

Report from District Councillor Mansilla

The third ordinary council meeting of the new year 2026 was held on the 10 March 2026.

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

1. The approval of amendments to the Planning Protocol regarding the declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests; amendments to the Standards Hearings Sub-Committee Procedure Rules; and the removal of the rule preventing both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council from serving on the Planning and Licensing Committee.
2. The approval of a Community Governance Review for Fairford to increase the number of councillors for Fairford Town Council from 13 to 15 with effect from the May 2027 elections.
3. The approval of a motion to embed food and farming within Climate and Ecological Transformation in Cotswolds District and Gloucestershire.

Full details of the event can be found at the following link: <https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=1154&MIId=2472&Ver=4>

Future Meetings

The Annual Council Meeting will be held on 20 May 2026.

OTHER MATTERS

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (GCC)

Highways

Farmor's school Parking - Fairford

Further to the previous update, while Farmor's School has been included within the Safer Routes to School programme, the School has indicated it does not currently support reinstatement due to parking pressures; accordingly, it is understood that no Traffic Regulation Order is being progressed at this stage.

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL (CDC)

Community Safety/Public Protection

Glass Jar - Counter Fraud & Enforcement Unit

The Glass Jar platform (Gloucestershire Fraud Hub) is an online resource providing information, alerts and advice on fraud and scams affecting residents and businesses across Gloucestershire. It brings together updates from multiple agencies, including police, trading standards and victim support, and includes guidance on how to recognise scams, protect yourself and report concerns. Residents are encouraged to use the platform to stay informed about current fraud risks and access support if needed. Further information is available here: <https://cfeu.org.uk/glassjar/>

Funding

1. FCC Community Action Fund

This Fund is offering grants of £10,000 to £100,000 for amenity projects, including improvements to community facilities, recreation grounds and other public-use sites. It is open to town and parish councils, but the project must be located within 10 miles of an eligible FCC Environment waste facility. The next deadline is 20 May 2026. Details on eligibility, location checks and how to apply are on the FCC Communities Foundation website: <https://www.fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/funds/fcc-community-action-fund>

2. SUEZ Communities Fund

Available grants of £3,000 to £50,000 for capital improvements to public amenities such as village halls, community centres, village greens, playgrounds, sports facilities, cycle paths and historic sites. Projects must be located within an active SUEZ funding zone. The next application deadline is 6 May 2026. Details on eligibility, the postcode checker and how to apply are on the Grantscape website: <https://grantscape.org.uk/suez-communities-fund/>

3. Community and Environmental Grants – Veolia Environmental Trust

This Grant Scheme is offering grants of £10,000 to £75,000 for projects that improve community buildings and outside spaces, with separate environmental grant streams also available for biodiversity and habitat projects. This may be relevant to councils with a defined capital project for a community facility or public open space. The next round opens on 20 August 2026 and closes on 1 October 2026. Details on eligibility and how to apply are on the Veolia Environmental Trust website: <https://www.veoliatrust.org/funding/>

4. National Lottery Awards for All England

This programme is offering grants of £300 to £20,000 for projects of up to two years that help bring people together, improve local places and spaces, support early intervention, or respond to cost-of-living and community pressures. It can support smaller-scale community projects led or backed by local councils where the project is clearly community-focused. Applications are open on a rolling basis. Details on eligibility and how to apply are on The National Lottery Community Fund website: <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england>

5. National Lottery Awards for All England – Environment

This other programme is offering grants of £300 to £20,000 for community-led environmental projects that help people connect with nature and improve the local environment. This may be suitable for parish or town council projects involving small-scale habitat work, access to nature, or local environmental improvements. Applications are open on a rolling basis. Details on eligibility and how to apply are on The National Lottery Community Fund website: <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/awards-for-all-england-environment>

6. Woodland Creation Planning Grant

This Grant is offering up to £30,500 to support the preparation of a woodland creation design plan, including an initial Stage 1 payment of £1,500 for desk-based assessment work. It may be relevant where a council owns or manages land and is considering woodland creation as part of biodiversity, climate or landscape objectives. Applications are open year-round, with funding currently confirmed until 31 March 2027. Details on eligibility and how to apply are on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-creation-planning-grant>

7. Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme

This Scheme offers vouchers of up to £4,500 per eligible home or business towards the cost of installing a gigabit-capable broadband connection in areas not covered by commercial rollout or Project Gigabit contracts. While not a standard council grant, it may be useful where a parish or town council is helping coordinate a local rural broadband scheme. Applications are open subject to local eligibility and supplier

availability. Details on eligibility and how to apply are on the scheme website: <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

8. Grant schemes for EV charging infrastructure – OZEV

This scheme offer support towards the installation of electric vehicle chargepoints, with several schemes covering up to 75% of eligible costs, subject to different caps depending on the type of site and applicant. These may be relevant where a council manages eligible premises or parking facilities. Current schemes have been extended until 31 March 2027. Details on the available schemes, eligibility and how to apply are on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles>

9. Football Foundation grants

This grant offers funding for a range of sports infrastructure, including grass pitch improvements, drainage, fencing, pavilions, play zones, floodlights and other facility upgrades. This may be relevant where a town or parish council owns or manages playing fields or sports facilities. Grant amounts and deadlines vary by programme. Details on eligibility and how to apply are on the Football Foundation website: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grants>

10. Defibrillator grants – London Hearts

This scheme offers a £300 contribution towards the cost of a public access defibrillator and storage cabinet, together with a free online training video. It may be relevant for councils looking to install a defibrillator in a village centre, recreation ground or community building. Applications appear to be open on an ongoing basis. Details on eligibility and how to apply are on the London Hearts website: <https://www.londonhearts.org/>

11. Grants to support repair and conservation of war memorials – War Memorials Trust

This grant offers support towards the repair and conservation of war memorials, with grants normally available up to £5,000 for non-freestanding memorials and up to £20,000 for certain freestanding memorials. This is particularly relevant where a parish or town council is the owner or custodian of a war memorial. Details on current eligibility, deadlines and how to apply are on the War Memorials Trust website: <https://www.warmemorials.org/grants/>

12. Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

This programme offers funding for projects in National Landscapes, National Parks and the Broads that support nature recovery, climate resilience, public access and landscape enhancement. It is primarily aimed at farmers and land managers, but may still be relevant where a town or parish council is supporting,

facilitating or partnering on a project involving qualifying land within the Cotswolds National Landscape. The programme is due to run until March 2029, subject to funding remaining available. Details on eligibility and how to apply are on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers-in-protected-landscapes>

Cotswold District Council Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Town and Parish Forum Events

The next events are being held in May, offering councillors and clerks an opportunity to receive updates and ask questions on key strategic matters, including the next stages of the Local Plan following the Regulation 18 consultation and the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) process. The sessions will be led by the Leader of the Council and will also cover wider issues affecting town and parish councils. Two events are scheduled on 12 May 2026 in Cirencester and 19 May 2026 in Moreton-in-Marsh (6pm–8pm). Questions can be submitted in advance via onlinequestions.org, and attendees are asked to RSVP by 6 May 2026.

Further details and registration links are available via the Council's invitation: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/town-and-parish-council-forum-south-cotswolds-tickets-1986071463210?aff=oddtcreator>.

Housing & Planning

Planning Application/s & Enforcement

i. 26/00135/FUL: Land at Willow (Paradise) Farm - Kempsford

This application has been refused.

ii. 25/02062/OUT: Lakes 103, 103A & 104 London Road - Fairford

The application on hold pending flood risk matters and feedback from the Environment Agency.

iii. 25/04047/OUT: Land Parcel East Of Cotswold Bungalow Burford Road - Lechlade

The application is awaiting consideration by the Planning Committee.

iv. 25/03880/OUT: Land South of London Road - Fairford

The application is awaiting consideration by the Planning Committee.

v. 24/03332/FUL - The Lakes Bar And Kitchen Claydon Pike London Road - Lechlade

Application is awaiting decision.

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