

District Councillor Reports



COTSWOLD

District Council

Nikki Ind – Independent District Councillor
Tetbury East and Rural Ward

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This year I have been delighted to work collaboratively with my colleagues Cllr Ian Watson & Cllr Laura Hall-Wilson, reviewing and discussing concerns in our wards and working together to support residents and improve facilities.

In Tetbury and throughout the ward, whilst the day-to-day casework continues, over the year I have worked on:

Community Infrastructure Projects

- New GP Surgery – I have continued to engage with all partners regarding this vital infrastructure
- CIL - Strategic Infrastructure funding – working to ensure pavements and street lighting are installed and improved on the approach to the new GP Surgery on Cirencester Road
- Bus routes – I have raised with the County Council the lack of bus routes via the new GP Surgery
- Dolphins Recreation Centre – New Hall – I continue to work towards the opening of this much needed additional and vital community infrastructure for our residents.

Planning

Planning will become more important as the new Government imposed targets mean that the District Council cannot meet its housing land supply. Tetbury is already seeing increased housing development proposals, and I was pleased to sign a cross-party letter to the Secretary of State asking for a reconsideration of the new figures – this has been refused.

Local Plan Consultation and review continue, this is even more important given the lack of housing land supply and having policies that allow us to shape our district.

- Replanting of trees which were conditioned after tree removal
- Long Newnton - supported the Parish Council on a Licensing Application for a Music Festival.

Highways

- Speed limits on approaches to the town
- Safety of road junctions
- Road signage replacement delays
- Road surface on Gumstool Hill and around town
- Adoption of roads in newly built estates
- Dead Ash tree removal
- Protection and mapping of the historic Tank Traps in the pavements within Tetbury Town Centre
- Highways run off and drainage issues at the Millennium Green – working in partnership with the Feoffees and Tetbury Town Council
- Shipton Moyne – following flooding events, supported the Parish Council with County Council Highways.

New Housing Developments

- Visited the Limes housing development by Newland Homes on London Road with our MP Dr Roz Savage
- Visited the Stonewood housing development at Worwell Rise on Cirencester Road.

Social Rented Housing

- Bromford Housing – via the District Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee, I raised my concerns regarding the situation of families being placed in housing with no flooring (except kitchen & bathroom), the removal of decent flooring at the end of tenancies and ageing properties – damp issues and plans for retrofitting properties in the district.

Community Events

- Member of the team of volunteers selling poppies in Tetbury supporting the Royal British Legion and I was proud to attend the Remembrance Day Civic Service in Tetbury, where I laid the District Council wreath
- VE Day 80 celebrations
- Christmas in Tetbury.

Town Centre Economy and Business Support

- District Council backed Heartflood project to support town centres
- Supported District Council letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding Inheritance Tax rules and the impact on local farmers.

Environmental Health

- Tetbury Industrial Estate Fires.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- Attended regular meetings and briefings, these started last June with a District Council organised Town and Parish Council meeting – where we heard from external speakers who have experienced LGR and this allowed us to all start to think about the changes and what they will mean for us all. There is a further Town and Parish Council event in May.

Committees at District Council

- Performance & Appointments committee
- Unsung Heroes, including the new Unsung Young Heroes Awards Panel
- March 26 – Appointed to the Planning & Licensing Committee

If you have any queries or issues, you would like me to raise on your behalf or if you want to know more about the work I am doing, please let me know and I look forward to another year working with and for you.

Best wishes
Councillor Nikki Ind

Annual Report

Councillor Ian Watson (Liberal Democrat)

Cotswold District Council

April 2025 – April 2026

Introduction

I am pleased to present my annual report to residents, summarising the work and key achievements of Cotswold District Council (CDC) between April 2025 and April 2026, alongside my role as a district councillor.

Over the past year, the council has continued to focus on protecting essential services, supporting our communities, and planning responsibly for the future of the Cotswolds, while managing ongoing financial, environmental, and housing pressures affecting councils nationwide.

Supporting Communities and Residents

CDC has worked throughout the year to support residents across the district, with particular attention to those facing financial or social pressures. Key activity included:

- Continued cost-of-living support, working with partners to ensure residents could access advice, benefits support, and local assistance.
- Ongoing support for community and voluntary groups, recognising their vital role in tackling isolation, promoting wellbeing, and strengthening local resilience.
- Close working relationships with town and parish councils, ensuring local issues are raised and considered at district level.

Housing and Planning

Housing remains one of the district's most significant challenges.

During 2025–26, CDC focused on:

- Progressing the delivery of new homes, including affordable housing, while ensuring development is supported by appropriate infrastructure.
- Ongoing work to improve housing standards, particularly in the private rented sector.
- Maintaining a fair and transparent planning process, balancing development needs with protection of the Cotswolds' special landscape, character, and heritage.
- Continued engagement with residents and local councils on planning matters.

