

Report for stow Town Council June 2026 from ward district councillor Dilys Neill

Local Plan Update. There will be an extraordinary meeting of the district council on 12th August to discuss the draft local plan update which then has to go through a consultation process. As you know, I have made representations together with Town Council members to officers and members of the cabinet pointing out the need for more affordable housing in Stow with a request for thought to be given to parking and employment opportunities. I am not able to attend the meeting but I will send a written representation when I have seen the draft documents.

Planning Enforcement. Our planning enforcement team is now up to strength following years understaffing. Their first job is to tackle the backlog of enforcement cases. An updated enforcement plan has been produced for CDC. This has to be reviewed by the overview and scrutiny committee before it is approved and published, which will be in July. I will be able to give you more details at the Town Council meeting in July.

Local Government reorganisation. We have had further briefings on the progress of LGR. The ministry for communities, housing and local government have said that a decision will be made for Gloucestershire before the parliamentary recess on July 17th. We will then know whether Gloucestershire will have one or two unitary authorities. Either way, there will be elections to a shadow authority / authorities in May next year and the transformation will be completed in April 2028 when the county, district and borough councils will be abolished. Of particular interest to then and parish councils will be the formation of neighbourhood forums, groupings of around 20,000 residents who will have some executive powers. It is likely that some functions and assets will be taken on by interested town and parish councils.