

## **Dispelling the Myths! What your Town Council can do, and what it can't do.**

**Planning & Development:** The Town Council is only a consultee on planning applications. It has **no** decision making powers. The Town Council can seek to influence the decisions being made, but ultimately Cotswold District Council or the Planning Inspectorate (in the case of an appeal) have the final decision. The Town Council objected to the following large-scale applications: Gladman/Bloor site on Cirencester Road currently being built, Bovis site on London Road and Saxon Way/Sunhill Close site. The Town Council is in the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan which is hoped will slow the rate of development in the town.

**Roads:** The Town Council has no responsibility over the roads. Gloucestershire Highways, part of the County Council, have responsibility for road surfaces, road drainage, street lighting, and speed limits. The Town Council can make requests for works to be done, but the ultimate decision is made by Gloucestershire Highways.

**Street Cleaning:** Cotswold District Council are responsible for street cleaning and refuse collection.

**Benches, noticeboards and cycle racks:** The Town Council installs and maintains benches, noticeboards and cycle racks around the town. The locations of which have to be authorised by Gloucestershire Highways if on a public highway.

**Property and Housing:** The Town Council part-owns the Community Centre. It has no other buildings in its ownership and has no control over business rates or rents in the town. The Town Council is not responsible for the allocation of housing in the town, social housing is allocated by Cotswold District Council.

**Grass Cutting and churchyard and burial ground maintenance:** The Town Council is responsible for cutting the verges, the Walnut Tree Field and the closed Churchyard. It is also responsible for the maintenance of the burial ground. The Town Council is not responsible for the Garden Section of the Churchyard or the North Section, which is maintained by the PCC.

**Schools:** The Town Council has no authority over the schools in Fairford. School places are allocated by the County Council.

**Events & Community Support:** The Town Council organises community events, such as the Festive Market and Flag Festival. The Town Council also gives grants to local groups and organisations.

**Councillors:** All Fairford Town Councillors are unpaid officers of the Council. Councillors are elected, if residents request an election to be called, or are co-opted if residents do not request an election.

**Transparency:** The Town Council is bound, by law, to be accountable and transparent. All Agendas and Minutes of meetings are published on the website and are available for the public to view during office hours. All of the accounts are independently audited annually and made available for the public to view. All of the Councillors contact details are available on

the Council website. The public and press are invited to attend all Council meetings.