Environment, Climate, and Waste Services

Environmental protection continues to be a major priority for the council. Over the past year, CDC has:

- Continued action on climate and ecological commitments, including reducing emissions from council operations.
- Supported initiatives that protect biodiversity, green spaces, and the natural environment.
- Maintained a reliable waste and recycling service, while encouraging waste reduction and higher recycling rates.

Local Economy, Towns, and Rural Areas

CDC has worked to support a strong and resilient local economy, particularly for small businesses and rural communities. This included:

- Supporting local businesses and tourism, helping sustain employment and economic activity.
- Investment and partnership work to improve town centres and high streets.
- Collaboration with partners to support skills, enterprise, and local growth.

Council Finances and Governance

As with many councils, CDC continues to face financial challenges. During 2025–26 the council:

- Took a careful and responsible approach to budgeting, prioritising essential services.
- Continued to uphold high standards of governance, openness, and accountability.
- Invested in service improvement and efficiency to ensure value for money for residents.

My Work as Your District Councillor

During the past year, I have:

- Represented residents' views at council meetings, committees, and member briefings.
- Assisted with constituency casework, including planning, housing, environmental, and local service matters.

Looking Ahead

Looking forward to the coming year, priorities include:

- Continuing to push for genuinely affordable housing.
- Ongoing environmental and climate action.
- Supporting local communities and services.
- Ensuring the council remains financially stable and focused on residents' needs.

Contact

If you have an issue you would like to raise, or ideas you wish to share, please feel free to get in touch. I am always happy to hear from residents and to help where I can.

Councillor Ian Watson
(Liberal Democrat)

Annual Report 2025–2026

Cllr Laura Hall-Wilson

Cotswold District Councillor for Tetbury with Upton

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It has been a privilege to serve as District Councillor for Tetbury with Upton over the past year.

Following my election in May 2025, I committed to being an active, accessible, and effective representative for all residents. This report reflects on the work undertaken, the challenges faced, and the progress made across the ward and within Cotswold District Council.

From the outset, I have focused on building strong relationships with residents, community groups, businesses, and fellow councillors, while ensuring that Tetbury's voice is clearly heard at district level. This year has been one of evolving planning policy, local government reorganisation, and ongoing pressures on infrastructure and services.

Getting Started and Community Engagement

Immediately after election, I prioritised establishing effective working relationships within Cotswold District Council and across the community. Early meetings with council officers and the executive team provided a strong foundation for understanding how services are delivered and how best to advocate for residents.

Community engagement has been central to my work. I have attended numerous local events, including the VE80 commemorations, town council meetings, and community gatherings. These occasions have provided valuable opportunities to listen to residents, understand local concerns, and celebrate the strong community spirit that defines Tetbury.

I have also made a concerted effort to connect with key local groups such as Lorry Watch, Speed Watch, youth organisations, and business networks. These conversations have helped shape my priorities and ensure that my work reflects the needs of the community.

Infrastructure, Highways and Transport

Highways and infrastructure issues have consistently formed a significant portion of my casework. Residents have raised concerns about road safety, maintenance, and accessibility, and I have worked closely with Gloucestershire County Council to push for improvements.

Key areas of focus have included:

- Road safety measures, particularly at Bath Bridge and along Bath Road
- Maintenance of pavements and rural lanes
- Addressing potholes and drainage issues
- Supporting improved signage and traffic calming measures

Progress has been made in some areas, such as finishing the double yellow lines near St Saviour's Church, but there remains more to be done. I continue to press for timely action and better coordination between authorities.

Transport connectivity has also been a concern, particularly links between Tetbury and surrounding towns. I have engaged with local campaign groups to explore ways to improve public transport provision.

Healthcare and the New Surgery

Healthcare provision in Tetbury has been a major priority throughout the year. The development of the new GP surgery represents a significant investment in local infrastructure, and I have worked closely with stakeholders to support its delivery.

I have engaged with:

- Local GPs and practice managers
- Developers and contractors
- The Integrated Care Board (ICB)

My focus has been not only on ensuring the successful completion of the building, but also on securing a broader range of services for residents. While the new facility provides an opportunity to expand healthcare provision, commissioning decisions ultimately rest with the ICB, and I continue to advocate strongly for enhanced local services.

Concerns about the potential centralisation of services further away from rural communities have been a recurring issue. I have made clear that healthcare must remain accessible and locally delivered wherever possible.

I have also been campaigning to maintain services at Cirencester Hospital for local people. I have maintained a written dialogue with NHS decision makers and have met with them on a couple of occasions. I am reassured there will be no closure of the hospital but how it fits into the wider offering in Gloucestershire will change underpinned by some significant investment. I look forward to being able to update further on this after the pre-election period ending on 7th May.

