



To Members of the Town Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a Town Council Meeting to be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.00pm at the Town Hall, 1 Queens Road, Stonehouse

**Council Members:**

Councillors: John Callinan, Keren Capeling (Vice Chair), Keith Creighton, Debbie Curtis, Marcus Dixon, David Drew, Stephen Hunter, Carol Kambites, Simon MacGregor, John Parker (Chair), Val Randell, Keith Terry, Carol Trim and Theresa Watt

*All residents of the Parish are welcome to attend the meeting. Up to 15 minutes will be set aside at the beginning of the meeting for members of the public to raise questions.*

Carlos Novoth  
Town Clerk  
12<sup>th</sup> May 2026

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*Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded.*

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**A G E N D A**

- TC3597 To appoint the Chair of Council/Town Mayor and receive their Declaration of Acceptance of Office
- TC3598 To appoint the Vice Chair of Council/Deputy Town Mayor and receive their Declaration of Acceptance of Office
- TC3599 To receive apologies
- TC3600 To receive declarations of interest
- TC3601 To approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- TC3602 To note matters arising
- TC3603 To receive questions from members of the public
- TC3604 To receive an update on the Annual Town Meeting held 14th May 2026
- TC3605 To review and adopt Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- TC3606 To approve the appointment of Councillors to Committees, Working Groups and representatives to external Organisations

- TC3607 To review and approve the Terms of Reference for Town Council, Business and Environment Committees and HR Subcommittee
- TC3608 To receive and note confirmation that Stonehouse Town Council retains the General Power of Competence
- TC3609 To approve account signatories for the following bank and building society accounts:
- Lloyds Bank (Council's Operating Account)
  - CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities)
  - Charity Bank
  - Nationwide Building Society
  - Melton Building Society
  - Cambridge Building Society
- TC3610 To receive reports from Chair of Town Council and town councillors
- TC3611 To receive and request reports from County and District Councillors
- TC3612 To receive RFO's budget report and bank reconciliation for April '26
- TC3613 To approve the latest payment lists:
- BACS payments
  - Debit Card payments (Retrospective approval)
- And to Note the Standing order and Direct debit payments made since the previous full town council meeting
- TC3614 To note the latest Council Reserves
- TC3615 To receive the draft Minutes of Business Committee meeting 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and approve the following recommendations:
- To approve the renewal of the council's Public and Employee insurance cover for 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2027 at a cost of £9,533.78
- TC3616 To receive the Minutes of Environment Committee meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and approve the following recommendations:
- To approve completion of Phase 1 allotment works at Stagholt at a total cost of £23,976.90 plus vat to include the:
    - Removal of existing fence and installation of new fencing
    - Creation of new pathway through existing hedgerow and additional allotment plots including accessible plots for disabled users
    - Planting of a new hedgerow
    - Installation of a new soakaway
- TC3617 Date of next meeting - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Notes on Agenda items, Full Town Council Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May '26**

<b>TC3601 - Minutes</b>	See attached draft minutes
<b>TC3602 – Matters arising</b>	Officers have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renewed the council's van insurance</li> <li>Completed the signing and Sealing of the revised Stagholt covenant</li> </ul>
<b>TC3604 – Annual Town Meeting</b>	A verbal update to be provided at FTC – the Annual Town Meeting will be taking place on Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>TC3605 – S/Os and F/Rs</b>	See <a href="#">link</a> to Standing Orders and <a href="#">link</a> to Financial Regulations
<b>TC3606 - Appointments</b>	See attached list of current appointments to Committees, Working Groups and Representatives to External Organisations along with requested changes
<b>TC3607 – T of Rs for Committees and HR</b>	See attached current Terms of Reference for both Business and Environment Committees and HR Sub Committee as two separate documents
<b>TC3608 - GPC</b>	Stonehouse Town Council currently meets the eligibility criteria for retaining its General Power of Competence (GPC) under the <i>Localism Act 2011</i> . An eligible town/parish council must: (1) have a qualified clerk (e.g. CiLCA or other recognised qualification); (2) have at least two-thirds of councillors elected (i.e. not co-opted) at the point the power is adopted; and (3) pass a formal resolution at a meeting (normally the Annual Meeting in a year of ordinary elections) confirming those conditions are met.
<b>TC3609 – Bank accounts</b>	The council currently has six Bank and Building Society accounts. Signatories to each of the accounts include Cllrs John Parker, Keren Capeling, Debbie Curtis, Carol Kambites and Theresa Watt
<b>TC3611 – GCC and SDC updates</b>	See attached written reports
<b>TC3612 – Budget &amp; Reconciliation</b>	See attached budget to date and Bank Reconciliations for April '26
<b>TC3613 – Payment list</b>	See attached payment lists for BACS payments and Debit Card payments for approval. Please also see attached report for Direct Debit and Standing Order payments to note
<b>TC3614 - Reserves</b>	See attached current council General and Earmarked Reserves
<b>TC3615 – Business Committee</b>	See attached draft minutes including a <a href="#">link</a> to the committee's support papers Please note that if this link does not work, please go to the council's website and go to the following: 'Meetings and Agendas' and click on 'Supporting papers' alongside May's Business Committee meeting
<b>TC3616 – Environment Committee</b>	See attached draft minutes including a <a href="#">link</a> to the committee's support papers Please note that if this link does not work, please go to the council's website and go to the following: 'Meetings and Agendas' and click on 'Supporting papers' alongside May's Environment Committee meeting



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council  
held Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at the Town Hall**

**Present:**

**Councillors: John Callinan, Keren Capeling (Vice Chair of Council), Keith Creighton, Debbie Curtis, Marcus Dixon, David Drew, Stephen Hunter, Carol Kambites, Simon MacGregor, John Parker (Chair of Council), Val Randell, Keith Terry and Carol Trim**

In Attendance: Carlos Novoth - Town Clerk, two members of the public and County Councillor Dean Botterill.

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*Attendees were reminded that the Proceedings of the meeting could be filmed photographed or recorded.*

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With the Chair of council having reminded the attending public that the meeting could be filmed, photographed or recorded, County Councillor Dean Botterill stated that he wished to film the meeting.

**Public Questions**

Members of the public were asked if they wished to speak.

Councillor Dean Botterill stated his wish to speak and further stated that he believed his comments at the last town council meeting were not detailed entirely within the minutes produced by the Clerk and as such did not adequately reflect his comments in relation to both the 20 mph speed limits issue or the town council's recent purchase of the Thermal Imaging Device. The Chair stated that the minutes were not meant to record verbatim what was said, but to provide an accurate summary of key points. Cllr John Callinan raised a point of order and stated that the minutes cannot be re written and that should there be a discrepancy, this would be discussed and dealt through the relevant item on the meeting's agenda in the usual manner. County Councillor Dean Botterill spoke no further.

A member of the public wished to again highlight the issue of pre existing signs at Laburnum playing field requiring dog owners to keep their dogs on leads when entering the field. Cllr John Callinan spoke to this matter and confirmed that there were at one time signs present on the outside of the entrance to the playing field but that they had been removed but not by the town council. He also stated that he had undertaken some research through the county archives and had found a Byelaw relating to the issue dated 1982. There was a question mark over whether the bylaw

had been superseded by the introduction in 2012 of the current Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) which are enforced by Stroud District Council. It was stated that it will be unlikely that the PSPOs would accommodate the restrictions requiring dogs to remain on leads at either this or any playing field but he stated that this would be carefully looked into and he will be reporting back at a future meeting.

The Chair thanked those attending the meeting and with there being no more questions, called an end to Public Questions

**TC3584 To receive apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Theresa Watt

**TC3585 To receive declarations of interest**

A declaration of interest was raised by Cllr John Parker in relation to agenda item TC3591

**TC3586 To approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> March '26**

Council **APPROVED** the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting

**TC3587 To note Matters Arising**

The Clerk provided the meeting with an updated detailed in the supporting papers

**TC3588 To receive reports from Chair of Town Council and town councillors**

The Chair highlighted the successful international arboriculture event held at Stonehouse Court Hotel. The two town councillors attending the event thought that it was extremely interesting and explained that many issues being discussed could easily relate to a number of the town council's projects.

Cllr John Callinan highlighted the upcoming Planning Inspectorate Inquiry between 17 and 19<sup>th</sup> November '26 in relation to the owners of Verney Fields appeal against the recent decision by the Commons Committee at Glos County Council to make each of the 5 prescribed footpaths running through the site into designated footpaths. The county council has now engaged a barrister to represent them. It is possible that the town council may be approached to engage its own barrister. The Inquiry is to be held at the North Warehouse at Glos City Council.

Cllr Marcus Dixon stated that representatives of the National Heritage Lottery Fund had recently visited the Ship Inn site

Cllr Carol Trim attended the new Climate and Nature Partnership meeting run by Stroud District Council

**TC3589 To receive reports from County and District Councillors report**

Written reports were provided by both County Councillor Dean Botterill and Ward Councillor Carol Kambites on behalf of the three Ward Cllrs. Cllr John Callinan thanked County Cllr Bean Botterill for his very

detailed report stating that it was clear that there were many good things happening at the county council. There were no questions for the County councillor or Ward Cllrs

**TC3590 To receive RFO's budget report and bank reconciliations for March '26**

Council **NOTED** the bank reconciliation for March '26 with a closing balance on 31/03/26 of £71,447.91.

Cllrs raised the following questions in relation to the council's updated Budget report:

- Cllr Keith Terry queried expenditure on plants at Pound Farm - it was explained that following a town council decision to purchase plants for the top end of the High street car park to ensure that the area was smartened up
- Cllr Carol Trim queried the budget code 1090 as it was significantly overspent - it was explained that this budget heading was used for a wide variety of purposes, in particular where the nature of the expenditure could not be attributed to a relevant cost code - it was also stated that the overspend was countered by underspends on other budgets
- Cllr John Callinan asked when the interest on investments would be reported - it was explained that this should be at the next meeting

Council **NOTED** the latest Budget report: Total 'Actual Net' Income of £463,108.93; total 'Actual Net' Expenditure of £500,865.80; reserve movements of £59,559.06.

**TC3591 To :**

- **approve the latest BACS payment list and**  
Council **APPROVED** BACS payments of £358 and £18744.06
- **retrospectively approve Debit Card payments and**  
There were no Debit card payments made
- **to note Standing order and Direct Debit payments**  
Council **NOTED** Standing order and Direct Debit payments totalling £9,727.34 and £4,158.24 respectively

**TC3592 To approve annual insurance cover for the council's van**

The Clerk had secured three quotes - quotes were based on the same level of cover as is currently being supplied; these were detailed in supporting papers.

Council **APPROVED** the award of the council 2026/27 van insurance to 'Pukka Insure' at a cost of £731.98

**TC3593 To approve changes to and resolve to sign the revised Stagholt playing field covenant**

Questions were raised in relation to whether the changes to the covenant for Stagholt Field included the whole field and whether Stagholt Lane formed part of the covenant - the Clerk confirmed that

the covenant focussed on the whole field but did not cover Stagholt Lane as the lane belonged to the town council  
Council **RESOLVED** to sign and SEAL the revised covenant.

- TC3594** To receive draft minutes of Business Committee meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> April '26 and approve the following recommendation:  
Council **RECEIVED** the draft minutes
- Council approve Standing Order and Direct Debit payment arrangements for the 2026/27 financial year  
Council **APPROVED** the Standing Order and Direct Debit payment arrangements for the 2026/276 financial year as detailed in supporting papers
- TC3595** To receive draft minutes of Environment Committee meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> April '26  
Council **RECEIVED** the draft Environment Committee minutes
- TC3596** To note the date of the next town council meeting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May '26  
Council **NOTED** the date of the next town council meeting

## Committee/Working Group Memberships October 2025-26

<b>Committees</b>	<b>Current Members</b>	<b>Leave</b>	<b>Join</b>
Business Committee (7 Cllrs)	Keren Capeling John Callinan Carol Trim Carol Kambites Theresa Watt Keith Terry Val Randell Neil Gibbs	NG Leave	John Parker
Environment Committee (7 Cllrs)	Keith Creighton Stephen Hunter Neil Gibbs Debbie Curtis Marcus Dixon John Parker Simon Macgregor Keren Capeling	NG Leave	David Drew
HR Sub Committee (6 Cllrs)	Carol Kambites Keith Creighton Keren Capeling John Callinan Val Randell Neil Gibbs	NG Leave	John Parker
<b>Working Groups</b>			
Policy	Keith Terry Theresa Watt Carol Trim Mike Davis (M of P)	CT Leave MD (MofP) Leave	
<b>Business Networking</b>	<b>Discontinued</b>		
Climate Change	Carol Kambites Simon Macgregor Stephen Hunter Carol Trim		
Communications	Carol Kambites Keith Terry Keith Creighton Mike Davis (M of P)	CK Leave MD Leave (MofP)	Keren Capeling Debbie Curtis Carol Trim
Events	Debbie Curtis Theresa Watt Keith Creighton Keren Capeling Val Randell Simon MacGregor Ruth Creighton (M of P) Caroline MacGregor (M of P)	VR Leave CM (Mof P) Leave	
Recreation	Neil Gibbs (M of P) Theresa Watt Simon Macgregor		Keren Capeling David Drew

