

Community groups welcome inclusive approach to improving Cirencester parking

Cllr Mark Harris, the Chair of the recently formed Cotswold District Council Parking Board, has welcomed community group participation in efforts to improve the availability of car parking spaces in Cirencester.

Speaking at a meeting for invited stakeholders which was held in the Council Chamber during July, Cllr Harris explained the Council's aims to representatives from the local Town Council, Civic Society, Kingshill School, Park Ward, Cirencester Action on Buses, and Save our Cirencester, and urged them to continue working with the Board to achieve the best outcome for the town's parking requirements.

Following the meeting, attendees welcomed the communal approach to improve the availability of parking.

Geoffrey Adams of the Civic Society Executive Committee said:

"We have been working hard recently to explore opportunities for creating the additional off street parking that the town so badly needs. These have included extending existing car parks and creating new ones. We have engaged fully with the CDC Parking Board – which has our full support - and we are extremely hopeful that some of our suggestions will now be taken forward."

Tony Curry of the Park Community Group added:



Councillor Mark Harris welcomes members of the community to Trinity Road

"It was a very good meeting and at long last CDC are taking the Community concerns seriously. The meeting was positive, factual and forward looking. Great effort by all.

George Peralta, speaking on behalf of the Parking4U group based at Kingshill School also reacted favourably:

"It is important – and refreshing - for our group of young people to interact with other key organisations helping to address parking problems in Cirencester. This meeting was essential in our view because it brought together parties that are determined to resolve an issue that has plagued this town for countless years, and it also gave us a valuable insight into the Council's current plans. We believe that this is being gripped by those with the power to decide the best options, communicate the selected solution and then take action."



"Best ever" Cirencester Business Awards



More than 200 people attended the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce Awards 2016 during May.

Chamber vice president Jan Sparrow said: "It was our best awards night so far and we were very pleased with the way it went. We had the largest number of entries to date, and were impressed by their general standard."

Chamber president Simon Large told the guests that membership had increased by more than 50 per cent over the last 10 months, which bodes very well for the future.

And the winners were:

Professional Service of the Year

Perry Bishop and Chambers

New Business of the Year

Faradair Aerospace Ltd

Business Person of the Year

Ali Russell of New Brewery Arts

Team of the Year

Phoenix Festival

Retailer of the Year

Vanessa Arbuthnott

Hospitality Provider of the Year

The King's Head

Young Business Person of the Year

Persephone Violet

Business Innovation of the Year

The Royal Agricultural University

Customer Services Award

Perry Bishop and Chambers

Ambassador Award

Hannah Clark of Cirencester College

Creatives Champion

Corinium Radio

The Cirencester Chamber of Commerce Award

Jonathan Davies



Pictures courtesy of Kay Ransom Photography



Sign up now to advertise in new Cotswolds Visitor Guide

Tourist attractions, restaurants and accommodation providers are being urged to sign up for advertising space in a new guide to the Cotswolds. Endorsed by Visit England, the Cotswolds Visitor Guide 2017 will be the official destination guide for the area and will be widely promoted in the UK and worldwide.

The new publication, produced by Cotswolds Tourism Partnership, incorporates the existing Visit Cotswolds and Oxfordshire Cotswolds guides and promises the biggest and most comprehensive coverage of the region.

It will be backed by an advertising and marketing strategy which will include national distribution to Visitor Information Centres, exhibitions and trade shows, targeted websites and a social media campaign. The guide will also be available in e-book format and the public will be able to download copies.