Planning and Development

Planning policy has undergone significant change over the past year, driven by revised national housing targets. This has increased pressure on the district to deliver new housing, raising concerns about speculative development.

My approach to planning has been clear: development can be positive when it is in the right location, supported by appropriate infrastructure, and aligned with community needs.

Key activities have included:

- Monitoring planning applications across the ward
- Challenging inappropriate proposals
- Advocating for infrastructure-led development
- Supporting community engagement in the Local Plan process

I organised a Local Plan update meeting in Tetbury and requested the leader of Cotswold District Council came to update residents – we may not be planning for as many houses as some other places, but as one of the largest settlements in the Cotswold District people had question about the impact of new housing targets.

I have also worked to ensure residents are informed and able to participate in consultations, particularly regarding the Local Plan update. The scale of housing targets remains a concern, especially given the environmental constraints of the Cotswolds.

Economic Development and Local Businesses

Supporting the local economy has been another important area of work. Tetbury's High Street is a vital asset, and I have engaged with businesses to understand the challenges they face.

Through initiatives such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Town Centres Initiative, there are opportunities to support economic growth. I have encouraged businesses to participate in surveys and consultations to ensure that funding is used effectively.

Parking has emerged as a key issue affecting both residents and businesses. I have worked to gather evidence, engage with decision-makers, and push for practical solutions to improve access and flow within the town.

I look forward to meeting officers from CDC and the cabinet member responsible for the Town Centre Initiative in Tetbury in May.

Community Projects and Partnerships

Tetbury benefits from a wide range of community-led initiatives, and I have been pleased to support many of these over the past year.

Notable projects include:

- The Dolphins Hall development
- The Goods Shed arts and community space
- Youth services provided by local charities
- Volunteer-led initiatives across the town

While progress on some projects has been encouraging, others have faced challenges, particularly around communication and funding. I have worked to facilitate dialogue between stakeholders and encourage greater transparency and collaboration.

To support this, I have proposed the creation of a “Town Partnership Board” to bring together key organisations and improve coordination on major projects.

I was delighted to support the Goods Shed in their application to the Rural Enterprise Prosperity Fund for a grant to install solar panels on the roof and to then see the solar panels installed!

Local Government Reorganisation

One of the most significant developments this year has been the ongoing process of Local Government Reorganisation. Proposals to move towards a unitary authority model have the potential to reshape how services are delivered across Gloucestershire.

I have consistently supported the principle of a single unitary authority, based on:

- Improved efficiency and cost-effectiveness
- Simplified governance structures
- Better service delivery

At the same time, I have emphasised the importance of strengthening the role of town and parish councils within any new system. Local representation and accountability must remain at the heart of decision-making.

The process is ongoing, and I continue to engage with discussions to ensure Tetbury's interests are protected.

Environmental Issues and Enforcement

Environmental concerns have also featured prominently in my work. A particularly serious issue arose with fires on Tetbury Industrial Estate, which caused significant distress to residents due to smoke pollution.

I worked closely with environmental health officers, emergency services, and other agencies to ensure enforcement action was taken. While legal powers at district level are limited, I have continued to push for stronger action and monitoring to prevent recurrence.

More broadly, I have supported initiatives to improve environmental sustainability, including promoting retrofit measures and energy efficiency.

Council Work and Representation

At district level, I have actively participated in Full Council meetings, Overview and Scrutiny committees, and other forums. I have submitted member questions on issues such as:

- Waste collection communication
- Leisure centre standards
- Town centre challenges
- Environmental enforcement

I have also taken positions on key decisions, including voting against increases in councillor allowances, reflecting my view that public spending must be carefully justified.

My aim has been to represent residents' interests consistently and constructively, while holding service providers and decision-makers to account.

Community Life and Personal Commitment

Beyond formal council work, I have remained actively involved in community life. Attending events, supporting local initiatives, and maintaining regular communication with residents have been central to my approach.

This year has also included personal milestones, including the birth of my second son. Balancing family life with council responsibilities has reinforced my understanding of the challenges faced by many residents, particularly in accessing services and managing daily life in a rural community.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the next year, several key priorities will continue to shape my work:

- Ensuring the successful opening and full utilisation of the new GP surgery
- Securing improvements in highways and infrastructure
- Influencing the Local Plan to reflect community needs
- Supporting local businesses and economic resilience
- Navigating Local Government Reorganisation
- Strengthening community partnerships

There are challenges ahead, but also significant opportunities to improve services and enhance the quality of life for residents

It has been a busy and rewarding first year as District Councillor.

I remain committed to being approachable, responsive, and proactive in representing all residents of Tetbury with Upton.

I would like to thank everyone who has engaged with me over the past year—whether through meetings, emails, or conversations in the community. Your input is invaluable in shaping my work and ensuring that local voices are heard.

I look forward to continuing to serve the community in the year ahead.