Youth	John Callinan Theresa Watt Keren Capeling Simon MacGregor Val Randell Keith Terry	KC Leave	Carol Trim
Transport and Highways	Keith Terry Marcus Dixon Simon MacGregor Keren Capeling John Parker		David Drew
Support Stonehouse	Carol Kambites Valerie Randell Theresa Watt Keren Capeling Keith Creighton Carol Trim		
Canal Rejuvenation (When reinstated)	Debbie Curtis Marcus Dixon Theresa Watt John Parker		
Oldends Lane Development	John Callinan Neil Gibbs (M of P) Gary Powell (M of P) Keith Creighton	GP Leave	Keren Capeling
Public Rights of Way	John Callinan Theresa Watt Carol Kambites	CK Leave	
Stonehouse Bristol Rd Station	Theresa Watt Carol Kambites		
Internal Audit Panel	Simon Macgregor Keith Terry	SM Leave	
Court View	Theresa Watt John Callinan Stephen Hunter John Parker		
Anchor Group (SHIP Inn site)	John Callinan Marcus Dixon Carol Kambites Theresa Watt Debbie Curtis Neil Gibbs Keren Capeling	TW Leave NG Leave	*Group has met for the final time. Is this group being dissolved?
SPICE (SHIP Inn canal-side working group)	Debbie Curtis Marcus Dixon Stephen Hunter	SH Leave	
Community Arboretum and Open Spaces	John Parker Stephen Hunter Theresa Watt Neil Gibbs John Callinan	NG Leave	Gill Sermon (MofP)

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)	John Callinan Carol Trim Carol Kambites		
<b>Council Representatives on External Orgs</b>			
Allotment Association	Neil Gibbs Stephen Hunter	NG Leave	
Doverow Hill Trust	Neil Gibbs Theresa Watt Debbie Curtis John Parker Town Clerk	NG Leave	
<b>Parish Cluster Group</b>	<b>Discontinued</b>		
Stonehouse Community Partnership	Carol Kambites		
Stonehouse Community Association	Keith Terry		
Market Towns Forum	Keren Capeling		
Cotswold Canal Exec Committee	Marcus Dixon		
Stonehouse In Bloom	Debbie Curtis		
<b>Chartered Parishes</b>	<b>Discontinued</b>		
Stonehouse School Trustees	Debbie Curtis		
Stroud Tourism Forum	Keith Creighton		
Boat Mobility	Keith Creighton		
Stonehouse Market	Keren Capeling		
** CCC's Community Engagement WG			Debbie Curtis
**Community Engagement Board 2030			Carol Trim
** The Climate and Nature Partnership			Carol Trim
** Stonehouse Park Federation			John Parker

**\*\* New External Groups**

Check with SDC to see if the external orgs considered to have been discontinued have not been reintroduced ie Parish Cluster, Community Safety Partnership



## **STONEHOUSE** **TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Terms of Reference: Town Council and Town Committees**

#### **Terms of Reference - Town Council (TC)**

- Adopts a Code of Conduct
- Appoints Committees
- Adopts Policies & Procedures & Terms of Reference & Standing Orders
- Co-opts Councillors
- Appoints an Independent Internal Auditor
- Appoints a Responsible Financial Officer
- Authorises Expenditure from Reserves
- Authorises General Expenditure
- Agrees an Annual Budget & Precept
- Debates Matters of Public Interest
- Confirms Eligibility of General Power of Competence
- Approves the stages of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Approves the Year End Accounts, makes Statement of Assurances
- Makes resolutions to govern the work of the Council
  - Acts as Data Controller
  - Authorises special payments & contracts as required under Financial Regulations
  - Considers any legal matters including legal disputes, acquisitions and disposals of Fixed Assets
  - Authorises Expenditure of S106
  - To ensure that the council is adequately insured
  - To approve subscriptions

#### **Terms of Reference - Council Business Committee (Chair and Vice Chair of Council plus 6 councillors)**

- To set a budget for the sound administration of the council's business and town hall
- Authorises General Expenditure
- To approve the annual accounts prior to submission for internal audit and presentation at annual town meeting
- To review expenditure against budget
- To consider internal and external auditors' reports and make recommendations to council
- To consider the objectives and priorities of the TC and make recommendations as necessary to the council
- Promotion of the TC, through Mayoral activities, Annual Town meeting, website, newsletter, social media and community engagement
- To draw up and review TC policies and standing orders
- To review TC investments

- To set fees and charges for hire of council premises
- To consider applications for TC grants.
- To carry out annual risk assessments on all council activities
- To manage the lease or hire of the sports stadium, pitches, and public land making an annual review of charges
- To appoint working groups and consider their reports and agree any actions
- To review the levels of use of the Youth Centre, ensuring value for money
- To create management policies with regards to youth matters
- To be responsible for those staffing matters not in the responsibility of the line manager i.e. grievance appeals, salary adjustments, staffing structure, dismissals, appointments
- To ensure adequate staff and councillor training and development
- To review staffing levels to minimise risk to council's operation
- To review the council's environmental performance

**Terms of Reference - Town Environment Committee (Chair and Vice Chair plus 6 councillors)**

- To draft a budget for acceptance by the Town Council
- To review expenditure against budget and make timely requests for additional funding from reserves
- To be responsible for the upkeep and improvement of council premises/playing fields making periodic inspection to assess safety and functionality
- To review street furniture, maintenance and replacement
- To organise seasonal displays to enhance amenity land
- To appoint working groups and consider their reports and agree any actions
- To receive and record planning results from Stroud District Council
- To consider and respond to planning, appeals, scoping reports and pre-application consultations
- To consider environmental issues relating to Stonehouse and seek funding for ad hoc projects
- To consider traffic and transport issues
- Respond to other local authority consultations about strategic plans
- To consider regeneration issues relating to Stonehouse, including Neighbourhood and Local Plans.
- To work towards the creation of a cultural identity for Stonehouse with provision of annual events
- To manage the maintenance and use of the Town Greens

**Reviewed: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 (TC3269)**

**Review date: 2025**



# STONEHOUSE

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## TOWN COUNCIL

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### STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL

### HUMAN RESOURCE SUB-COMMITTEE

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The Human Resource Committee (HR) is a Sub Committee of the Town Council reporting to Business Committee

2. It is comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair of Council, the Chair or Vice Chair of each of the Council's Standing Committees (Business and Environment Committees). Two additional Councillors, elected at the Annual Meeting, will complete a HR committee of six Councillors. For the meeting to be quorate three Councillors must be present.

Should vacancies arise between annual town council meetings, they will be filled at the next town council meeting

3. The Chair and Vice Chair will be elected at the first HR meeting immediately following the Annual Town Council Meeting.

4. The HR Committee will meet on alternate months (as detailed in the council's meeting calendar) in sufficient time to submit any recommendations to the next Business Committee meeting. Additional HR Sub Committee meetings may be arranged should they be necessary.

5. HR Committee functions are:

a. To annually review staff conditions, salaries and staff appraisals including:

i) Staffing levels and structures.

- ii) Recruitment and selection.
- iii) Staff retention.
- iv) Salary allowance and expenses.
- v) Training of staff and Councillors.

- b. To monitor all processes and procedures relating to staffing.
- c. To monitor employment contracts, related documents and policies.
- d. To provide health and safety oversight

Note: The day-to-day management and supervision of the Council's staff is the responsibility of the Proper Officer (Town Clerk).

6. The HR Committee will ensure it has a sufficient level of HR expertise which could include the contracting of external specialist services.

7. HR Sub Committee will operate in accordance with the relevant Council policies when dealing with recruitment, grievance or disciplinary matters. The Human Resource Committee will take an oversight role on all disciplinary matters.

Note: Grievance and disciplinary matters are covered in Stonehouse Town Council Policy Documents:

- a. Complaints Policy
- B. Code of Conduct
- c. Staff Handbook

**Adopted by Town Council: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Minute No: TC3541**

**Next Review: May 2026**

## Stroud District Councillor Report to Stonehouse Town Council, May 2026

### Council meetings

*Link to meeting agenda and documents in the committee title.*

#### Strategy & Resources Committee - 16th April

- **Stratford Park Lido in Stroud** - Capital Investment Options. The lido first opened in 1937 and is now an ageing facility in need of repair, and due to its condition needs to remain closed to allow further investigations to be completed. Work to reopen the lido depends on addressing a number of safety-critical issues identified through specialist surveys.  
At the Committee meeting, an amendment to the recommendation was agreed, which commits the council to develop a costed schedule and timetable identifying the minimum essential works required to bring the lido back into safe use as soon as possible, and a similar schedule for a more comprehensive plan for the refurbishment of the lido for the medium and longer term.  
Subject to the survey results (expected June 2026) being satisfactory, and to any costed plans being within budget (£900k capital investment works and/or £200k revenue repair works) the repairs could commence immediately. There is further info about the lido, including FAQs and fortnightly updates on the Council's website <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/culture-leisure-sports-parks/lido/>
- **Active Lifestyles Stroud - Leisure centre in Stratford Park** - Agreed to add £650,000 to the Capital Programme to fund the gym equipment replacement and refurbishment works to ensure resources are targeted to meet community needs. This is much needed investment to replace ageing equipment and to refresh the facilities following the council taking back management of the centre over a year ago.
- **Community Infrastructure Levy** - The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge, introduced in 2008. It provides a fair and transparent means for ensuring that development contributes to the cost of the infrastructure it will ultimately rely on, such as schools, social infrastructure, flood risk mitigation works, transport, and roads. Previously, SDC could only make formal CIL funding allocations over one financial year. The revised guidance extends this to three years, giving partner organisations greater financial certainty and more time to plan and deliver community infrastructure projects. This year any bids for CIL funding must be sent to SDC by 10 September.
- **Corporate Enforcement Policy** - The Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit (CFEU) has prepared this new policy which sets out the legal framework and principles the Council will follow when undertaking investigations for a wide range of breaches and offences. It demonstrates the Council's consideration of necessity, proportionality and public interest when deciding on enforcement action.
- **Local Government Reorganisation Joint Scrutiny Proposals** - A new joint scrutiny group will be set up across all Gloucestershire councils, to ensure accountability for, and understanding of, the Gloucestershire Local Government Reorganisation Programme. This new scrutiny group will be in place until the 'shadow' unitary authority/ies are elected, which is currently expected in May 2027.

- **Leadership Gloucestershire** - covered Police Reform White Paper, Local Growth Plan, Gloucestershire Housing Commission, skills and training, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities provision, and a new 'anti-hate statement' to used by Gloucestershire organisations in public facing communications to demonstrate that hate and discrimination will not be tolerated in the county.
- **City Region Board** - covered the Together Gloucestershire project which aims to create a platform for private and public sector organisations to source ethical and reliable suppliers in Gloucestershire; challenges facing the retail and hospitality sectors; a Spatial Development Strategy for the county (which would sit above the local plans); Gloucestershire Business Rates Pool and Strategic Economic Development Fund.
- **Canal Project** - updates on governance, M5 crossing project, community engagement, and the recent visit by the National Lottery Heritage Fund Board of Trustees in March which included filling Oldbury Pound with water - the first section of the 'missing mile' of the canal to be reconstructed since part of it was filled in by M5 construction from the late 1960s.
- [Video recording](#) (626 views)

#### Environment Committee - 23rd April

- **Tree Management Policy** - A new SDC policy where trees are recognised as vital natural assets that enrich biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience, shape local landscape character and enhance community wellbeing. The policy has eight objectives: maintaining public safety through proportionate tree risk management; delivering cost-effective, environmentally positive tree care; ensuring high professional standards in arboricultural work; improving public information and engagement; protecting biodiversity with a focus on notable, ancient and veteran trees; increasing canopy cover through appropriate planting and climate-resilient species; supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation; and ensuring fair distribution of tree benefits across all neighbourhoods.
- **Biodiversity and Monitoring Duty Report** - SDC's progress from July 2023 to January 2026, highlighting achievements in habitat restoration, community engagement, and statutory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) implementation. Eight approved gain plans delivering 75% on-site biodiversity gains. There are continued commitments to 2031, including expanded land management across 30 sites, strengthened governance integration, and ongoing landscape-scale recovery projects with partners like the National Trust and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.
- **Climate Leadership Gloucestershire (CLG)** - This group ([CLG link](#)) brings together all the councils in Gloucestershire along with health and other partners. In the context of local government reorganisation, it is recommended that the group's work should continue and potentially expand to include broader community engagement. Current waste actions were reviewed, which are: Reducing non-recyclable waste; Encouraging circular economy network; De-carbonise waste fleet; Reduce food waste; New depot provision (Shared Tewkesbury and Cheltenham site). The group added a new action on the Javelin Park Incinerator and its future operation. The Secretariat produced a climate policy planning document for sharing with councils.

- **Stroud Valleys Natural Flood Management Steering Group** - Inspected a new intervention at Syde, near Miserden, where a 400m straightened channel was restored to its natural floodplain state using leaky woody dams and scrapes to slow water flow and improve wetland connectivity. The project successfully reduced downstream flood risk and created 0.52ha of improved habitat, the visit highlighted a need for better public education regarding the temporary visual impact of restoration works and suggested acquiring water monitoring equipment to track nutrient levels.
- **Update reports** - from the Lower Severn Independent Drainage Board and Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership.
- [Video recording](#) (36 views)

### Council - 30th April

- **Leisure services** - Council received questions about the lido and confirmed the recommendation above for investment in renewing the gym at the Active Lifestyles Stroud. Cllr Kitchen asked for information relating to investment relating to active lifestyles work in relation to the Wotton ward. Cllr Braun highlighted the council's [Healthy Lifestyles Scheme](#) which supports people to be more active in a safe way to benefit both their physical and mental health, delivered across the district in partnership with health professionals and instructors.
- **New Local Plan** - Council approved the commencement of a new Local Plan, which is a Government requirement. This will mean publication of the statutory Notice of Commencement by 30 June 2026 and a 'Gateway 1' self-assessment by 31 October 2026. The Government's new system introduces a 30-month end-to-end process to produce a local plan, supported by three Gateway stages. This is intended to accelerate plan adoption and achieve universal coverage of up-to-date Local Plans across England. There is a significant cost associated with this new Local Plan process (approx £2.5 million) but numerous advantages, including: strong plan-led control over development; responding to higher housing needs; addressing key infrastructure constraints; demonstrating a five-year housing land supply, and avoiding the risks of speculative development. The final guidance on this new local plan process has not yet been published and is expected this summer.
- To note: Stroud district's minimum local housing need will rise to at least 820 dwellings per annum, a significant 33% increase over the 620 dwellings per annum used for the submitted 2021 draft Local Plan.  
At the same time, the draft Local Plan is still under examination, with the Planning Inspectors currently consulting with the local councils and National Highways about the M5 Junction 12 and 14 corridors. This examination and any final report will stretch well into 2026 and overlap with the new Local Plan preparation.
- **Gloucestershire council reorganisation** Council noted the SDC formal responses to two recent consultations:
  - Government Consultation on Local Government reorganisation in Gloucestershire; SDC is strongly in favour of a single unitary authority
  - Joint response to Government Consultation on Areas for producing Spatial Development Strategies states that Gloucestershire's devolution journey should

lead to membership of the West of England Combined Authority, and that Gloucestershire should form a single foundation strategic authority as a precursor to joining the West of England Combined Authority.

