

Report for Stow Town Council September 2026 from Ward District Councillor Dilys Neill

1. Local plan. I know that many of you attended the exhibition in Moreton on 15th Tuesday where officers presented the local plan. I know that you are presenting a response to CDC as I have also done. There are concerns about local infrastructure provision with the number of houses proposed in the North Cotswolds. Some housing is proposed to Stow, we would have liked more, especially affordable accommodation, and we would have liked to see provision for an employment site and parking, with an aspiration to improve the experience of the Square. There is still time to comment on the draft local plan.
2. Local Government Reform. As you know, this has been paused, leading to a period of uncertainty. There will now be district council elections in May 2027 as the elections for the proposed unitary authority have been put on hold.
3. Stow Fair. This will take place on 15th October. We have had one SAG meeting and there will be another on 29th September.
4. Full council meeting on Wednesday. There are two main agenda items. Firstly a review of polling stations. This is required by legislation every five years. In this current review, CDC will be considering the viability of smaller polling stations (less than 150 voters) as the cost per elector in these smaller polling stations is often 10 times the cost in the larger polling stations. We will also be looking at government imposed legislation on the scheme of delegation in planning. I will explain in more detail at the meeting, but essentially, for smaller, schedule 1 applications, it removes the ability of elected members to refer applications to planning committee for review where they disagree.
5. Toilets. Officers and cabinet members are willing to discuss the future of both sets of toilets in Stow. I know that the Town Council are investigating the cost of refurbishment before deciding if they would like take on either or both of the toilet blocks