

Cllr Daryl Corps
County Councillor Report for
Stow Town Council
July 2026

County Council Matters

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government announced on 16 July that Gloucestershire will move to a single countywide unitary council, replacing the existing County Council and six district, borough and city councils. The intention is for the new authority to take responsibility for local government services across Gloucestershire from 1 April 2028. Town and parish councils will not be abolished as part of the reorganisation. ([Gloucestershire County Council](#))

I have supported the One Gloucestershire proposal from the beginning. I believe keeping the county together offers the best opportunity to join up services, reduce duplication and give Gloucestershire a stronger collective voice.

However, a single council must not mean that power, attention and resources are pulled towards Gloucester, Cheltenham and the larger urban areas. Moreton, the wider North Cotswolds and Gloucestershire's rural communities must be heard just as loudly.

The creation of a larger authority makes strong local representation even more important. I will continue arguing for proper rural representation, accessible local councillors and a meaningful role for town and parish councils as the detailed arrangements are developed.

For the time being, County and District Council services will continue to operate in the normal way while preparations for the new authority take place. ([Gloucestershire County Council](#))

Pedestrians crossing the Fosseway

Yesterday, I joined local resident Neville Karai and Gloucestershire Highways for a site visit to look at the feasibility of providing some form of pedestrian

crossing on the Fosse Way, helping people cross safely into Talbot Square towards the cricket pitch.

Highways have now agreed to carry out a pedestrian volume study to establish how many people currently cross at this location. The findings will help determine what measures may be appropriate and whether a formal crossing can be progressed.

I will continue to follow this closely and update the Town Council once the study has been completed.

Transport and Highways

I wanted to make you aware of upcoming Gloucestershire Highways patching works that will require the temporary closure of the road between Stow Road, Oddington and Chapel Street, Broadwell.

The works are currently scheduled to take place for approximately six working days (excluding weekends) between Wednesday 19 August and Wednesday 26 August 2026, with the road closed between 7.00am and 7.00pm each day.

Gloucestershire Highways have advised that the dates could change at short notice due to weather or operational requirements, and an official diversion route will be signed on site.

I appreciate this closure may cause some inconvenience for residents, businesses and agricultural traffic during the summer period, so I wanted to ensure the parish council had as much notice as possible and could help share the information locally.

Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund

I still have funding available through my Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund to support local voluntary groups, charities and community organisations across the division, provided projects are related to health and wellbeing.

Suspended Police Chief Constable to leave his role.

As a member of Gloucestershire's Police and Crime Panel, I continue to follow the situation concerning Chief Constable Rod Hansen closely. Mr Hansen has been suspended since October 2024 and is due to leave his role when his contract expires at the end of July.

The gross misconduct proceedings will continue after his departure. The hearing began on 16 July but was adjourned for legal reasons, with the panel considering dates from December onwards. Mr Hansen denies the allegation.

The panel's role is to scrutinise and hold the Police and Crime Commissioner to account, while respecting the independence of the misconduct proceedings. Residents are nevertheless entitled to expect transparency, accountability and a fair conclusion without further unnecessary delay.

Fire and Rescue Service

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service is preparing to consult on proposed changes to the way fire cover is provided in parts of the County. I first heard about the proposals last Friday through my role as a member of the County Council's Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Committee.

I want to reassure residents that these proposals do not affect fire cover in the North Cotswolds or our local station at Stow-on-the-Wold. The consultation is focused specifically on the changing needs of Cinderford and possible changes in West Cheltenham, including proposals to strengthen cover in the Forest of Dean.

Stow remains an important part of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service's network, with its dedicated on-call firefighters providing vital protection across our rural area.

Resident Casework

Alongside council meetings and parish visits, I continue to assist residents with a wide range of issues including adult social care cases, highways, school transport, large scale County Council planning matters, local services and general county council enquiries.

In recent weeks this has included raising local highways concerns, site visits with highways (including the broken manhole on the Fosse by Sheep Street that has finally been repaired), following up on roadworks and utility works, supporting residents with access and transport issues, to name a few.

I have also attended County Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Committee meetings, on your behalf, where I continue to take a close interest in local fire cover, on-call firefighter recruitment, wildfire risk and the pressures facing us up here in the North Cotswolds.

At Full Council, I also asked a question about the council's communications and social media strategy, particularly around ensuring taxpayer-funded channels are used properly and focus on the issues that matter to Gloucestershire residents, not pointless social media films promoting the World Cup!!

I was pleased to speak recently at the Royal Agricultural University about supporting Gloucestershire farming and the rural economy. Farming is central to the North Cotswolds, and I continue to champion local food, rural businesses, farming families and proper support for rural mental health.

Most recently, I also attended our MP's Flood Resilience meeting, which was a useful opportunity to discuss flooding concerns, especially regarding nearby Bleddington, local preparedness and the importance of ensuring rural communities are properly heard when these issues are considered.

As ever, please do continue to contact me if there is a county council matter I may be able to help with.