- **Committee meeting format and deadline for public questions** Council approved changes to its constitution:
  - At the Development Control Committee, for public speaking and parish presentations to take place before the Planning Officer's introduction, so technical issues raised during public participation can be better addressed.
  - To give a longer deadline for the submission of public questions - so that questions can be submitted up to 3 clear working days ahead of the meeting (previously 4 clear working days).
- **Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Belonging Annual Report** - Approved the annual report and action plan and the formal addition of the socio-economic duty to the Council's policy to better address financial inequality. This follows successful progress on accessibility and engagement initiatives last year. It was agreed that neurodiversity would also be considered in future.
- **Ubico business plan** - [Ubico](#) is the council-owned company which delivers environmental services (including bin collection) across Gloucestershire and West Oxfordshire. The business plan notes the company's expansion into Wiltshire, and the launch of a new five-year roadmap focused on operational efficiency, fleet decarbonisation, and preparation for Local Government Reorganisation. The plan prioritises growth while enhancing safety, digital transformation, and community partnerships across Gloucestershire.
- **Canal project** - Agreement that the Chief Executive, in consultation with group leaders, and subject to appropriate risk assessment, could enter into the Heads of Terms for a lease with National Highways to operation of a new section of the Stroudwater Canal beneath the M5 Motorway.
- **Video recording** (203 views)

#### Other news

- **Climate and Nature briefing** - a new 50 minute film, the [People's Emergency Briefing](#), which sets out the key information everyone needs to know about the climate and nature emergency (particularly councillors), is being screened at venues across our local area. It's a compelling watch and well worth attending one of the viewings: [Wotton Cinema](#) (9 May - tickets £6), Sawyer Hall Nailsworth (1 June), The Armstrong in Thornbury (4 June), the Chantry Centre in Dursley (7 June) and the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester (25 June). Further details and information can be found on this [map](#) along with options to host further screenings at community venues. It is hoped to also have a showing in Stonehouse on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June.
- **Recycle more at home:** we're now collecting toothpaste tubes and brown (but not black) plastic plant pots <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/recycle-more-at-home-we-re-now-collecting-toothpaste-tubes-and-plastic-plant-pots/>

- **New council homes** First six of sixteen new affordable homes in Kingswood bought by Stroud District Council <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/first-six-new-affordable-homes-bought-by-stroud-district-council/>
- **New £5 bulky waste collections** for eligible residents <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/new-5-bulky-waste-collections-for-eligible-residents-1/>
- **Community climate and nature grants** - new round now open <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/new-round-of-community-climate-and-nature-grants-now-open/>
- **Renters Rights** Stroud District Council prepares residents for major changes under the Renters Rights Act <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/stroud-district-council-prepares-residents-for-major-changes-under-the-renters-rights-act/>
- **Music in the Park** - returns to Stratford Park this May <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/music-in-the-park-returns-to-stratford-park-this-may/>
- **No Mow May** Residents encouraged to take part <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/leave-what-you-can-residents-encouraged-to-take-part-in-no-mow-may/>
- **Hazelwood Refurbishment**

I attended the official opening of the refurbished common facilities at Hazelwood on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Tea and cakes were provided and residents seemed very pleased with the new facilities and the consideration and helpfulness of the workman.

With usual thanks to [Cllr Gareth Kitchen](#) (Green) & [Cllr Catherine Braun](#) (Green) and thanks to Cllr Chloe Turner for the following annual report.

Carol Kambites, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### **Stroud District Council – Annual Town and Parish Report April 2026**

[Stroud District Council's 2026/27 budget](#) increases the council tax by 2.99% (£7.27pa) to £250.35 at Band D, an increase of under 14p per week for the services provided by the Council, reflecting new statutory burdens on the Council and inflationary increases in its costs. This year's budget was proposed in the context of last-minute changes to the financial settlement, which will significantly reduce Government funding to district councils like Stroud from April 2027 onwards, along with reductions in funding from business rates, which are also decided nationally.

Alongside the budget, the council approved the [updated Council Plan](#), a revised blueprint for council priorities and objectives. The plan outlines the Council's commitment to supporting communities, addressing inequalities, protecting and enhancing the environment, strengthening the local economy, and improving affordable and social housing provision. The Council Plan and budget priorities also emphasise the importance of strong local partnerships and the need to prepare for forthcoming local government reorganisation.

The Council's **council house building programme** continues to go from strength to strength. Last week the keys were handed over to the first six of sixteen new affordable homes in Kingswood, marking a significant milestone in the council's work to increase the supply of high-quality, energy-efficient homes for local people. Several other developments will have completed in 2026, including those in Dursley, Cam, Wotton-under-Edge and Cashes Green. This is alongside a **huge project to upgrade the existing housing stock** of around 5500 homes, including a [£1.8 million refurbishment of Nouncell's Cross in Stroud](#). The council has secured [£5.2 million from Government](#) to deliver warmer, healthier and more energy efficient homes.

**Progress towards reinstating the "Missing Mile"** of the Stroudwater Canal took a significant step forwards in March - the National Lottery Heritage Fund Board of Trustees joined the Council and its partners to turn on the pump to fill Oldbury Pound at Eastington. This is the first section of the Missing Mile reconstructed from scratch since part of it was filled in by M5 construction from the late 1960s. This important milestone follows a major funding award of £6.46million by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in November. The investment will deliver major benefits to the region by reconnecting communities across the Stroud Valleys, Stonehouse, Gloucester and the Severn Vale and will boost tourism and unlock economic opportunities. Led by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, the Environment Programme has already transformed the canal's natural landscape, creating a wildlife corridor with new wetlands, restoring a traditional orchard and planting new hedgerows.

The Council supported the Government's recent consultation on **local government reorganisation**, which is due to take place for Gloucestershire in 2027-2028. Reorganisation will involve replacing Gloucestershire's existing county council and six borough and district councils with one or two new councils. It will not involve reorganising town or parish councils. Three proposals were put forward by Gloucestershire's councils in November. SDC backed the one unitary proposal, for a single unitary council for Gloucestershire – this meets the government's own criteria, matches existing footprints for the police, NHS and other partners, and is the most financially sustainable option. The letter sent to the Minister by Cllr Chloe Turner, Leader of the Council, on behalf of SDC sent to Government can be read here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/yvil4kxv/letter-from-sdc-rt-hon-steve-reed-obe-mp-281125.pdf> The Minister is expected to decide on his preferred option this summer.

Stroud Funding, **SDC's community crowd-funding platform**, has now supported 33 successful initiatives, raising a combined £494,744 for improvements across the district. Recent projects, including a climbing wall and a community garden in Brimscombe and History Trail and Youth Club funding in Minchinhampton, can be viewed here: <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/stroud/projects> The next funding window is open until 6<sup>th</sup> May.

SDC has introduced the following improvements to its **recycling programme** this year:

- Every household in the Stroud district can now use the council's **expanded garden waste collection service**, thanks to a fleet expansion that provides full district-wide coverage, including remote and rural areas that were previously unreachable.
- Residents can now recycle **toothpaste tubes** and **non-black plastic plant pots** in their green recycling bins or bags
- **Batteries and vapes** can now be collected from your doorstep - place up to ten small household batteries and up to five disposable vapes or vape pods in separate clear plastic

bags, such as empty food wrappers or sandwich bags on top of your food waste caddy on collection day.

- [A new recycling video](#) explains how we recycle the district's waste
- a **new reduced bulky waste collection charge** to support residents who receive Council Tax Support or Housing Benefit. Eligible households can now book a collection for up to three bulky items for just £5. The standard charge is £25.
- To align with upcoming national requirements, the council is also **preparing to introduce kerbside collections of plastic film and wrapping** by 31 March 2027.

Stroud District Council has been exploring **creativity in economic development and in the rollout of our Culture Strategy**: partnering with a local artist on [bus art](#) and [GWR station posters](#) to promote sustainable travel to and around our area, wonderful exhibitions at the Museum in the Park including [Robert Race's automata](#) and [Alan Evans, Earth, Fire, Iron](#), which attracted international interest. SDC also purchased the historic Grade II\* Listed Brunel Goods Shed from Network Rail in March 2025 and as planned has now sold the building to Stroud Valleys Artspace (SVA), securing its future as a vibrant cultural venue at the heart of Stroud. A programme of local [Culture Grants](#) is open now (next deadline 1st June)

We have also boosted our work on [supporting the farming economy](#) in our area, including partnering with Hartpury College to support farmers across the district to strengthen their businesses and protect the environment.

Stroud District Council completed the **allocation of £620,261 of Rural Prosperity Funding** this year, supporting capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure. Grants of up to £20,000 were available to businesses and community groups in eligible rural areas to support capital projects such as building work, large tools, and equipment. The full list of funded projects is here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/business/support-for-business/rural-england-prosperity-fund> Similarly, the Council has successfully distributed its award of £1,398,985 of **UK Shared Prosperity funding** (4% of which was for administrative costs) since 2022, with the final payments to local organisations made this year. The full list of funded projects for building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training, supporting pay, employment and productivity growth and increasing life chances is here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/business/support-for-business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/>

The Council's **commitment to animal welfare** was reflected in recent award success: the Animal Welfare service retained its Platinum Stray Dog Services award and upgraded its Silver Animal Licensing award to Gold this year – a testament to its high standards in caring for stray dogs and ensuring compliance in licensable activities. The council's Housing Service also celebrated success, achieving a Gold award for the second year running for its pet-friendly housing policies and support for responsible pet ownership among tenants.

SDC has launched its new [Climate & Nature Strategy](#), with increased focus on nature recovery and adaptation to climate change. Funding for local climate and nature activity will shortly be available through a grant programme, following the previous rounds which have been very popular.

SDC's **Local Plan** is still under examination – the Inspector has recently opened a new, targeted consultation for the Council itself, National Highways, Gloucestershire County Council and South Gloucestershire Council, with a response date of 5<sup>th</sup> May. In the meantime, work on the new Local Plan is underway, and SDC will be among the first in the country to start under the new

regime. Councillors are expected to be asked to agree the formal commencement of the new Plan at the upcoming council meeting this month.

SDC is moving forward with plans to redevelop **Brimscombe Port**. Following positive feedback from developers during a recent market testing exercise, the council will shortly begin procurement for a development partner who shares our vision for a vibrant, sustainable neighbourhood. A refreshed Project Board will include local representatives to help guide the next phase. In the meantime, we're exploring temporary uses for the site so it can benefit the community while longer-term plans take shape. For more information, please visit [www.stroud.gov.uk/brimscombeport](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/brimscombeport)

Sign up for regular email updates from Stroud District Council here:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/communications/email-alerts/>

# New Crisis and Resilience Fund to provide support to families in crisis



Gloucestershire County Council has introduced the Crisis and Resilience Fund, a new programme providing support to families experiencing extreme hardship.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund replaces the Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments to offer immediate help as well as crisis prevention.

It is a national Department for Work and Pensions initiative, delivered locally by Gloucestershire County Council.

A crisis refers to a sudden event or situation that causes immediate hardship, or puts an individual or family at risk of losing basic safety, wellbeing or financial stability. Examples include:

- Floods or fires causing loss of home or essential belongings
- Medical emergencies leading to immediate financial or practical hardship
- Leaving an abusive relationship, requiring urgent safety and housing support
- Breakages of essential household items, such as a fridge, cooker, or bed, where replacement is critical for safe living
- Redundancy or sudden loss of income, creating urgent financial shock
- Illness affecting someone's ability to meet day to day essential living expenses
- Unexpected bills, such as funeral costs
- A change or disruption in benefit entitlement, such as a suspension or waiting for an entitlement decision, which creates an immediate shortfall

The county council has received government funding of £17.1 million to support vulnerable residents through the Crisis and Resilience Fund for three years from April 2026 to March 2029.

This funding will mean the council can deliver targeted support, address financial hardship, and build community resilience in line with national priorities. It will allow the council and its partners to respond quickly to residents in crisis, while also investing in support that strengthens communities and helps people get back on their feet when they most need it.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund can help with:

- Crisis payments (same day in urgent cases through cash, vouchers or PayPoint cash codes)
- Food support through supermarket vouchers, or a referral to a local foodbank
- Energy support, including electricity, gas, or heating oil top ups, which is especially vital for rural households not protected by the national energy price cap
- Housing payments to cover shortfalls in rent for Housing Benefit or Universal Credit claimants (applicants must have applied, and been turned down for Discretionary Household Payment and/or Homelessness Grant)

- Essential household items, such as furniture and white goods
- Longer-term support and referral to partner services, by connecting applicants to free debt advice, benefits checks, digital support, training and employment

Ann James, Director of Children’s Services at Gloucestershire County Council, said: “Families can face sudden and unexpected challenges that put real pressure on their finances, safety and wellbeing. The Crisis and Resilience Fund allows us to respond quickly when people need urgent help, while also offering support that can prevent problems from escalating.

“This funding will help us work alongside our partners to provide practical assistance, strengthen resilience, and support families to regain stability during difficult times.”