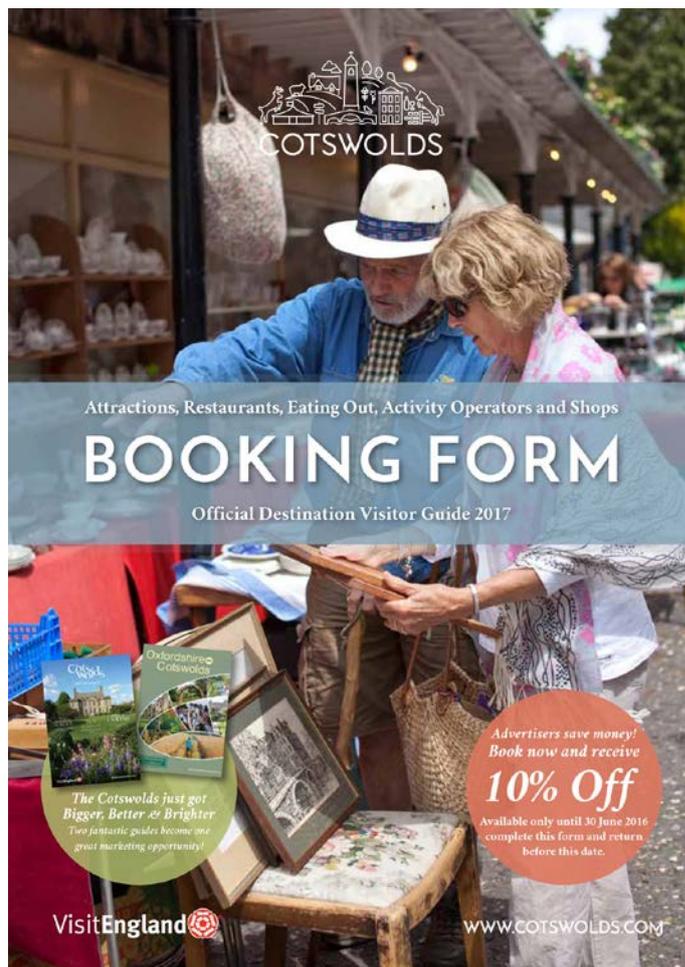
Amanda Hart, the Director of the Corinium Museum

in Cirencester, has advertised regularly in the Cotswolds Guide and will be signing up for the new publication this year. She said: "We have a great deal of confidence in the guide because it attracts a lot of visitors to our award-winning museum. The publication is really well designed and showcases the amazing things to see and do in the Cotswolds.

"Now that the guide is merging with the Oxfordshire Cotswolds version, we will extend our reach and this should encourage even more people to come and see our fabulous Roman mosaics and wide variety of artefacts."

Cllr Chris Hancock, the Cabinet Member for Tourism at Cotswold District Council, added: "Cotswolds Tourism is an iconic destination brand and our aim is to attract a wide range of visitors, both domestic and international.

"We want to challenge current perceptions about the Cotswolds while retaining the many visitors who enjoy the



countryside. This new guide encompasses everything that is good about the region as well as providing an excellent marketing opportunity for the businesses that are included in it."

The Cotswolds Visitors Guide 2017 will be launched in December 2016. Businesses and destinations wishing

to be included can use interactive booking forms on www.cotswolds.com/guide Alternatively, they can contact Cotswolds Tourism on 01285 623000 or email cotswoldstourism@cotswold.gov.uk.

The final deadline to advertise is Wednesday 31 August 2016.

Don't forget!!!

Please feel free to subscribe to the Cotswold District Council Business Matters Twitter account [@CDCBizmatters](https://twitter.com/CDCBizmatters) which features updates about relevant government initiatives, events, conferences, and training opportunities. We actively encourage local firms to use it as a platform for promoting their business and the number of followers is growing daily.



Multi-million pound Cyber Centre to respond to skills needs in county

The Board of GFirst LEP, Gloucestershire's Local Enterprise Partnership, has just approved £3 million of funding from the Gloucestershire Growth Deal to be spent on a new Cyber Security Training and Conference Centre, to build Gloucestershire's skills base in this fast-growing sector.

The Cyber Security Training and Conference Centre is a joint initiative between the University of Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, and will create new Cyber Security facilities in Cheltenham and Berkeley Green.

The new business facing facilities based at Gloucestershire Science and Technology Park will be used to deliver Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) skills development, and will support business development and training in Gloucestershire. It will be connected into existing activity in the region and be part of making Gloucestershire a regional force in cyber security training, employment and expertise.

The Cheltenham site will become the main regional hub for higher education courses and research in computing and cyber security at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level, enabling the University of Gloucestershire to carry out impactful research to inform the curriculum and to support business needs.

