October sees the launch of kerbside collection of mixed rigid plastics in the district.

The Cotswold district has been one of the top performers in the recycling stakes for a number of years. However, there is always room for improvement, and you will soon see the introduction of a kerbside mixed rigid plastic recycling service.

The collections will start in the north of the district on the week beginning Monday 8 October and in the south on the week beginning Monday 29 October.

On pages 3, 4 and 5 you will find important information about the launch of the new service, including what mixed rigid plastics are, what will be suitable for recycling, and the special storage sacks which will be distributed to all homes.

This is all being made possible because we have recently switched to the new waste and environmental services company, Ubico Ltd, which should reduce our annual costs by about £570,000.

This considerable saving will help to freeze the cost of your council tax until at least 2015, even though our funding from central government is decreasing.

How much development should we allow?

At Cotswold District Council we are developing a planning vision to take us through to 2031 – it is known officially as the Core Strategy but we often refer to it as the Local Plan.

This will set out projected future levels of development across the whole district, taking account of the natural environment and the needs and desires of communities. Our aim is to create an environment which promotes growth, improved services and well considered housing developments.

While we are aware of national demand to create growth and build housing we need to balance this with the need to preserve the unique beauty and heritage of the Cotswolds. It is important for you to make your views known to us so that you can help us make the right decisions.

We have already received some feedback when we consulted the public on an earlier draft last year, and it has been invaluable in guiding us towards the latest version of the Local Plan: Core Strategy.

More consultations are planned for later this year – full details are available on pages 6 and 7.
View from the top

Cotswold District Council leader Lynden Stowe reviews progress and sets out CDC’s vision for the future.

Welcome to the new look Cotswold News – we’ve cut down the size and changed the format.

Cotswold News will not appear at regular intervals any more either; we will only supply a copy to every home in the district when we need to tell you about very significant issues.

In this particular instance, there are two things you need to know about – the launch of the kerbside mixed rigid plastic recycling service and the forthcoming public consultation on the Local Plan.

RECYCLING

The advent of fortnightly kerbside mixed rigid plastic recycling is a major step forward, and the council wants to make sure that everyone is clued up about what types of plastic will be acceptable, and how the new service will work in practice when it begins in a few weeks time.

On pages 4 and 5 you will see all the necessary information and a contact number for a helpline if you need any more detail. Recycling mixed rigid plastics should maintain – and perhaps even improve - CDC’s position as one of the top recycling authorities in the country.

EFFICIENCY

We aim to be recognised as the most efficient council in the country. Looking at our plans for 2012-13, I believe we are well on the way. There will be no increase in Council Tax, parking charges or garden waste collections until at least 2015.

We can keep these sort of charges down because we are reducing the cost of servicing against a backdrop of severe cutbacks in central government funding. Our environmental services are now delivered by Ubico Ltd in partnership with Cheltenham Borough Council, and our ‘back office’ functions, such as accounting and personnel, are now done in partnership with three other local authorities. Joint working with West Oxfordshire District Council is going from strength to strength, and we are benefiting from the sharing of resources, experience and expertise across an increasing range of local services.

In these austere times, it is good to know that there is still some County Council money available to invest in our young people. As an example, all our schools have received a £30 annual grant to contribute to youth projects in their wards, and page 8 highlights some of the activities that the money has gone towards, enriching the lives of our younger population.

LOCAL PLAN

The council is due to produce the new Local Plan Core Strategy next year; this is our planning vision for almost the next twenty years and it’s important that you have the opportunity to influence our thinking.

We are keen to hear what you have to say later this year, and I very much hope that you will be inspired to join in the debate and help shape the future of the district.

We have just launched the Cotswolds with staff from the previous waste contractor, SITA UK, transferring across to our company. Because both authorities co-own Ubico, we can make substantial savings on assets such as vehicles and equipment. We estimate that, in the Cotswolds alone, we can reduce annual costs of the service by £50,000.

The time of a quick press conference, from SITA UK to Ubico in the Cotswolds has just occurred.

No increase in Council Tax until at least 2015 thanks to savings made

Finally, please remember that I’m always keen to hear your comments and suggestions – you can contact me at lynden.stowe@cotswold.gov.uk.

Ubico Ltd is a new company which has been established jointly by Cotswold District Council and Cheltenham Borough Council to deliver more efficient and cost-effective waste and environmental services in the Cotswolds and Cheltenham.

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At the time of writing, the changeover from SITA UK to Ubico in the Cotswolds has just occurred.