To apply for support, residents can visit [Crisis and Resilience Fund](#).

### **Pricing in local shops checked by Gloucestershire Trading Standards**

?

**Gloucestershire Trading Standards have carried out a targeted project over the past month to check whether local shops are following the law on price marking, as set out in the Price Marking Order 2004.**

Officers visited 61 stores across Gloucester, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, Dursley, Stroud, Stonehouse, Cirencester and the Forest of Dean.

During these visits, 40 stores were found to be fully compliant, with prices clearly displayed and customers charged the correct amount at the till. However, 20 stores did not meet the legal requirements for price marking, and one store was found to be overcharging customers.

All 21 stores have since been revisited and given advice and guidance to help them bring their premises into compliance.

The project focused on smaller local convenience stores and was carried out to better understand levels of compliance across the county.

Under the Price Marking Order 2004, all items on sale must have a clear price displayed in pound sterling, including VAT and any other taxes. Prices must be shown close to the

goods and be easy for customers to see without having to ask for help. This can be done by displaying the price:

- on the goods themselves
- on a ticket near the goods
- on a list or catalogue displayed close to the goods, with enough copies available for customers to use

**Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, cabinet member responsible for Trading Standards at Gloucestershire County Council, said:** “It is important that shops clearly display prices so that customers can make informed choices - whether that is to pay the marked price or to shop elsewhere. This is especially important at a time when many people are managing tight household budgets.

“In this case, our officers have taken an advisory approach to support businesses to comply with the law. However, I would remind retailers that failing to comply with the Price Marking Order is a criminal offence, and prosecution can result in a substantial fine.”

Anyone who is concerned about pricing or possible non-compliance can email [tradingstandards@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@gloucestershire.gov.uk), visit the [Trading Standards website](#), or report concerns anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## **County Council exploring all options to provide long-term future for Lydbrook Bridge**

?

Gloucestershire County Council is exploring all options to secure a sustainable, long-term future for Lydbrook Bridge in the Forest of Dean, ensuring the best possible value for local residents.

Built in 1875, Lydbrook Bridge is an important historic structure. It is currently closed due to safety concerns linked to the temporary scaffolding that provides pedestrian access. The bridge is jointly owned by Gloucestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council, and the temporary scaffolding has been in place since 2016.

That scaffolding has now reached the end of its safe working life and needs replacing. Due to the complex and historic nature of the bridge, alongside the need to keep the public safe at height, the cost of installing new scaffolding for a further five years is estimated at an eye watering £600,000. This would only offer a short-term fix, would not address the underlying structural issues, and would not extend the bridge's lifespan – making it a poor use of public money.

Instead, Gloucestershire County Council is focused on securing a long-term, sustainable solution that will protect the bridge and allow it to be safely used for many years to come.

For safety reasons, the bridge will need to remain closed until further notice. The existing scaffolding will be removed to prevent the risk of falling scaffold debris and to protect river users below while the bridge is closed.

The council is working hard with partners to secure the funding needed to deliver a permanent solution that balances safety, heritage and value for money.

Initial plans would be to retain the current structure into the future. However, a new bridge is an option that may be considered to provide a more sustainable structure in keeping with the surrounding area.

Cllr Joe Harris, Cabinet Member for Highways at Gloucestershire County Council, said “We understand the frustration of the community with the Lydbrook Bridge closure and we're sorry for the inconvenience this causes.

“Working closely with Herefordshire Council, we are determined to find a long-term solution that represents good value for residents while protecting this much-loved historic bridge and its setting.

“Safety must always come first, but we are committed to doing everything we can to secure a lasting future for Lydbrook Bridge and will continue to explore all available funding opportunities to make that happen.”

## **Mick Berry appointed as Assistant Chief Fire Officer at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service**

**Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) has appointed Mick Berry as its new Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO).**

Mick joins GFRS from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, where he has spent 28 years working across a wide range of operational and leadership roles. He began his career as an on-call firefighter in 1997, before becoming a wholetime firefighter and progressing through the service to Area Manager.

In his most recent role, Mick has held responsibility for Service Delivery, alongside previous senior roles in Business Services. He brings significant experience in managing large budgets, supporting His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) activity and delivering Community Risk Management Plans.

Mick started his new role with GFRS on Wednesday 1 April.

**Mick Berry, ACFO of GFRS, said:** "I'm really pleased to have joined Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service and to be taking on the role of Assistant Chief Fire Officer. After serving for nearly 29 years in Northants Fire and Rescue, I feel I have some great experience and learning to share, but also relish the opportunity to learn and develop further from GFRS. It's a privilege to join the organisation, and I'm looking forward to working alongside you all as we continue to deliver outstanding service to our communities.

"Over the coming weeks, I'll be visiting stations and departments to meet as many staff as possible. I'm excited to contribute to our shared priorities and help to continually develop GFRS to support the communities we serve."

**Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, cabinet member with responsibility for the fire and rescue service, said:** "I'm delighted to welcome Mick to Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service. He brings a wealth of experience from across the fire and rescue sector and has a strong track record in leadership, service delivery and improvement. I know he will be a real asset to the Service and I look forward to working with him as we continue to strengthen GFRS for the benefit of our communities."

**Plan to shape the future of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service set to be approved**

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Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet is set to approve a plan that will shape the future of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS).

At its meeting on Wednesday, 22 April, Cabinet will discuss GFRS's Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) for 2026-2030.

These plans are a legal requirement of all Fire and Rescue Services across the country and establish how resources will be allocated and the plans put in place to mitigate identified community risks effectively.

The CRMP, as well as outlining the highest risks in Gloucestershire and how GFRS will measure its performance, lists five aims to work towards in the four years to 2030. These are:

- Create a highly skilled and inclusive values-driven workforce by putting people first
- Modernise the rural response model and ensure it is fit for the future
- Adapt skills and assets to meet evolving risks, demands and legislation
- Become a greener and more efficient service, and make a difference in its communities
- Achieve outstanding assessments and be a partner of choice

The CRMP was informed by a public consultation in the winter of 2025. This was run from 24 December 2025 to 8 February 2026, ensuring transparency by asking the public to feedback on a draft of the plan.

Mark Preece, Chief Fire Officer at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "I would like to thank all the members of the public who took part in the consultation, helping us to create the best Fire and Rescue Service we can in Gloucestershire.

"The Community Risk Management Plan will guide the work that Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service will undertake over the next four years. It underlines our commitment to prevention, partnership working and delivering the very best service for the county."

To read the full Cabinet report, [click here](#). To view the CRMP brochure, [click here](#).

## **98 per cent of pupils offered a place at a school of their choice**

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This year a total of 6,093 Gloucestershire children have been offered a primary school place for September, with 98 per cent receiving a place at one of their preferred schools.

For 5,606 children, 92 per cent, that means a place at their first preference school.

Parents and carers who applied online will receive an email on 16 April confirming their school place, which they will be invited to accept online.

Those who did not apply online will receive a letter detailing the place offered and the reasons for it. This letter will be specific to each child.

Parents are encouraged to accept their place online, or return their reply forms as soon as possible, and have until 23 April to either accept their school place or request an alternative school.

Children will be placed on the waiting list for their preferred schools, if requested by parents. If places then become available as some parents change their preferences over the coming months, parents and carers will be contacted and offered a place in line with the school's Admission Policy.

Parents unhappy with their initial offer are encouraged to keep their place, as this will ensure that whatever the outcome of the reconsideration, their child will have a place at a school in September.

The county council will write to parents with the result of the reconsideration after 14 May, and parents will have until the 26 May to reply. Those who are still not satisfied with their given school will be advised of the appeals procedure.

Cllr Linda Cohen, Cabinet member responsible for Education at Gloucestershire County Council, said: "It's an important time of year when families find out where the next stage of their child's education will be but we also know it can be worrying as well as exciting and that's why we're so pleased to be able to confirm a preferred school for 98 per cent of children.

"Starting primary school is a big step for any child, and I wish them and their families the very best for this next stage of their journey. I'm delighted that we have been able to offer so many pupils a school of their choice for September."

The admission criteria and more information about waiting lists for every school are available at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions).

## **County council set to back key bridge project to unlock Cotswold canal restoration**

Gloucestershire County Council is set to support a major step forward in the restoration of the Stroudwater Canal by approving a £1 million contribution towards replacing Walk Bridge near Whitminster.

The decision will be considered by Cabinet on Wednesday 22 April and would help unlock a nationally significant heritage and regeneration project led by Stroud District Council and the Cotswold Canal Trust. The cabinet decision will also allow the county council to consider options on how best to support Stroud District Council with the delivery of the project.

Walk Bridge is currently a low-level road bridge owned by the county council. Its height prevents boats from passing beneath it. Replacing the bridge is essential to reconnect a vital “missing mile” of the canal between Stonehouse and Saul Junction.

Once restored, the canal will form a continuous route for boating, walking, cycling and wheeling, while also bringing environmental, heritage and economic benefits to the area.

The £1 million contribution has already been approved in the county council’s 2025–26 budget and forms part of a wider £16 million regeneration project led by Stroud District Council and the Cotswold Canal Trust, with significant funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The county council’s funding is capped and would only be released once legal agreements are in place and all conditions are met.

Replacing Walk Bridge would support the council’s wider economic and climate goals by connecting the canal sections, improving active travel routes, strengthening green infrastructure and helping deliver long-term biodiversity and environmental improvements.

Construction is expected to take place over the next two to three years, subject to final approvals, with the ambition of reconnecting the canal in time for its 250th anniversary in 2029.

Jason Humm, Director of Transport and Highways at Gloucestershire County Council, said: “Replacing Walk Bridge is a crucial piece of the jigsaw in restoring and connecting the Stroudwater Canal. This investment helps unlock major external funding while supporting active travel, heritage, nature recovery and local regeneration. It’s an excellent example of the county council playing its part in a partnership project that delivers long-term benefits for communities across Gloucestershire.”

## **Plans to invest more in home based support to help people recover and stay independent**

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### **Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet is being asked to consider a proposal to reinvest resources from an underused reablement service into home-based support, helping more people recover and stay independent in their own homes.**

At its meeting on Wednesday 22 April, the council's Cabinet will be asked to review a proposal to invest more in home-based reablement – short-term support that helps people regain confidence and independence, often after a stay in hospital.

As part of this proposal, Cabinet will consider closing Great Western Court, a short-term reablement unit in Gloucester. The funding currently used to run the service, can be redirected into community-based services.

Reablement is short-term support that helps people regain confidence and independence. It supports people to rebuild everyday skills, such as moving around safely, preparing meals and managing daily routines. National and local evidence shows that people recover better when this support happens in their own homes, where goals are shaped around everyday life, familiar routines and what matters most to the individual.

The service at Great Western Court no longer offers value for money. Demand for bed-based reablement at the unit has been low, as the service does not provide the level of complex, specialist nursing support the NHS now requires for people being discharged from hospital. As a result, admissions were paused in February and there are currently no residents being cared for at Great Western Court.

The council is working closely with NHS partners to make sure short-term care and rehabilitation remains available for those who need it. This includes buying the right type of community beds for people who are ready to leave hospital but need a little more support before returning home.

If approved, these proposals would allow the council to invest more in prevention and support in people's own homes, helping residents stay well, active and independent for longer.

The council is committed to supporting staff affected by the proposal. Work is already underway to help staff move into other roles within adult social care wherever possible, with support available throughout the process.

Cllr Dr Kate Usmar cabinet member for adults' support and independence at Gloucestershire County Council said: "Our priority is supporting people to recover in the way that works best for them. For most people, that means getting the right help at home, in familiar surroundings, with support that focuses on what really matters in their day-to-day lives.

"These proposals are about using our resources where they can make the biggest difference to meet the needs of residents and Great Western Court no longer represents good value for money. We know change can be difficult, particularly for staff who have shown real dedication and care, and we are committed to supporting them to move into other roles across Adult Social Care wherever possible."

[Cabinet papers are available on the council's website](#). A decision will be made at the Cabinet meeting on 22 April.

**Issued by – Communications team, Gloucestershire County Council, 01452 427554, [communications@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:communications@gloucestershire.gov.uk)**

## **First communities announced for Gloucestershire's Safer Roads and Community 20s programme**

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Gloucestershire County Council has today finalised the first communities to be brought forward as part of its new **Safer Roads and Community 20s programme** – a countywide initiative designed to improve road safety, support public health and help create nicer places to live.

At its meeting on **Wednesday 18 March 2026**, Cabinet approved the approach for how locations will be prioritised, how communities will be involved and how decisions will be made as the programme is rolled out across the county.

Cabinet also confirmed the **first locations** to move into public engagement, starting with Cirencester, Preston and Siddington:

- Cirencester, Preston and Siddington
- Cheltenham including Swindon Village, Leckhampton with Warden Hill, Prestbury, Charlton Kings, and Up Hatherley
- Stroud
- Cainscross
- Tewkesbury, Northway, Ashchurch Rural, and Wheatpieces
- Cinderford, Ruspidge and Soudley, and Littledean
- West Dean
- Coleford

These communities will be the first to help shape proposals that focus on reducing speeds where there are clear road safety concerns and strong community support.

### **Safer Roads and Community 20s explained**

The Safer Roads and Community 20s programme takes an evidence-led, community-focused approach to speed management. It brings together local insight with collision and public health data to target change where it will make the greatest difference.

The programme aims to:

- reduce deaths and injuries on Gloucestershire's roads
- support safer and more active travel, including walking, wheeling and cycling
- reduce noise and air pollution
- help create healthier neighbourhoods

Evidence from other parts of the UK shows that lower speeds can also benefit drivers, with smoother journeys, fewer incidents, reduced fuel use and lower insurance costs.

## **Cirencester leads the way**

Cirencester, Preston and Siddington are the first proposed locations to move into early engagement, marking an important milestone for the programme. Over the last five years, there have been more than 127 recorded road casualties in and around Cirencester, with 30% resulting in death or serious injury.