Professor Kamal Bechkoum, Project Lead and Head of the School of Computing and Technology at the University, says: "The Cyber Centre and the University will have facilities to get involved in 'real world' problem solving and simulations using 'open' and digitally sealed 'dirty' labs for resilience training and scenario testing with both sites connected via a secure link for collaboration and resource sharing."



Martin Bruton, Business Sector Manager at GFirst LEP adds: "This is a very exciting project that will greatly enhance the STEM skills provision so desperately needed by employers. It's a great addition to the Gloucestershire Growth Deal funding - which has also funded STEM facilities at Gloucestershire, Hartpury and Cirencester Colleges, and the Gloucestershire Renewable Energy, Engineering and Nuclear (GREEN) skills centre at Berkeley to support STEM in the county."

The centre on the Berkeley Green site will also benefit from the inclusion of a conference centre, which will be used for specialist high security cyber events as well as events for businesses, schools and the general public.

The facility will offer significant employment routes into the rapidly growing area of cyber security, in response to evidence of high demand for training and specialist facilities from employers.

For more information please visit www.gfirstlep.com or contact the Marketing Team on 01242 715491 or marketing@gfirstlep.com.

Forthcoming Public meetings at Cotswold District Council

Full Council, Council Chamber, Cirencester
27 Sept 2016

Cabinet, Council Chamber, Cirencester
15 Sept, 20 Oct, 17 Nov 2016

Planning and Licensing Committee, Council Chamber,
Cirencester

10 Aug, 14 Sept, 12 Oct, 09 Nov 2016

Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Council Chamber,
Cirencester
6 Sept 2016

Please check www.cotswold.gov.uk for start times
and agendas details/minutes

Consultation underway on more efficient infrastructure charges

Cotswold District Council is consulting the public and businesses about plans to introduce a fairer, faster and more transparent way of obtaining funds for general infrastructural improvements when developments are granted planning permission. A growing number of local authorities – including several in Gloucestershire – are adopting the power to make Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charges to pay for improvements such as contributions towards school places, creation of open space, library provision, and transport works. At the moment these are funded in the Cotswolds by developers entering into legal agreements (also known as Section 106 agreements) with the Council to build or pay for new infrastructure, which only attract funding from about 6% of all planning permissions. Additionally, Section 106 agreements can sometimes lead to significant delays – and omissions – while parties enter into lengthy negotiations about planning obligations.

CIL charges would be based on a 'tariff-style' framework



relative to the size and type of development proposed, enabling the Council to secure an appropriate level of general infrastructure provision to support new development. Levy rates are set following a statutory process and will provide the developers with much more certainty at the outset regarding how much money they will be expected to contribute to infrastructural improvements.

Some of the receipts from a CIL would be passed directly back to the communities where development takes

place. The 'meaningful proportion' as it is known, is 15% of CIL receipts capped at £100 per existing council tax paying dwelling, or 25% of CIL receipts, uncapped, where a community has a Neighbourhood Plan or Neighbourhood Development Order in place. The regulations for CIL exclude contributions for Affordable Housing which instead will continue to be covered by S106 obligations.

Officers at the Council have gathered evidence to determine the charges which might be applied and have now produced a Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule for public consultation which ends on Monday 8 August 2016 (midnight).

The public are being asked to review the draft and the supporting evidence which can be found at <http://consult.cotswold.gov.uk>. Hard copies of the

Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule will also be available for viewing at the Council's offices in Trinity Road, Cirencester and Moreton Area Centre, as well as public libraries across the district. Comments can be made via the CDC website <http://consult.cotswold.gov.uk> or by obtaining forms from the Council offices or online at www.cotswold.gov.uk/go/ForwardPlanning and sending them to CIL PDCS Consultation, Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1PX.

Once these views have been collated, the Council intends to formally publish a draft charging schedule in the autumn, inviting the public to make further representations. After this is completed and any amendments have been made, the Council's CIL proposal will be examined by an Inspector early next year.



Leader welcomes return of Icelandic bank deposit

The Leader of Cotswold District Council, Cllr Lynden Stowe, recently reported that a £2m deposit in Icelandic bank Glitnir has been fully recovered.

