revenue-sharing model.

#### Application Process

To access these funds, town and parish councils typically need to submit an application demonstrating the need for charging infrastructure in their area, the planned locations, and how the project aligns with local transport and environmental strategies.

## CDC Residents Services

### **a. Retrofit - LKFS**

A retrofit officer will be running events in our town and village halls to educate and encourage residents to improve insulation , install renewable heating and solar. See the following link for more information

<https://theretrofitcentre.org/>

Please let me know if councillors wish to recommend suitable locations for these events.

## Housing/Planning

### **a. Planning application 24/00845/FUL - Lechlade**

The erection of 15 dwellings at the Land South Of Butlers Court, London Road, Lechlade with associated works has been refused.

### **b. The Round House - Lechlade**

There are no further updates at this stage regarding the planned site visit.

### **c. The Lakes by Yoo (LBY) Leisure Facility - LKFS**

Works at the LBY appear to be progressing well despite construction challenges due to the swollen rivers causing practical problems on site. I have been informed that there are spectacular planned additions to the Estate and Country Park.

The footpaths of the Country Park final plans are with the Town and Parish Councils for sign off.

The Lechlade end of the Fairford - Lechlade Multi-Use Path (MUP) has been started, and the route is now passable to Welford Road. Consultations between LBY and other landowners for the remainder of the MUP are still ongoing.

The Leisure Facility building is currently under review. Additional consultations with the Leisure Services of the CDC are required before the final planning application is submitted to CDC. Since the Leisure Facility design has not yet been submitted to CDC, LBY might not have final details about its layout, facilities, or how access will be managed. The specifics of the Access Scheme depend on these details.

The flood management plan that seeks to improve water flows between Fairford, Kempford and Lechlade continues to be formulated. A more detailed understanding of the hydrology has been gained.

The stunning design of the new hotel reception/lounge/restaurant space adjacent to the Coln Park is being finalised and I have been informed that plans will be shared with Lechlade, Kempsford and Fairford Councils at the next community meeting. Such plans also include an updated version of the concept plan previously provided for the Sanctuary, the former gravel working silt ponds.

The next community meeting will be held on 10 September 2024 at The Lakes.

## Governance

### **a. Code of Conduct - LKFS**

The CDC would like to highlight the importance of all parish and town councils to publish on their websites, maintain and follow their own code of conduct.

### **Future Meetings**

The next full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 25 September, 2024, at 2.00 pm.

### **Feedback**

Please do let me know if there are particular matters/subjects which you would like to see included in my updates. Moreover, please do get in touch if there are any queries arising out of this report. My email is: [helene.mansilla@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:helene.mansilla@cotswold.gov.uk)