People who are not protected by a vehicle are most at risk. Across the wider Cirencester area, 35% of casualties are vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. Within the ring road, this rises to 68%, with pedestrians making up the majority of those injured.

This shows that many casualties occur on streets that people rely on for everyday journeys, such as walking to shops, schools and local services.

To create safer roads, there is a need to reduce risk where people and traffic mix. Lower vehicle speeds can reduce the severity of collisions and give drivers more time to react.

Safer Roads and Community 20s measures are designed to help protect vulnerable road users, reduce serious injuries, and make streets feel safer and more welcoming for walking, wheeling, cycling and everyday life in Cirencester.

In places where vulnerable road users and vehicles mix, the county council considers that **20mph** should be the accepted speed. In Cirencester, Preston and Siddington, the proposals look to introduce 20mph speed reductions for the vast majority of urban and residential village roads, with complementary speed reductions proposed for the major roads to ease the transition to 20mph speeds.

In some instances, the proposals also look to retain 30mph and 40mph speed limits, where these speed limits are working and support the achievement of a consistent speed environment.

Cirencester, Preston and Siddington are being brought forward in the first tranche after scoring highly in the council's prioritisation process, which considers road safety and

public health challenges alongside expressions of interest from Cirencester Town Council, Preston Parish Council, and Siddington Parish Council.

To support delivery, the area has been divided into four zones, allowing feedback and future decisions to reflect local conditions more closely. Lower speeds can reduce the likelihood and severity of collisions and help make streets feel safer for walking, wheeling and cycling.

**Cllr Lisa Spivey, Leader of Gloucestershire County Council, said:** “I’m delighted that our flagship scheme is taking this first step towards delivering real change. It puts communities at the heart of improving road safety. By starting with early engagement, we’re making sure local voices help shape proposals from the very beginning, so we get the right solutions in the right places.”

### Have your say

Early engagement for Cirencester, Preston and Siddington will run from Monday 20 April to midnight on Monday 11 May 2026.

During this time, residents and stakeholders can view proposals, explore interactive maps and share feedback through the council’s Have Your Say platform, using the online survey and mapping tool. Hard copy information and surveys will also be available at Cirencester Library, and people can speak to the project team at the events below.

Event name	Location	Date	Time
Online webinar	Microsoft Teams	Wednesday 6 May	6–7pm
In-person drop-in session	Cirencester Bowling Club, Cripps Road car park, Cirencester GL7 1HN	Saturday 9 May	10am–3pm

### What happens next?

Following the early engagement period, we will analyse the feedback received and use this data to make a decision as to whether proposals for Cirencester, Preston and

Siddington should be taken forward to formal Traffic Order (TO) consultation, and if so whether there are any required changes to respond to local feedback.

If the proposals are taken forward to formal TO consultation, we anticipate that this will launch in autumn 2026.

## Materials

- [Safer roads and community 20s | Highways](#)
- [Cirencester and Preston – Safer Roads and Community 20s | Have Your Say Gloucestershire](#)
- Photos – [Safer Roads and Community 20s | Flickr](#)
- [Sign up to the newsletter](#)

## **Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service urges public to Be Water Aware as warmer weather approaches**

?

**Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) is urging people to take extra care in and around water as the weather starts to improve, as part of the National Fire Chiefs Council's (NFCC) annual Be Water Aware campaign.**

Running from Monday 27 April to Sunday 3 May, the campaign highlights the ongoing and preventable risk of accidental drowning. Between 2019 and 2024, 1,602 people across the UK lost their lives in accidental drowning incidents. Of these, 56 per cent occurred in inland waters such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Half of those who drowned did not intend to enter the water, with slips, trips and falls a leading cause.

The data also shows that 82 per cent of accidental drowning fatalities were men, underlining the need for greater awareness among those most at risk.

The campaign also warns against the dangers of entering open water to cool down. Cold water shock is a serious risk, as sudden immersion can trigger an involuntary gasp, rapid breathing and panic, making it difficult to stay afloat and significantly increasing the risk of drowning.

GFRS continues to work with partners across Gloucestershire to promote water safety, including community engagement activities and water safety education.

**Chief Fire Officer Mark Preece said:** “Sadly, we continue to see incidents where a lack of water safety awareness puts people in serious danger. Many incidents happen unexpectedly, often when people are walking near water or trying to cool off on a warm day. Through the Be Water Aware campaign, we want to remind everyone that inland water can be unpredictable and dangerous. Simple steps such as staying back from the edge, avoiding alcohol near water and knowing what to do in an emergency can save lives.”

**Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, cabinet member with responsibility for the fire and rescue service, said:** “Keeping people safe is a top priority, and this campaign carries an important message for residents and visitors across Gloucestershire. Our rivers, lakes and reservoirs are a valued part of the county, but they can be dangerous if risks are underestimated. Being water aware and looking out for one another can help prevent avoidable tragedies.”

For more advice and information, visit: [Water safety | Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service](#)

## **Kinship Voices: listening to kinship carers**



Children across Gloucestershire will benefit from improved understanding and decision-making following direct discussions between kinship carers and county councillors at a recent event.

Gloucestershire County Council recently hosted *Kinship Voices: A Conversation with Councillors*, bringing together kinship carers and elected members to share experiences and discuss how best to support children who are cared for by relatives or close family friends.

When parents are unable to look after their child, kinship care enables a relative or someone close to the child to step in and provide stability within a familiar network.

The event provided councillors with first-hand insight into the realities of kinship care, as a young person, Perran, and kinship carers told their stories. They spoke about their experiences: of stepping into caring roles, often at short notice and during periods of family crisis; the importance of early information, clear guidance and practical support; and the positive impact of feeling recognised, listened to and understood.

Perran said: “What started as a kind gesture turned into something permanent – and something really special. Kinship care isn’t always easy. One of the hardest things is that life has more rules. There are permissions needed for things that most teenagers don’t think twice about – sleepovers, trips... I know the rules are there to keep people safe... but I think adults sometimes forget how those rules feel when you’re the young person living with them. What makes the biggest difference is being listened to.”

Carers explained that while kinship care enables children to remain within their families and communities, the transition into caring roles can be complex and requires timely, consistent support.

The feedback provided will help councillors ensure that future decisions are informed not only by data and research, but also by lived experience. All councillors were invited to make a pledge at the end of the event, which will be reviewed in three months’ time to ensure progress is made.

Cllr Ben Evans, cabinet member for children’s safeguarding and care at Gloucestershire County Council, said: “Kinship carers provide an amazing level of support, care and love for children and young people. The overriding message I keep hearing is the joy that those children and young people bring to their lives. We’re here to listen to the challenges they face and as a county council to try to minimise those.

“Hearing directly from kinship carers helps us understand what works and where improvements are needed. Listening to carers, alongside foster carers and other partners, supports our ongoing commitment to improving outcomes for children across Gloucestershire.”

The council has been a strong advocate for kinship care and is one of the first local authorities to pay kinship carers at the same rate as foster carers which, together with the [Kinship Local Offer](#), demonstrates the council’s continued commitment to supporting and recognising the vital role kinship carers play in caring for children who cannot live with their parents.

[Click here](#) to watch a video from the event.

## **Hundreds more Gloucestershire children now receiving free school meals**



Hundreds more children across Gloucestershire are now receiving a free, healthy school meal every day, thanks to a new approach introduced by Gloucestershire County Council to automatically enrol eligible pupils.

Following the January 2026 school census, 591 additional children were registered for free school meals after the council introduced a system to identify and enrol pupils who were eligible but not claiming the support.

Free school meals help children concentrate in class and give families some relief from the cost of living, at a time when household costs remain high. For families, this can mean savings of almost £500 per child each year.

The approach also brings significant benefits for local schools. By increasing free school meal registrations, Gloucestershire schools are expected to receive around £1.6 million in additional education funding, including Pupil Premium, which helps schools support children who experience extra barriers to learning. Schools can expect to receive this funding in October 2027.

Free school meal auto-enrolment works by using existing council data to identify children who are entitled to free school meals but are not currently registered. Families are informed and have the option to opt out. Fewer than one per cent of families chose to opt out, showing strong support for the approach across the county.

Gloucestershire County Council is one of the first two-tier local authorities in the country to successfully introduce free school meal auto-enrolment. Making this process standard practice supports the council's aim of giving every child the best start in life, and helps to ensure children do not miss out on the meals they are entitled to.

**Councillor Linda Cohen, Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, said:**

“Every child deserves the chance to learn, grow and thrive, and provision of a healthy meal at school plays a vital part in that.

“By automatically enrolling children who are already entitled to free school meals, we are removing barriers for families and making sure support reaches those who need it most.

“This work is helping families save money, supporting children to do well at school, and securing vital funding for our schools. It is a practical example of how the county council is taking action to tackle inequality and support children and young people across Gloucestershire.”

**Gloucestershire Libraries and Registration Services invite people to talk about death and dying**

**Gloucestershire Libraries and Registration Services are looking to break down the stigma around talking about death and dying by hosting informal events for local people during Dying Matters Awareness Week next week.**

The week, taking place from Monday 4 to Sunday 10 May, is a national campaign led by Hospice UK that encourages open, honest conversations about death, dying and bereavement. While these topics affect everyone, many people still find them difficult to talk about, which can make experiences of loss even harder when they happen.

As part of the week, registrars will be on hand at two Gloucestershire libraries for relaxed, drop-in chats. Visitors can ask questions, learn more about what happens when a death needs to be registered, and feel more reassured about what to expect if they ever need to attend an appointment in the future.

Libraries will also feature a display of recommended books, chosen by Gloucestershire's Health and Wellbeing Librarian, exploring death, dying and grief in thoughtful and accessible ways.

**Drop-in sessions**

- **Stroud Library** - Tuesday 5 May, 10am to 1pm
- **Gloucester Library** - Thursday 7 May, 10am to 1pm

No booking is required - people can simply drop in for a chat, whether they are curious, have questions, or just want to browse the book display.

**Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, cabinet member with responsibility for libraries and registration services, said:** "Death and dying touch every one of us, yet they're still subjects many people feel uncomfortable talking about. These events are about creating welcoming, supportive spaces where people can ask questions and have open conversations at their own pace. By talking more openly, we can help reduce fear, build understanding and support each other better when it really matters."

More information about the national campaign, including how to take part or host an event, is available via the Dying Matters website: [Dying Matters Awareness Week 2026 | Hospice UK](#)

## **Cheltenham Library to close temporarily for essential building works**



### **Cheltenham’s main library building will close temporarily from Thursday 14 May to allow essential building works to take place.**

The library is expected to reopen on Monday 1 June, although this may be extended slightly if additional work is needed.

As part of earlier maintenance work to the floor, asbestos was identified (but not disturbed). We are closing to ensure safe removal before any further work continues. The closure is being planned in advance so the works can be carried out safely and efficiently, while keeping disruption to library users to a minimum.

While the main library is closed, services will continue where possible. The Children’s Library will remain open as usual for children and families, and adult reservations will still be available for collection from the Children’s Library throughout the closure.

Library users are also encouraged to make use of other nearby libraries in Cheltenham during this period, including Charlton Kings Library, Hesters Way Library, Prestbury Library and the Oakley Interactive Space. Items can be requested and renewed online via the Gloucestershire Libraries website.

**Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, cabinet member with responsibility for libraries, said:** “We understand how important Cheltenham Library is to the local community and appreciate that a temporary closure can be inconvenient. These essential works will help ensure the building remains safe and usable for the future. We’ve worked hard to keep key services running, especially for families, and to make sure people know where else they can go while the main library is closed.”

Full details about the closure, alternative libraries and online services are available at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries)

## **County council’s new supported lodgings service receives Ofsted registration**



Gloucestershire County Council is looking for hosts for its new supported lodgings service after receiving Ofsted registration.

The council is celebrating a major milestone after Launch Pad, its supported lodgings service, was officially registered by Ofsted. The registration means the service is now open and actively seeking local people with a spare room able to help support young people as they transition into adulthood.

Launch Pad provides supported lodgings for young people aged 16 to 18 in or leaving care who may not yet be ready to live independently. By offering a room within a family home, hosts help young people build confidence, independence and vital life skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Supported lodgings are widely recognised as a positive and stable alternative to independent living for young people who need some extra help. Demand for this type of accommodation is increasing across Gloucestershire, particularly for care leavers and unaccompanied young people seeking asylum, making the need for new hosts more urgent than ever.

Ofsted has highlighted the importance of well-regulated supported accommodation where young people feel safe and supported to develop emotional resilience, practical skills and independence. Launch Pad responds directly to this need, offering placements that typically last between six months and two years.

Hosts provide more than just a room. They offer day-to-day guidance, such as help with cooking, budgeting and accessing education, employment or training, while encouraging young people to take increasing responsibility for their own lives. Unlike fostering, supported lodgings do not involve parental responsibility and offer flexibility for hosts who want to make a difference without a long-term commitment.

Cllr Ben Evans, cabinet member for safeguarding and care at Gloucestershire County Council, said: "Securing Ofsted registration is a significant achievement for our new Launch Pad service. Many young people aged 16 or 17 are not ready to live independently, but may not be suited to foster care.

"Supported lodgings provide the right balance of independence and support, and we are now inviting people across Gloucestershire to consider becoming hosts."

People from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply, including single adults or couples, homeowners or tenants with their landlord's permission. Hosts receive training, ongoing support from the Launch Pad team and access to advice around the clock.

Anyone interested in finding out more, with no obligation, can email [fostering@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@gloucestershire.gov.uk) or call 01242 532654.

## **Have your say on the future of SEND in Gloucestershire**

### **Gloucestershire County Council wants to hear your views on the future of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision for children and young people.**



The county council launched a consultation today (Tuesday 5 May) on the new SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2026–2031, which sets out how it plans to make sure there are enough high-quality specialist places in the county. Residents can share their views on the council's plans, which will be used to develop and strengthen SEND support in Gloucestershire.