Cllr Stowe is pleased that the matter has been finally resolved:

“In line with central government advice, CDC and many other local authorities invested in the Icelandic banking sector during the early 2000s. This collapsed in 2008 when the global financial crisis took hold and, since then, we have followed a legal process to recover the full balance of our investment.

“We received a repayment of £1.7 million in March 2012 but, due to currency controls within Iceland, about £400,000 remained in Iceland in a Krona interest-bearing escrow account. The Council recently participated in a currency auction in Iceland to convert this outstanding balance of Icelandic Krona into Euros. These funds have now been converted into pounds sterling and returned to the Council. As a result, I am pleased to tell local taxpayers that we have now recovered our full £2 million investment and have also received £155,000, reflecting interest and exchange rate movements”

Council congratulates housing award winners

An award-winning new affordable housing development for local residents in Northleach has been praised by members of the Cotswold District Council Planning and Licensing Committee.

Meeting on 13 July, the Councillors congratulated everyone involved in the Sly's Close project which recently won the 'Best Small New Housing Development and Best Social and Affordable New Housing Development' category at the Western Region Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Building Excellence Awards which covers Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, North Somerset, Wiltshire and Worcestershire.

Representatives of the applicant (J.W. Sly And Sons (Northleach) Charitable Trust), architect (Mungo Park

Architects), contractor (Wildmoor Construction - Paul Goodman)) and CDC officials involved were all thanked for their efforts by Cllr Sue Jepson, the Council's Cabinet Member for Planning Services at the time when the development was carried out.

Cllr Jepson was clearly impressed:

“Well done to everyone involved in creating this exceptionally well designed affordable housing development on a brownfield site, which was made possible through funding from a local charitable trust established by Northleach residents Enid and Joyce Sly. They have provided local residents with extremely good quality modern homes to the highest environmental and building standards within a conservation area.



L to R: Andy Jones (CDC Building Control Manager), Cllr Sue Coakley (CDC Cabinet Member for Environment, including Building Control), Cllr Chris Hancock (Sly Trustee and CDC Cabinet Member for Enterprise & Partnerships), Cllr Sue Jepson (CDC Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities), Enid Sly, Paul Goodman (builder) and Peter Dawson (Sly Trustee).

Residents and traders encouraged to reduce food waste

Cotswold District Council is urging residents and traders to reduce the amount of waste generated by food. Families throw away about seven million tonnes of edible food each year in the UK alone, and this is worth about £470 per household. Aside from the cost issues, this unnecessary waste has a huge impact on the environment. Decomposing food and vegetable matter in landfill sites produces about 25% of all the world's methane – a powerful and dangerous greenhouse gas. Additionally, with the global population set to rise to over 9.5 billion by 2050 there are huge pressures on the world's food production capacity and more need than ever to use foodstuffs wisely.

Cotswold District Council's website contains a wealth of information about recycling food waste, including the use of food caddies and composting guidance. Additionally Recycle for Gloucestershire's website has a special Love Food Hate Waste section which provides tips about storing food to make it last longer and provides many recipes to use up leftovers."

Our waste service provider, Ubico Ltd, will empty your Council-supplied food waste container every week if you present it at the kerbside on your collection day. If you do not have a caddy, please contact 01285 623123 and we will provide you with one as soon as possible. For details about what to place in your food caddy, or to check your food waste collection day, see our website.



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL



Calendar

CIRENCESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Meetings take place on second Wednesday of each month from 6 pm to 8 pm. If you would like to receive a regular reminder, send your details to secretary@ccoc.org.uk **NOTE** – The next edition of Business Matters will include a round-up of the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce Business Awards which take place on 13 May. Anyone who requires details prior to the event should contact info@cirencesterchamber.org.uk

FAIRFORD AND LECHLADE BUSINESS CLUB

Evening meetings are held at 7.30pm and breakfast meetings quarterly (March, June, September and December) at 8am on the fourth Thursday of the month. See www.flbc.org.uk for details.

TETBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Committee meetings take place on Thursday evenings from 6.30 pm to 9 pm. Contact 01666 502436 for details or go to www.tetburychamber.org.uk



Training events

For details of training and business support services provided by Gloucestershire Enterprise Ltd, see www.glosenterprise.co.uk/