So far, things have gone very well even though the staff have had to familiarise themselves with a different fleet of vehicles and a new depot.

The introduction of new vehicles means that they can collect all dry recycling presented by households at the same time (replacing the previous ‘two pass system’ which required one vehicle to collect card and paper and one to collect glass and cans) – and, of course, they will also be able to collect mixed rigid plastics.

I know this new collection service will be welcomed and I believe that, working together, we can all help to protect the environment by recycling even more.

Working together, we can all help to protect the environment by recycling even more.

Green is the colour!

Cotswold District Council is currently near the top of the national recycling charts. This speaks volumes about the way residents in the district respond eagerly to green initiatives and take such pride in doing their bit to return scarce global commodities back into the manufacturing chain.

CDC has achieved this high placing without a kerbside mixed rigid plastic recycling service. This suggests to me that there is now scope for the council to aim even higher. I am delighted that the new fleet of vehicles we have procured will now allow us to collect a wide variety of rigid plastic recyclables.

This great news for the district because it should enable residents to cut back even more on the amount of waste ending up in the landfill.

Additionally, the introduction of this new service means that CDC will be at the forefront of good practice.

Nationally, only a third of the local authorities collect mixed rigid plastics from households, despite the fact that recycling one tonne of this material produces environmental savings equivalent to 0.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide. There is also economic benefit – these recycled rigid plastic materials are growing in value and this will help offset the cost of providing the service.

I am confident that the introduction of a fortnightly kerbside mixed rigid plastic recycling service will be a huge success and will sustain – perhaps even surpass – our high ranking in the national recycling stakes. Ideally, we not only want to be seen as one of the most efficient councils in the country but one of the greener as well!
Everything you need to know about plastic recycling

WHAT SORT OF PLASTICS CAN BE RECYCLED?
A large range of rigid materials including plastic bottles, food trays, boxes, yoghurt pots and many more.

SO WHAT Sort OF PLASTICS WON’T BE RECYCLABLE?
Plastic bags, pouches, food wrap and ding film will not be recycled but we will continue to review this option.

WHEN DO PLASTIC COLLECTIONS BEGIN?
You will receive correspondence from the Council confirming the start of your plastic collection dates. The table below shows when your new fortnightly plastic kerbside collection service will begin - please note that the service will begin three weeks earlier for homes in the north of the district compared with homes in the south. Find out whether you are north or south by entering your postcode on the www.cotswold.gov.uk waste page or call 01285 623123.

HOW WILL I BE ABLE TO STORE PLASTICS READY FOR RECYCLING?
Very soon a white sack will be delivered to your home together with a sticker specifying when your fortnightly plastic recycling service begins. You will be able to place mixed rigid plastics in the sack for recycling. The sack is weighted at the bottom to prevent it blowing away and has handles at the top to make it easy to lift and carry.

On the appropriate fortnightly recycling collection day, the white sack should be left at the kerb by 7am at the latest (but no earlier than 6pm) on the previous evening. It will be collected by the kerbside recycling vehicles.

WHO CAN I CONTACT BY PHONE TO DISCUSS ANY WASTE OR RECYCLING ISSUE?
Call the Waste Hotline on 01285 623123 for any queries you have about waste.

The following three key messages are very important:

**WASH ‘N’ SQUASH**
- Do wash and squash your rigid plastics before you recycle them - it is a great help if you can compress the plastics and rinse them with water before they are collected. This means the vehicles can store more recyclables, and less time and energy is wasted in collecting them and in processing them afterwards.

**DO NOT hoard plastic cling film will not be recycled but we will continue to review this option.**
- Catalogues and brochures
- Shredded paper - provided it is inside a paper bag or large paper envelope
- Food and drinks cans - please wash and squash
- EMP & aerosols - do NOT squash
- Glass bottles and jars - please wash

**GREEN KITCHEN CADDY** – ITEMS ACCEPTABLE
- Grass cuttings
- Tree stumps up to 10cm (4in) across
- Twigs and small branches up to 5cm (2in) across
- Rattan and bamboo
- Cat and dog food

**GREEN GARDEN WASTE BIN** (IF SUBSCRIBED TO THE SERVICE) – ACCEPTABLE ITEMS ARE:
- Grass cuttings
- Leaves, bark, and tree prunings
- Twigs and small branches up to 5cm (2in) across
- Tree stumps up to 10cm (4in) across
- Bedding from herbivores pets (e.g. rabbits and guinea pigs)