The strategy includes the expansion of specialist places and mainstream SEND provision, as well as improving early years and post-16 options.

More children and young people than ever before need specialist support, and the county council is continuing to increase the number of local special school places so children can learn closer to home.

Since 2019 the council has created 510 more places by opening new special schools, such as Brook Academy in Gloucester and Sladewood Academy in Stroud, as well as expanding places at existing special schools.

The council has also committed to delivering an additional 400 places by 2028, supported by a £39.5 million investment.

Despite this significant increase in places, demand is still rising, and the council wants to work with families and professionals to help prioritise the next steps.

Cllr Linda Cohen, cabinet member for education at Gloucestershire County Council, said: "Every child should have the chance to learn, grow and thrive in a setting that meets their needs. By 2028, we will have invested over £50 million in new special school places across Gloucestershire, helping more children access high-quality education closer to where they live.

"We want to keep building on this progress. Your feedback will help shape the next phase of our plans so we can continue strengthening SEND provision and create opportunities that support every child to reach their potential."

### **Your voice matters**

The consultation is open to everyone, but the council especially wants to hear from families who have children with SEND, young people with SEND, and education, health and social care professionals working in this area.

The survey has been designed to be short, clear and accessible. Easy-read and printed versions are available on request.

The consultation runs from Tuesday 5 May until 5pm on Tuesday 23 June.

Take part here [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/send-consultation](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/send-consultation)

You can request a printed, easy-read or translated version by emailing [sctsufficiency@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:sctsufficiency@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

# Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/26 and 11/05/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/26

	2026/2027	Reserve Movements	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age remaining	
<b>INCOME</b>						
<b>Town Business Committee</b>						
100	Precept	£433,387.00	£0.00	£216,963.50	£-216,423.50	-49.94%
105	Newsletter Advertising	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
120	Feed-in Tariff from Town Hall	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-1,000.00	-100.00%
125	Stonehouse Town FC lease	£600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-600.00	-100.00%
126	STFC Water Recharge	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-200.00	-100.00%
127	STFC Electric Recharge	£2,500.00	£0.00	£289.05	£-2,210.95	-88.44%
130	Athletics Field Lease	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
135	Phone Mast on Land	£6,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-6,000.00	-100.00%
140	Building Lease at OEL	£637.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-637.00	-100.00%
145	Magpies Social Club	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-2,000.00	-100.00%
150	Community Centre Lease	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-500.00	-100.00%
155	OEL Pitch Hire	£3,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-3,000.00	-100.00%
160	Misc Income	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-500.00	-100.00%
170	Investments Interest	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
171	Bank Interest - Lloyds Bank	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
172	Bank Interest - Charity A/C	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-2,000.00	-100.00%
173	Bank Interest - Natwest	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
174	Bank interest - Cambridge BS	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-2,000.00	-100.00%
176	Bank Interest - Nationwide	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-2,000.00	-100.00%
177	Bank Interest - Melton Building Society	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-2,000.00	-100.00%
178	CCLA Interest	£18,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-18,000.00	-100.00%

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		<b>2026/2027</b>	<b>Reserve Movements</b>	<b>Actual Net</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Bal %age remaining</b>
179	Town Hall/Library Recharges	£3,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	-£3,000.00	-100.00%
<b>Total Town Business Committee</b>		<u>£479,324.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£217,252.55</u>	<u>-£262,071.45</u>	<u>-54.68%</u>
<b>Town Environment Committee</b>						
200	Stonehouse in Bloom	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
205	Event Income/Donations					
205/1	Events	£1,200.00	£0.00	£0.00	-£1,200.00	-100.00%
205/2	Donations	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
205/3	Markets	£0.00	£0.00	£55.00	£55.00	0.00%
205	Total	<u>£1,200.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£55.00</u>	<u>-£1,145.00</u>	<u>-95.42%</u>
210	Planting Sponsorship	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
215	Grants	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
<b>Total Town Environment Committee</b>		<u>£1,200.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£55.00</u>	<u>-£1,145.00</u>	<u>-95.42%</u>
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>£480,524.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£217,307.55</u>	<u>-£263,216.45</u>	<u>-54.78%</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
<b>Town Business Committee</b>						
1000	Salaries					
1000/1	Contracted staff	£232,144.00	£0.00	£16,066.43	£216,077.57	93.08%
1000/2	Locum	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1000/3	Short term contracted staff	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1000	Total	<u>£232,144.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£16,066.43</u>	<u>£216,077.57</u>	<u>93.08%</u>
1010	Training & Recruitment					
1010/1	Contracted Staff	£2,000.00	£0.00	£45.00	£1,955.00	97.75%
1010/2	Councillors	£1,000.00	£0.00	£245.00	£755.00	75.50%

# Financial Budget Comparison

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Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/26

		<b>2026/2027</b>	<b>Reserve Movements</b>	<b>Actual Net</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Bal %age remaining</b>
1010	Total	£3,000.00	£0.00	£290.00	£2,710.00	90.33%
1020	Health & Safety	£2,500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,500.00	100.00%
1030	Professional Fees	£6,000.00	£0.00	£2,851.13	£3,148.87	52.48%
1040	IT support					
1040/1	General	£6,750.00	£0.00	£536.92	£6,213.08	92.05%
1040/2	Website	£1,300.00	£0.00	£111.00	£1,189.00	91.46%
1040/3	Newsletter	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1040/4	Phones	£600.00	£0.00	£32.67	£567.33	94.56%
1040/5	Printing	£0.00	£0.00	£53.83	-£53.83	0.00%
1040	Total	£8,650.00	£0.00	£734.42	£7,915.58	91.51%
1050	Office Equipment Renewals	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	100.00%
1060	Grants					
1060/1	One-Offs	£10,000.00	£0.00	£3,120.00	£6,880.00	68.80%
1060/2	Long-Term	£10,000.00	£0.00	£5,500.00	£4,500.00	45.00%
1060	Total	£20,000.00	£0.00	£8,620.00	£11,380.00	56.90%
1070	Town Hall/Library Shared Costs					
1070/1	Rates	£5,300.00	£0.00	£4,154.80	£1,145.20	21.61%
1070/2	Water	£800.00	£0.00	£64.61	£735.39	91.92%
1070/3	Electric	£3,000.00	£0.00	£234.64	£2,765.36	92.18%
1070/4	Gas	£2,500.00	£0.00	£105.15	£2,394.85	95.79%
1070/5	Interior Maintenance (reactive)	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	100.00%
1070/6	Interior Maintenance (programmed)	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	100.00%
1070/7	Waste Collection	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00	100.00%

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		<b>2026/2027</b>	<b>Reserve Movements</b>	<b>Actual Net</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Bal %age remaining</b>
1070/8	Security	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00	100.00%
1070	Total	£14,000.00	£0.00	£4,559.20	£9,440.80	67.43%
1080	Town Hall/Library STC costs					
1080/1	Exterior Maintenance/Cleaning	£1,000.00	£0.00	£40.00	£960.00	96.00%
1080/2	Interior Cleaning	£2,100.00	£0.00	£175.22	£1,924.78	91.66%
1080	Total	£3,100.00	£0.00	£215.22	£2,884.78	93.06%
1090	Admin Expenses					
1090/1	Paper	£300.00	£0.00	£28.00	£272.00	90.67%
1090/2	Other	£1,000.00	£0.00	£40.44	£959.56	95.96%
1090/3	Printing and Delivery of Newsletters	£8,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£8,000.00	100.00%
1090/4	Travel expenses	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1090	Total	£9,300.00	£0.00	£68.44	£9,231.56	99.26%
1100	Mayor's Charity & Expenses	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00	100.00%
1110	Travel Costs/Staff & Councillors	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	100.00%
1120	Election Costs	£3,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,000.00	100.00%
1130	Civic/Remembrance Parades	£180.00	£0.00	£0.00	£180.00	100.00%
1140	Pavilion Overheads					
1140/1	Rates	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1140/2	Water	£2,000.00	£0.00	£158.43	£1,841.57	92.08%
1140/3	Electric	£6,300.00	£0.00	£511.46	£5,788.54	91.88%
1140/4	Cleaning	£1,500.00	£0.00	£115.00	£1,385.00	92.33%
1140/5	Maintenance (reactive)	£2,000.00	£0.00	£180.00	£1,820.00	91.00%
1140/6	Maintenance (programmed)	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	100.00%

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Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/26

		<b>2026/2027</b>	<b>Reserve Movements</b>	<b>Actual Net</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Bal %age remaining</b>
1140/7	Waste Collection	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	100.00%
1140/8	Security	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	100.00%
1140/9	Septic Tank	£0.00	£0.00	£590.00	-£590.00	0.00%
1140	Total	£13,500.00	£0.00	£1,554.89	£11,945.11	88.48%
1150	Workshop Overheads					
1150/1	Water	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1150/2	Electric	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1150/3	Maintenance (Reactive)	£300.00	£0.00	£5,365.00	-£5,065.00	-1688.33%
1150/4	Maintenance (programmed)	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	100.00%
1150/5	Waste Collection	£1,800.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,800.00	100.00%
1150/6	Security	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	100.00%
1150	Total	£3,300.00	£0.00	£5,365.00	-£2,065.00	-62.58%
1160	Equipment & Vehicle Costs					
1160/1	Equipment and Vehicle costs	£700.00	£0.00	£0.00	£700.00	100.00%
1160/2	Maintenance	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	100.00%
1160/3	Fuel	£700.00	£0.00	£113.48	£586.52	83.79%
1160/4	Tax	£350.00	£0.00	£0.00	£350.00	100.00%
1160/5	MOT/Service	£600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£600.00	100.00%
1160	Total	£3,350.00	£0.00	£113.48	£3,236.52	96.61%
1170	Youth Centre Workers	£67,500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£67,500.00	100.00%
1180	Youth Centre Overheads					
1180/1	Rates	£1,400.00	£0.00	£1,701.70	-£301.70	-21.55%
1180/2	Water	£300.00	£0.00	£18.49	£281.51	93.84%

# Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/26 and 11/05/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/26

		<b>2026/2027</b>	<b>Reserve Movements</b>	<b>Actual Net</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Bal %age remaining</b>
1180/3	Electric	£1,700.00	£0.00	£141.48	£1,558.52	91.68%
1180/4	Cleaning	£1,300.00	£0.00	£94.00	£1,206.00	92.77%
1180/5	Maintenance (reactive)	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	100.00%
1180/6	Maintenance (programmed)	£1,500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,500.00	100.00%
1180/7	Waste collection	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00	100.00%
1180/8	Security	£500.00	£0.00	£402.00	£98.00	19.60%
1180/9	IT costs	£1,100.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,100.00	100.00%
1180	<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,100.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£2,357.67</b>	<b>£7,742.33</b>	<b>76.66%</b>
1200	Subscriptions	£3,500.00	£0.00	£97.00	£3,403.00	97.23%
1210	Insurances					
1210/1	Public/Employee Liability	£8,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£8,000.00	100.00%
1210/2	Buildings	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1210/3	Vehicle	£1,500.00	£0.00	£731.68	£768.32	51.22%
1210	<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,500.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£731.68</b>	<b>£8,768.32</b>	<b>92.30%</b>
1220	Project Planning & Delivery					
1220/1	OEL Car Park	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1220/2	Stagholt	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1220/3	Ship Inn site	£0.00	£179.50	£384.50	-£205.00	0.00%
1220/4	Court View	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1220/5	Great Oldbury	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1220	<b>Total</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£179.50</b>	<b>£384.50</b>	<b>-£205.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
1230	Climate Change	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00	100.00%
<b>Total Town Business Committee</b>		<b>£418,624.00</b>	<b>£179.50</b>	<b>£44,009.06</b>	<b>£374,794.44</b>	<b>89.53%</b>

# Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/26 and 11/05/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/26

		2026/2027	Reserve Movements	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age remaining
<b>Town Environment Committee</b>						
1190	Amenity Areas					
1190/1	Grounds Maintenance (contract)	£29,000.00	£0.00	£2,460.50	£26,539.50	91.52%
1190/2	Grounds Maintenance (in-house)	£2,000.00	£0.00	£59.00	£1,941.00	97.05%
1190/3	Play Equipment maint/repairs/insp	£3,300.00	£0.00	£515.00	£2,785.00	84.39%
1190/4	Public Space Improvements	£5,300.00	£0.00	£618.90	£4,681.10	88.32%
1190/5	Tree & Hedge/boundary maintenance	£4,500.00	£0.00	£186.00	£4,314.00	95.87%
1190/6	Waste Collection	£3,300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,300.00	100.00%
1190	Total	£47,400.00	£0.00	£3,839.40	£43,560.60	91.90%
2000	Christmas Lights	£3,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,000.00	100.00%
2005	Climate Change	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2010	In Bloom					
2010/1	Contract Planting	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2010/2	Non-Contract Planting	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2010/3	Watering Services	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2010/4	Other	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2010	Total	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2050	Cultural Events & Studies					
2050/1	Goodwill	£7,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£7,000.00	100.00%
2050/2	Civic Awards	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00	100.00%
2050/3	Other	£4,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,000.00	100.00%
2050/4	Communications	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2050	Total	£11,300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£11,300.00	100.00%

# Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/26 and 11/05/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/26

	<b>2026/2027</b>	<b>Reserve Movements</b>	<b>Actual Net</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Bal %age remaining</b>
2080 Neighbourhood Plan Review	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2090 Planning Specialist Advice					
2090/1	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2090/2	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2090 Total	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
<b>Total Town Environment Committee</b>	<u>£61,700.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£3,839.40</u>	<u>£57,860.60</u>	<u>93.78%</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>£480,324.00</u>	<u>£179.50</u>	<u>£47,848.46</u>	<u>£432,655.04</u>	<u>90.08%</u>
Total Income	£480,524.00	£0.00	£217,307.55	-£263,216.45	-54.78%
Total Expenditure	£480,324.00	£179.50	£47,848.46	£432,655.04	90.08%
<b>Total Net Balance</b>	<b>£200.00</b>		<b>£169,459.09</b>		

