

County Councillors' report for Evenlode Parish Council September 1st 2025.

I post helpful information, including road closures for infrastructure repair etc., on Nextdoor and local Facebook groups. Please could you mention this in your Parish News and Village Website. *Underlined text is linked.*

Cllr Daryl Corps, Moreton Stow and the Rissingtons County Councillor.

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Update on Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire

Many of you will know that Gloucestershire is currently exploring options for reorganising how local services are delivered. The thinking behind it is to make things more efficient and responsive by potentially moving away from the current two-tier system of county and district councils.

So far, over 2,000 people have already completed an online survey, sharing their thoughts on what's working — and what needs to change. This feedback will help shape proposals that could see the creation of either one or two new unitary councils to replace the current setup.

There are three broad options under consideration:

One council covering the whole county.

Two councils: one for the east (Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, Cotswold), one for the west (Gloucester, Forest of Dean, Stroud).

Two councils, with one focused on an expanded 'Greater Gloucester' and the other covering the rest of the county, charmingly known as the 'Donut'.

At this stage, the public are not being asked to choose between those options — that will come later through a formal government consultation. But your input will be vital in shaping how services could work in the future.

For further details, visit: <https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk>

I will also be requesting that County Councillors are given a formal vote on the council's preferred option — to ensure democratic accountability and local representation throughout this important process.

Adult Social Care Update.

Gloucestershire County Council has agreed to bring key adult social care services back under direct council management to improve quality and efficiency. This includes mental health social work, occupational therapy, and supported accommodation, with changes taking effect over the next year.

With an ageing population in and around Moreton, this shift is especially important locally. Community reablement will also be restructured, working both through the council and local care providers.

These changes, driven by a wider improvement plan and Care Quality Commission recommendations, are focused on delivering better care to more people, not cutting costs. The transition will prioritise continuity of service and support for staff.

I have been helping two local residents recently access respite care and I see an urgent need for this service to be improved, and access especially here in the North Cotswolds made easier.

Fire & Rescue Service

Following the recent meeting of the Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Committee that I sit on, I met with Chief Fire Officer Mark Preece to discuss several key issues affecting fire and rescue provision in our area.

We spoke about the proposed changes to firefighter shift patterns, which, although do not directly affect the nearby fire stations in Stow and Moreton, will impact neighbouring stations such as Cirencester. These changes could still have wider implications for rural fire cover and operational resilience across the North Cotswolds.

I also raised the growing risk of wildfires in Gloucestershire and stressed the need for long-term planning and investment to ensure our communities are prepared for the increasing challenges posed by climate change.

I remain committed to supporting our local crews in nearby Stow and Moreton and will continue working to ensure our fire services are equipped to keep our towns safe and resilient.

Highways

I've spoken to and met with Rhodri Grey to discuss several local issues in the area and I have set up a monthly meeting with him. If you want me to raise any specific issues with him in my monthly meeting please let me know.

Moreton will have roadworks on The London Road by Evenlode Road 2-4th Sept, and by the Manor House Hotel 1st-3rd Sept. Highways have reassured me that no road works (apart from any unseen emergency's) will be allowed or take place during the Moreton Show weekend of Saturday 6th Sept. There are no other major or minor works planned for September in the general area.

20MPH Consultation

In June all Parish Councils should have been sent a letter regarding a County wide consultation about 20MPH in villages. This was just a simple 'Expression of interest' exercise. Council officers have said they expect a Tsunami of interest in this consultation, which could take years to be fully actioned.

If there are any speeding, highways matters Evenlode wishes to discuss and raise with me please do let me know. I'm currently helping Adlestrop Parish Council who's village is more concerned about reducing the 60 speed limit down to a 30mph in the short term.

Catesby, Evenlode Road

This has obviously come to my attention and there is an awful lot of local interest. I have to be quite careful what I say on this matter due to my membership of the Cotswold District Council Planning Committee, but I can as a County Councillor speak to Highways as soon as possible regarding this. I did join a local group last week at the location on that narrow stretch of Evenlode Road, to speak with them and to hear their thoughts, and you can imagine what those are.

Your local elected County Council representative:

I also wanted to let Cllrs know, I'm now a panel member for the following committees at GCC.

The Gloucestershire Police and Crime Scrutiny Panel
The Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Committee
The Gloucestershire County Planning Committee.

I have attended two Full GCC Council meetings since May, one Police and Crime Panel meeting, two Fire and Rescue meetings, One Planning Committee meeting and one Planning site visit. I have had one meeting with the Fire Chief Mark Preece, one with our Police and Crime Commissioner Chris Nelson and his deputy Nick Evans. Four meetings with our Highways area Manager and the head of Parking at the County Council and attended two meetings with our MP Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown regarding Flooding and Pollution in the North Cotswolds.

The next Full Council meeting will take place at 10am on 10th September.

No agenda has been circulated yet, although I have submitted a question regarding the unfair policy on Free School Bus passes on behalf of a local resident: If parents are separated and live in separate homes, the children are only allowed a bus pass pass to and from School to one nominated parents house, these seems unfair and outdated and I have asked that this is changed to allow children to travel to two registered homes. If there is anything you would like me to raise at Full Council meetings please let me know.