Gloucestershire County Council Report Stow Town Council

Cllr Daryl Corps – Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold & The Rissingtons
September 2026

Local Government Reorganisation

Just when Gloucestershire's Local Government Reorganisation appeared to be gathering speed, Whitehall has applied the handbrake.

The Government announced on 7 September that the process has been paused and put under review, meaning the timetable we had previously been working towards can no longer be treated as set in stone.

Until now, the plan had been for shadow elections in May 2027, followed by the new council taking over on 1 April 2028. For the moment, however, those dates have rather more question marks hanging over them than they did a few weeks ago.

Locally, preparations have consequently slowed. Plans for a Gloucestershire-wide joint committee to oversee the transition have been put on hold while councils wait to discover exactly what Ministers intend to do next.

What we do know is that local elections in May 2027 are currently expected to proceed using the existing council arrangements. What we don't yet know is when the Government's review will conclude, whether the timetable will change, or indeed whether Ministers will ask Gloucestershire to alter its proposals.

Road Safety and Speeding

I have raised and spoke on the issue of speeding and speed limits directly at Gloucestershire County Council last week, following concerns from Stow Town Council, Swell Parish Council, Oddington and Adlestrop.

The message I received was, unfortunately, very clear: there is currently little prospect of new, locally requested speed-limit changes outside the County Council's existing programme.

GCC has committed almost £2.8 million to its Safer Roads and Community 20s programme, which is being rolled out in phases over several years. The first areas include places such as Cheltenham, Cirencester, Stroud, Tewkesbury

and parts of the Forest of Dean, while communities in the North Cotswolds are not among the areas currently being taken forward in the early phases.

Cheltenham alone is currently the subject of extensive proposals covering the town and surrounding communities, including a substantial expansion of 20mph limits.

My concern is that this approach risks leaving rural communities behind.

There is a very real difference between asking for wholesale 20mph zones and asking the County Council to look sensibly at an individual village or road where residents have a genuine speeding concern.

I will continue making the case that road safety resources must be fairly distributed across Gloucestershire, and that rural communities such as those in the North Cotswolds should not have to wait years simply because they do not fall within the first phases of a large countywide programme.

Supporting Gloucestershire Farmers

I also followed up at Full Council on the motion I brought earlier this year supporting Gloucestershire farmers and rural businesses.

The motion, agreed unanimously in March, included commitments around supporting local food procurement and reporting back on progress.

I questioned the administration because that promised update had not been delivered within the original timeframe.

The County Council has since indicated that work is continuing through its Strategic Estate Plan and a developing Food and Farming Strategy, but I will continue to press for tangible delivery rather than simply further reports and discussions.

Aldi in Bourton on the Water

Although I'm not your District Clr, I am a member of Cotswold District Council's Planning and Licensing Committee, I was delighted to second the proposal and vote in support of the application.

My reasons were straightforward.

Residents in Bourton, Stow and the surrounding Villages need greater choice and competition, particularly when it comes to the weekly food shop. Access to more affordable groceries matters, especially while household budgets remain under pressure.

The development will also bring new employment opportunities into the area and provide another reason for people to shop nearer home and not endure travelling all the way to Aldi in Moreton.

I also felt it was important to listen to the considerable local support for the proposal.

Supporting our excellent independent shops in Stow and supporting greater consumer choice are not mutually exclusive. A healthy local economy needs both.

Keeping in touch

As your Gloucestershire County Councillor, my principal responsibilities locally include highways, adult social care, children's services, education, fire and rescue and other County Council services.

I am always happy to raise individual problems with GCC on behalf of Stow residents and to work alongside the Town Council on issues affecting the Town.

Cllr Daryl Corps
Gloucestershire County Councillor
Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold & The Rissingtons