# Bank Account Reconciled Statement

**Stonehouse Town Council**                      **01651837**                      **30-98-29**

Statement Number	73	Bank Statement No.	73
Statement Opening Balance	£71,447.91	Opening Date	01/04/26
Statement Closing Balance	£256,442.09	Closing Date	30/04/26
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£256,442.09		

Date	Cheque/ Ref.	Supplier/ Customer	Debit (£)	Credit (£)	Balance (£)
02/04/26	DD020426WATERP LUS	WaterPlus	13.39	0.00	71,434.52
07/04/26	DEB070426TAYNT ONS	Tayntons Solicitors	300.00	0.00	71,134.52
09/04/26	DD090426YUNENE RGY	YU Energy	1,042.87	0.00	70,091.65
10/04/26	DD100426YUNENE RGY	YU Energy	264.53	0.00	69,827.12
10/04/26	DEB100426VOIPFO NE	Voipfone	9.60	0.00	69,817.52
10/04/26	DEP100426SCC	Stonehouse Community Association	-60.00	0.00	69,877.52
10/04/26	FPI100426 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	0.00	-72.00	69,805.52
10/04/26	FPO100426ADAD	All Done and Dusted	306.00	0.00	69,499.52
10/04/26	FPO100426ALLST ONE	Allstone Speedy Skips	349.60	0.00	69,149.92
10/04/26	FPO100426CLARIA N	Clarian Property Services	325.00	0.00	68,824.92
10/04/26	FPO100426CN	[REDACTED]	3.15	0.00	68,821.77
10/04/26	FPO100426D2D	Dor2Dor	600.00	0.00	68,221.77
10/04/26	FPO100426ERMIN	Ermin Plant	81.65	0.00	68,140.12
10/04/26	FPO100426GCC	Gloucestershire County Council	201.48	0.00	67,938.64
10/04/26	FPO100426GRFAS TENERS	G R Fasteners	37.80	0.00	67,900.84
10/04/26	FPO100426GRUND ON	Grundon Waste Management Ltd	6.94	0.00	67,893.90
10/04/26	FPO100426HAWKI NS	Hawkins Groundcare	270.68	0.00	67,623.22
10/04/26	FPO100426HMRC	HMRC	3,989.93	0.00	63,633.29
10/04/26	FPO100426HOGG	Hogg and Smith	72.00	0.00	63,561.29
10/04/26	FPO100426JOMEW	Jo Mew Creative	300.00	0.00	63,261.29
10/04/26	FPO100426KELLA WAY	Kellaway Building Supplies Ltd	31.68	0.00	63,229.61
10/04/26	FPO100426MDECO LOGY	MD Ecology	960.00	0.00	62,269.61
10/04/26	FPO100426PROLIF IC	Prolific Solutions (South West) Ltd	79.53	0.00	62,190.08
10/04/26	FPO100426SCV	Stonehouse Commercial Vehicles	246.00	0.00	61,944.08
10/04/26	FPO100426SDC	Stroud District Council	6,051.50	0.00	55,892.58

# Bank Account Reconciled Statement

10/04/26	FPO100426STROU DALARM	Stroud Alarms	216.00	0.00	55,676.58
10/04/26	FPO100426TWHA WKINS	T W Hawkins & Sons	2,952.60	0.00	52,723.98
17/04/26	DEB170426PHOTO FRAMES	Photo Frames & Art	31.94	0.00	52,692.04
20/04/26	DD200426SKY	Sky Mobile	13.00	0.00	52,679.04
20/04/26	DD200426WATERP LUS	WaterPlus	106.56	0.00	52,572.48
20/04/26	DEB200426FASTH OSTS	Fasthosts	13.20	0.00	52,559.28
20/04/26	PAY200426LLOYD S	Lloyds Bank	8.50	0.00	52,550.78
22/04/26	DD220426NEST	NEST	2,437.96	0.00	50,112.82
22/04/26	DEB220426CVD	CVD Insurance Services	731.68	0.00	49,381.14
24/04/26	FPI240426[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	0.00	30.00	49,411.14
24/04/26	SO240426SALARIE S	Staff Salaries	9,615.49	0.00	39,795.65
27/04/26	BGC270426HMRC	HMRC (VAT)	0.00	7,092.77	46,888.42
27/04/26	DD270426WATERP LUS	WaterPlus	54.67	0.00	46,833.75
27/04/26	FPO270426ABBEY LOO	Abbey Loos	253.44	0.00	46,580.31
27/04/26	FPO270426JIREH	Jireh Solutions Ltd	55.50	0.00	46,524.81
27/04/26	FPO270426MHS	Marlyn Home Services	6,438.00	0.00	40,086.81
27/04/26	FPO270426SMITHS	Smiths Gloucester LTD	49.06	0.00	40,037.75
28/04/26	SO280426PATA	PATA Payroll	84.85	0.00	39,952.90
29/04/26	DD290426ICO	Information Commissioners Office	47.00	0.00	39,905.90
29/04/26	FPI290426[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	0.00	5.00	39,910.90
29/04/26	FPI290426STFC	Stonehouse Town Football Club	0.00	289.05	40,199.95
30/04/26	BGC300426SDC	Stroud District Council	0.00	216,693.50	256,893.45
30/04/26	DD300426PENINSU LA	Peninsula	451.36	0.00	256,442.09

## Uncleared and unrepresented effects

Total uncleared and unrepresented	0.00	0.00
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# Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Total debits / credits      39044.14      224038.32

Reconciled by Carla Swindells

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Stonehouse Town Council

## Expenditure transactions - approval list

Start of year 01/04/26

Supplier totals will include confidential items

### BACS Approval List

No	Payment Reference	Gross	Heading	Invoice date	Details	Invoice
4984		£230.40	1220/3	30/04/26	Abbey Loos - April '26 - Portaloo Hire - Ship Inn Site	85291
		<b>£230.40</b>			Abbey Loos - Total	
4987		£250.80		11/05/26	All Done and Dusted - April '26 - Pod & Pavilion Cleaning	940
1		£112.80	1180/4		April '26 - Pod Cleaning	
2		£138.00	1140/4		April '26 - Pavilion Cleaning	
		<b>£250.80</b>			All Done and Dusted - Total	
4980		£79.20	1190/5	30/04/26	Dennis Brown & Son - 20 x 2" x 1.6 - tree supports	13468
		<b>£79.20</b>			Dennis Brown & Son - Total	
4983		£24.00	1080/1	01/05/26	Easy Window Cleaning - May '26 - TH	34759
		<b>£24.00</b>			Easy Window Cleaning - Total	
4982		£322.15	1040/1	01/05/26	Jireh Solutions Ltd - May '26 Contract	35638
		<b>£322.15</b>			Jireh Solutions Ltd - Total	
4981		£100.00	1040/2	28/04/26	Jo Mew Creative - April '25 - Website management	1181
		<b>£100.00</b>			Jo Mew Creative - Total	
4989		£70.80	1190/2	06/05/26	Kellaway Building Supplies Ltd - Laburnum - 1 x bag topsoil - hole filling	003447250
		<b>£70.80</b>			Kellaway Building Supplies Ltd - Total	
4991		£144.00	1190/5	30/04/26	Midland Forestry Limited - Tree Works - High Street	6085
		<b>£144.00</b>			Midland Forestry Limited - Total	
4985		£64.60	1040/5	30/04/26	Prolific Solutions (South West) Ltd - April '26 - Printer TH	12830
		<b>£64.60</b>			Prolific Solutions (South West) Ltd - Total	
4990		£618.00	1190/3	07/05/26	ROSPA Play Safety - Annual Inspection - Playgrounds	97206
		<b>£618.00</b>			ROSPA Play Safety - Total	
4988		£2,952.60	1190/1	05/05/26	T W Hawkins & Sons - April '26 - Contract mowing	014705
		<b>£2,952.60</b>			T W Hawkins & Sons - Total	
4979		£708.00	1140/9	20/04/26	T-T Pumps LTD - Monitoring Costs 26/27 - Septic Tank OEL	0306403

Signature

Signature

Date

# Stonehouse Town Council

## Expenditure transactions - approval list

Start of year 01/04/26

Supplier totals will include confidential items

### BACS Approval List

No	Payment Reference	Gross	Heading	Invoice date	Details	Invoice
		<u>£708.00</u>			T-T Pumps LTD - Total	
<b>Total</b>		<u>£5,564.55</u>				

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Stonehouse Town Council

## Expenditure transactions - approval list

Start of year 01/04/26

Supplier totals will include confidential items

### Debit Card Approval List

No	Payment Reference	Gross	Heading	Invoice date	Details	Invoice
4993		£179.50	1220/3	05/05/26	Stroud District Council - Ship Inn - Planning Fee	260676
		<b>£179.50</b>			Stroud District Council - Total	
4992		£9.60	1040/4	09/05/26	Voipfone - May '26 Renewal of Number & PBX	1015068590
4994		£20.00	1040/4	01/05/26	Voipfone - Auto Top Up	1015060723
		<b>£29.60</b>			Voipfone - Total	
<b>Total</b>		£209.10				

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Purchase Day Book

Showing only	Account type All	Ledger Date before	Ledger Date after	01/04/26
	Supplier	Paid date before	Paid date after	
Type	All	Payment type	Direct Debit	Reference

No.	Date	Invoice no.	Supplier	Details	Heading	Net	Vat type	Vat	Gross	Due	Payment Reference	Paid
5000	14/04/26	12260261	WaterPlus	April '25 - Water - Pod	1180/2	£18.49	Zero Rated	£0.00	£18.49	14/05/26	DD060526WAT ERPLUS	06/05/26
4973	15/04/26		Sky Mobile	Apr '26 CCTV Sim Card Ship Inn Site	1220/3	£13.00	Zero Rated	£0.00	£13.00	15/05/26	DD200426SKY	20/04/26
4961	20/04/26		NEST	April 26	1000/1	£2,437.96	Outside the S	£0.00	£2,437.96	20/05/26	DD220426NES T	22/04/26
4962	20/04/26		Lloyds Bank	Apr '26 Bank Charges	1090/2	£8.50	Zero Rated	£0.00	£8.50	20/05/26	PAY200426LLO YDS	20/04/26
5001	29/04/26	12338664	WaterPlus	April '26 - Water - Pavilion	1140/2	£158.43	Zero Rated	£0.00	£158.43	29/05/26		
4978	30/04/26		Peninsula	May '26 - Monthly Contract	1030	£376.13	20% Standard	£75.23	£451.36	30/05/26	DD300426PENI NSULA	30/04/26
4986	30/04/26	9002929	John Stayte Services Ltd	April '26 - Fuel	1160/3	£113.48	20% Standard	£22.70	£136.18	30/05/26		
4996	01/05/26	03823749	YU Energy	April '26 - Electric - Pavilion	1140/3	£511.46	20% Standard	£102.29	£613.75	31/05/26	DD080526YUE NERGY	08/05/26
4997	01/05/26	03823747	YU Energy	April '26 - Electric - TH	1070/3	£178.77	5%	£8.94	£187.71	31/05/26	DD080526YUE NERGY	08/05/26
4998	01/05/26	03823751	YU Energy	April '26 - Electric - Pod	1180/3	£141.48	5%	£7.07	£148.55	31/05/26	DD080526YUE NERGY	08/05/26
4999	01/05/26	03823748	YU Energy	April '26 - Electric - Library	1070/3	£55.87	5%	£2.79	£58.66	31/05/26	DD080526YUE NERGY	08/05/26
5002	08/05/26	12443605	WaterPlus	April '26 - Water - TH	1070/2	£64.61	Zero Rated	£0.00	£64.61	07/06/26		
4995	11/05/26	03903367	YU Energy	April '26 - Gas - TH	1070/4	£105.15	5%	£5.26	£110.41	10/06/26	DD110526YUE NERGY	11/05/26

13 Transactions

Total £4,183.33 £224.28 £4,407.61

# Purchase Day Book

Showing only	Account type All	Ledger Date before	Ledger Date after	14/03/26
	Supplier	Paid date before	Paid date after	
	Type All	Payment type	Reference	
			Standing Order	

No.	Date	Invoice no.	Supplier	Details	Heading	Net	Vat type	Vat	Gross Due	Payment Reference	Paid	
4958	20/04/26		Staff Salaries	April 26	1000/1	£9,615.49	Outside the S	£0.00	£9,615.49	20/05/26	SO240426SAL ARIES	24/04/26
4959	20/04/26	25/0955/PP	PATA Payroll	April 26	Payroll with Pension Service	£84.85	Outside the S	£0.00	£84.85	20/05/26	SO280426PAT A	28/04/26
2 Transactions						Total			£9,700.34	£0.00	£9,700.34	

# Reserve Movements

Start of year 01/04/26

## General Fund

-£22,716.41	Start of year value
-£22,716.41	Value as at 31/03/26

This value is calculated and not just a sum of reserve movements plus starting balance.