**FOUR MONTHLY REUSABLE BLUE SACK – USE THIS FOR RECYCLING THE FOLLOWING:**
- Cardboard boxes/packaging - please cut into pieces no larger than 1 metre square
- Cereal boxes and egg boxes
- Food packaging bags
- Greeting cards
- Meat and fish – raw and cooked, including bones
- Dairy products including eggs, egg shells, butter and cheese
- Raw and cooked vegetables and fruit
- Bread, cakes and pastries
- Rice, pasta and beans
- Uncooked food from your plates and dishes
- Used tea bags and coffee grounds
- Cat and dog food

With the introduction of the plastic kerbside recycling please also remember to make full use of the existing kerbside collection services available to all residents.

(FORTNIGHTLY) BLACK KERBSIDE RECYCLING BOXES – CAN BE USED TO RECYCLE ALL OF THESE DIFFERENT ITEMS:
- Newspapers, magazines and junk mail
- Telephone directories and Yellow Pages
- Envelopes - please remove plastic windows where necessary
- Catalogues and brochures
- Letters and general paper
- Shredded paper - provided it is inside a paper bag or large paper envelope
- Food and drinks cans - please wash and squash
- EMP & aerosols - do NOT squash
- Glass bottles and jars - please wash

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- Glass bottles and jars - please wash
Frequently asked questions & answers

WHY DO WE NEED TO BOther WITH A LOCAL PLAN?
Every local authority must develop a forward-looking plan which will help shape communities and, crucially, serve as a blueprint for the future use of land, taking account of local needs.

WHAT IS A FIVE YEAR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY?
All local planning authorities are obliged by national policy to maintain a five-year land supply for housing development. If we do not identify enough land, developers could gain permission to build houses on sites that are not currently identified by us as a suitable location.

SO IS THIS MOSTLY ABOUT WHERE TO BUILD HOUSES?
Housing – including the provision of affordable homes for younger people who cannot afford the high prices of many local properties – is obviously one of our main considerations.

IS THIS A CHARTER TO CONCRETE OVER THE COTSWOLDS?
Definitely not! We are extremely fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of England and we intend to make sure it remains that way, while at the same time aiming to cater for the future needs of the community.

HOW CAN I COMMENT?
Later this year you can view the latest draft Local Plan: Core Strategy at www.cotswold.gov.uk and once you have registered, you can submit your comments electronically. Alternatively, you will be able to email comments to LDP@cotswold.gov.uk or send written comments to Local Plan: Core Strategy Consultation, Forward Planning Team, Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I COMMENT?
Once we have consulted you on the draft Local Plan: Core Strategy later this year, we will make amendments in the light of comments received. We will then submit the documentation, along with associated evidence, for independent examination during 2013.

However, there are many other important issues that the new Local Plan: Core Strategy will cover such as creating jobs for local people, ensuring healthy and safe communities, protecting wildlife and the environment, and adapting to climate change. That is why CDC has spent so much time gathering data which looks in detail at all of these important matters.

WHAT HAVE PLANNERS IDENTIFIED ANY SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT SITES SO FAR?
Although the Council is not yet in a position to propose specific sites for future housing, we have identified one general location in Cirencester which is shown below as a potential strategic site. We envisage this area being a mix of well designed housing, employment, community uses, and community uses, including all necessary infrastructure to make this area a logical and seamless extension of the town.

WHERE DO PLANNERS THINK HOUSES SHOULD BE BUILT?
Our studies show that some places can support more sustainable development than others, especially when considering the types of services and facilities that are needed. Not surprisingly, we believe that Cirencester and other main settlements are best placed to cater for the majority of future growth.

So what happens now?
We need to look at how you think about our plans so far:
• How do you want to see our towns and villages develop?
• How do you want to see the district develop over the next 20 years?
• Are we getting this right?
Let’s get behind the youngsters

Last year Cotswold District Council agreed to allocate funding of about £1,100 to each councillor to help promote youth activities in their wards. Here are some of the outcomes.

1. Rafting at South Cerney.
2. Skateboarding at Moreton (photo courtesy of Gloucestershire Echo).
3. Chipping Campden football.
4. Table Tennis at Lechlade.
5. Snooker at Kempsford.
7. Archery practice for youngsters from Stow.
8. Archery practice for youngsters from Lechlade.
9. Lanterns at Cotswold Water Park (photo courtesy of Wilts & Glos Standard).