## General Reserve (Contingency)

£100,650.62	Start of year value
£100,650.62	Current value

## Replacement Recreation Land

£53,056.00	Start of year value
£53,056.00	Current value

## Asset Renewal Reserve

£15,661.96	Start of year value
£15,661.96	Current value

## Elections

£0.30	Start of year value
£0.30	Current value

## Community Facilities

£303,439.43	Start of year value
£303,439.43	Current value

## Street Furniture

£5,000.00	Start of year value
£5,000.00	Current value

## Oldends Lane Seage Development

£0.00	Start of year value
£0.00	Current value

## Neighbourhood Plan Review

£13,000.00	Start of year value
£13,000.00	Current value

## Stroud DC Tourism Grants 2019

£651.27	Start of year value
£651.27	Current value

## Stroud District Council Market Towns Initiative Funding

£43,325.00	Start of year value
£43,325.00	Current value

## GWR Cycle Shelter

£10,000.00	Start of year value
------------	---------------------

£10,000.00 Current value

## CIL

£7,532.46 Start of year value

£7,532.46 Current value

## Bus shelter replacement & repairs

£16,000.00 Start of year value

£16,000.00 Current value

## Meadow Road Play area refurbishment

£16,000.00 Start of year value

£16,000.00 Current value

## Stagholt Brook Repairs

£10,000.00 Start of year value

£10,000.00 Current value

## Stagholt

£40,187.67 Start of year value

£40,187.67 Current value

## Court View

£20,000.00 Start of year value

£20,000.00 Current value

## Tourism Market Towns

£1,010.00 Start of year value

£1,010.00 Current value

## Stroudwater Railway station

£10,000.00 Start of year value

£10,000.00 Current value

## Homestart Grant

£30,000.00 Start of year value

£30,000.00 Current value

## Support Stonehouse

£0.00 Start of year value

£0.00 Current value

## In Bloom Planting display

£1,978.48 Start of year value

£1,978.48 Current value

## Canal Spring Festival

£2,000.00 Start of year value

£2,000.00 Current value

#### Ship Inn Site

£3,953.25 Start of year value

01/04/26 -£3,989.93 Expenditure transaction 4899, March 26

05/05/26 -£179.50 Expenditure transaction 4993, Ship Inn - Planning Fee

-£216.18 Current value

#### Climate change

£4,000.00 Start of year value

£4,000.00 Current value

#### Christmas Lighting

£7,219.55 Start of year value

£7,219.55 Current value

#### Stonehouse Community Association

£5,000.00 Start of year value

£5,000.00 Current value

#### Verney Fields

£10,000.00 Start of year value

£10,000.00 Current value

#### Ship Inn site - financial operational support 2026/27

£5,000.00 Start of year value

£5,000.00 Current value

#### Ship Inn site - financial operational support 2027/28

£7,500.00 Start of year value

£7,500.00 Current value

#### Ship Inn site - financial operational support 2028/29

£7,500.00 Start of year value

£7,500.00 Current value

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£745,496.56 Current Reserves total  
excluding the General Fund

£722,780.15 Current Reserves total  
including the General Fund



**Minutes of a Town Business Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7pm at the Stonehouse Town Hall/Library, Queens Road, Stonehouse, GL10 2QA**

**Present:** Councillors John Callinan, Carol Kambites, John Parker, Val Randell, Keith Terry, Carol Trim and Theresa Watt (Chair of Committee).

**In Attendance:** Deputy Clerk; representative of Stonehouse School Trustees

All residents of the Parish are welcome to attend and a period of up to 15 minutes will be set aside at the beginning of the meeting for members of the public to raise questions.

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*Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded.*

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**B/1005 To receive apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Keren Capeling

**B/1006 To receive Declarations of Interest**

Councillor John Parker declared an interest in Agenda Item **B/1011**, as he has a personal interest in the trees referenced within the Stonehouse School Trustees grant application, having previously been consulted on this matter.

**B/1007 To approve the minutes of the Business Committee meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Councillor Callinan said that he was intending to vote against the acceptance of the minutes and requested that his vote be recorded. Councillor Parker expressed he had questions regarding the minutes and therefore requested to abstain from voting. One additional councillor also requested to abstain, having been absent from the previous meeting. As a result, the Committee **DEFERRED** approval of the minutes to the next Business Meeting.

By agreement of the Committee, the Chair brought forward agenda item **B/1011** due to the attendance of the Stonehouse School Trustees' representative.

**B/1011 To approve the following grant application:**

- Stonehouse School Trustees

The representative of the Stonehouse School Trustees began by thanking the Council for the grant previously received. He explained that, following the Council's advice to seek further expert guidance, he had returned to request an additional grant to support remedial works to one of the London Plane Trees on Elm Road. The works are required to maintain the health of the tree and to address health and safety concerns due to its proximity to the road.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve a grant of £398 for the necessary tree works.

Chair resumed the agenda.

#### **B/1008 Matters arising**

Committee noted the matters arising as detailed in the supporting papers:

- Recipients of council grants have been notified of the awards
- Market stallholders to be notified of the need to sign the old market licence.
- Officers are making enquiries with the Competition Markets Authority with regards to recent statements made in relation stallholder restrictions
- Much needed repair works to the Pod building have now been successfully completed

Councillor Parker asked whether the market stallholders had signed the old market licenses yet - officers to investigate.

#### **B/1009 To receive the latest budget position**

The Committee received the 2025/26 budget. Councillor Callinan stated that he required clarification on certain points and would arrange a meeting with the RFO.

Committee received the latest budget position for 2026/27 and **NOTED** total 'Actual Net' Expenditure of £41,046.18; total 'Actual Net' Income of £0 and total Reserve movement of £0.

#### **B/1010 To approve the latest BACS payment list and provide retrospective approval for Debit Card Payments**

Committee **APPROVED** BACS payment totalling £17,264.07.

Committee also **RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVED** Debit card payments totalling £776.82

#### **B/1011 To approve the following grant applications:**

##### **1. Citizens Advice**

The Committee considered a grant application for £1,595 and agreed that Citizens Advice is a very worthwhile organisation. It was proposed and **APPROVED** that the grant be increased to £2,000.

## **2. Stonehouse School Trustees**

This item was brought forward - see notes of discussion above

## **3. Stonehouse Canal Festival**

The Committee discussed the grant application at length, particularly the legal issues regarding councils being unable to provide funds directly to churches. The Committee **AGREED IN PRINCIPLE** to support the Canal Festival, subject to identifying a legally compliant means of doing so.

### **B/1012 To approve additional payment for recent cladding works to the Youth Pod**

Committee discussed the very good work that has been completed on the Pod building and agreed that it was much improved.

Committee **APPROVED** the additional payment of £554.80 to Marlyn Homes.

### **B/1013 To consider recommending to Council the early renewal of the council's electricity supply contract from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2027**

The Committee fully considered this item and agreed that electricity prices are unlikely to decrease. The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that officers research energy companies directly, rather than using brokers, and report back to the Business Committee at a later date.

### **B/1014 To consider recommending to Council the 2026/27 Financial Risk Assessment**

Committee considered the Financial Risk Assessment and **RECOMMENDED** that Councillors John Callinan, Carol Kambites, John Parker and Theresa Watt meet with the Town Clerk to discuss the Financial Risk Assessment and any potential amendments, as they felt it needed more detailed consideration.

### **B/1015 To consider recommending to Council the renewal of the council's Public Liability and Employee Liability insurance cover for 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2027**

Committee **RECOMMEND** council approve the renewal of the council's Public Liability and Employee Liability insurance cover for 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2027 at a cost of £9,533.78.

### **B/1016 To consider for recommendation to Council the following updated HR policies:**

- **Training Policy**
- **Induction Policy**
- **Staff Supervision and Development Policy**

The Committee reviewed the policies and identified several amendments. It was therefore proposed that the policies be referred to Peninsula, the

Council's HR advisors, for review before returning to the HR Working Group for further consideration.

**B/1017** To approve the annual Subscriptions for the 2026/27 financial year  
Committee **APPROVED** the annual Subscriptions for the 2026/27 financial year, with the exception of Survey Monkey, as it was considered unnecessary.

**B/1018** To receive updates from the following working groups:

1. **Climate Change Action Forum**  
The working group had not met.
2. **Communications**  
The working group had not met
3. **Oldends Lane Development**  
The Working Group has met, and the minutes will be included in the next meeting
4. **Support Stonehouse**  
The working group has met with and resolved to meet in September to prepare an inclusion into Stonehouse News in the autumn.
5. **Youth**  
The Working Group has met, and the minutes will be included in the next meeting
6. **Policy**  
The working group had not met.
7. **Internal Control Checks (ICC)**  
The Internal Control Checks have been undertaken, and the report will be included in the next meeting.
8. **Local Government Review**
9. The working group had not met.

**B/1019** To note the date of the next meeting - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026.  
Committee **NOTED** the date of the next meeting.



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Environment Committee held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm at Stonehouse Library, High Street, Stonehouse GL10 2NG**

**Present:**

Councillors: Keren Capeling, Keith Creighton, Deborah Curtis (Committee Chair), David Drew, Stephen Hunter, John Parker, Simon Macgregor

**Also present:**

Jacqui Sanders (Deputy Clerk), Gary Wetson (Project Officer, Cllr Dean Bottrill (GCC)

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***Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded.***

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**E/1045 To receive apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Marcus Dixon.

**E/1046 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**E/1047 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April.**

Subject to an amendment to agenda item E/1040, Committee APPROVED the Minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting:

*‘Committee noted the survey showed that the trees identified for works were assessed as medium or low priority.’*

**E/1048 To receive the latest updated Environment Budget.**

Committee NOTED the updated report showing a total ‘Actual Net’ Income of £0; ‘Actual Net’ Expenditure of £618.90 and Reserve Expenditure of £0.

**E/1049 To seek retrospective approval for urgent works to a lime tree on the High Street, at a cost of £120.00 plus VAT.**

Committee retrospectively APPROVED the payment of £120.00 for urgent works to the lime tree on the High Street.

**E/1050 To approve the pollarding of an ash tree to 3m, at Stagholt Brook, at a cost of £700 plus VAT.**

The Chair permitted Cllr Parker to address the Committee prior to consideration of the agenda item. Cllr Parker stated that councillors should not rely solely on his views, as he does not hold indemnity or insurance. He expressed full support for the officers’ comments and confirmed his

agreement with their stated position. Cllr Parker advised that the matter should be subject to discussion, following which the Committee should reach a decision based on the outcome of that discussion.

He further confirmed that he would draft a suitable tree specification in advance of the next survey and would present this to the Community Arboretum and Open Spaces Working Group once completed.

Chair thanked Cllr Parker for his comments.,

Committee APPROVED the pollarding of the ash tree to 3m, at Stagholt Brook at a cost of £700 plus VAT.

**E/1051 To approve the application for a black wrought iron, memorial bench to be sited in Laburnum Park.**

Committee APPROVED the application for a wrought iron memorial bench to be sited in Laburnum Park.

**E/1052 To receive a recommendation from the Recreation Working Group to approve a contractor to complete Phase 1 allotment works at Stagholt.**

The Chair permitted the Project Officer to address the Committee in relation to this item. The Project Officer outlined the scope of the quoted works and emphasised the need for the works to commence.

The Committee discussed the community benefits arising from the project, including a reduction in the allotment waiting list and improvements to the greenspace. Committee noted that the allotments have been highly successful, are well managed, and represent a worthwhile investment.

**E/1053 To comment on recent Planning Applications**

**S.26/0691/HHOLD** 24 Oldends Lane, Stonehouse  
Erection of a garage.

**Comment: No objections as long as none from neighbours.**

**S.26/0716/LAC** High Street, Stonehouse  
Removal of public payphone.

**Comment: The Council raises no objection to the removal of the telephone; however, it notes concern that there is no alternative public telephone located nearby for use by members of the public should it be required.**

**The Committee requested that officers investigate whether the telephone box could potentially remain in situ and, if so, whether the Town Council would be willing to consider adopting it.**

**S.26/0017/STR3MJ** The Elms, Elm Road, Stonehouse  
Proposed 3 storey care home comprising of 80no. bedrooms and café area with associated parking and landscaped gardens.

**Comment:** The Committee noted that an 80-bed care home would represent a very large development for the proposed site. Committee expressed concern that there is insufficient parking provision to accommodate residents, staff and visitors, and that there are no nearby opportunities for overflow parking. The site is located on a road that already experiences significant traffic congestion at the start and end of the school day and forms part of a main bus route.

While the Council welcomes the provision of a new care home facility in principle, Committee suggests that the scale of the development proposed requires careful and thorough consideration.

**S.26/0630/HHOLD** 48 Cotswold Green, Stonehouse  
Erection of a single storey front extension.

**Comment:** No objection to this planning application but notes the objection from the neighbouring property.

**S.26/0531/FUL** Hopelands Preparatory School, Stonehouse  
Alterations to playground including upgraded access path, relocation of wall and fencing to enlarge play surface, and replacement fencing and erection of a retaining wall.

**Comment:** No objection but notes the loss of permeable green space and biodiversity.

**S.26/0597/TPO** The Grove, Browns Lane, Stonehouse  
T23 Oak tree - crown reduce by up to 4m in height and 2m laterally.

**Comment:** This is a tree of significant importance to the history and heritage of Stonehouse. The Council is not persuaded that the report demonstrates a level of severity that would justify the proposed works and therefore considers the works to be unnecessary.

**E/1054** To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council.

**S.26/0410/HHOLD** 3 Anderson Drive, Stonehouse  
Erection of a single storey rear extension.

**PERMITTED**

**S.26/0600/CPL** 17 Kings Road, Stonehouse  
Erection of a rear dormer extension and loft conversion.

**PERMITTED**

**S.26/0307** 12 Boakes Drive, Stonehouse  
Erection of conservatory, insertion of window to first floor side elevation, new heat pump, new gate in boundary wall.

**PERMITTED**

**S.26/0180/FUL** Stonehouse Community Centre, Laburnum Walk, Stonehouse  
Erection of an InPost Locker

**REFUSED**

**E/1055 To receive Working Groups updates.**

- **Stroudwater (Bristol Road) Station**  
Not met.
- **Transport and Highways**  
Met. Minutes will be included in next meeting.
- **Public Rights of Way**  
Not met.
- **Recreation.**  
Met. Minutes will be included in next meeting.
- **Canal Rejuvenation**  
Not met.
- **Court View**  
Not met.
- **Community Arboretum and Open Spaces.**  
Not met.
- **Events**  
Not met.

**E/1056 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**  
Committee NOTED the date of the next meeting.