# BOURTON VALE WARD

# COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT - DECEMBER 2024

Cllr Len Wilkins, Bourton Vale District Councillor

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[Recent Committee Meetings](https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?XXR=0&M=6&DD=2024&ACT=Go) (underlined texts are linked to calendars of meetings with Agendas including Report Packs & Webcasts).

Mon 4 November 4pm [Overview & Scrutiny](https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1165&MId=2295)

Thurs 3 November 6pm [Cabinet](https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1136&MId=2287https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1136&MId=2292)

Wed 13 November 2pm [Planning & Licensing](https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1162&MId=2296)

Thurs 21 November 4pm [Audit & Governance](https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1167&MId=2291)

Wed 27 November 2pm [Council](https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1154&MId=2293)

Thurs 28 November 2pm [Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire](https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1168&MId=2294)

CABINET DECISIONS

**Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/2026**

Revised Council Tax Support Scheme for the financial year 2025/2026.

Cabinet RECOMMENDED to Full Council to:

1. AGREE the increase to income bands as detailed within paragraphs 3.2, 3.3

and Annex A of this report from 1 April 2025.

2. AGREE that any surplus in the Hardship Fund to be transferred over to

2025/2026 for reasons detailed in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 of the report.

**Update on the Council’s involvement in and support for Cost of Living related initiatives**

Update the Cabinet on the Council’s work to support people affected by the cost of living crisis. Cabinet:

1. 2. NOTED the Council’s work to support communities with the cost of living.

REQUESTED that the Cost of Living Steering Group continues to consider further opportunities to support communities with the cost of living.

**Draft Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy**

Sets out the Budget Strategy to support the preparation of the 2025/26 revenue and capital budgets and presents an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy forecast.

Cabinet:

1. 2. APPROVED the 2025/26 Budget Strategy as outlined in the report. APPROVED the revised Capital Programme including the additional expenditure on Disabled Facilities funded by Disabled Facilities Grant, as set out in Annex B.

FIREARMS LICENCING

Gloucestershire Firearms Licensing are not accepting new applications for shotgun certificates and according to the system they are taking 24 months.

This is a nationwide problem, there are sudden staff shortages and this is in the process of being sorted, for the next few weeks the focus is on renewing existing licenses rather than processing new applications. Exceptions can be made when firearms are for work or elite sports.

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown chairs the All Party Shooting and Conservation Group in the house and he is tackling the problem together with a senior firearms officer from The British Association of Shooting and Conservation (BASC) who knows what each of the 42 police forces are doing.  They are working to find what has gone wrong and what needs to be done to put it right.

NORTH COTSWOLDS MP FLOOD MEETING

Friday 6th December 2024 from 10am to 12.30pm

Redesdale Hall, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 0AX.

Only flooding and river pollution problems in the new North Cotswolds constituency will be discussed following the constituency boundary change as Sir Geoffrey no longer represents Cirencester.

Please submit questions in advance to cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk by Monday 2nd December so that they can be put to the relevant agencies to help them prepare answers in advance of the meeting. Severn Trent Water have been invited to attend the meeting.

As has been the case for previous meetings, we have requested written reports from the key stakeholders which will be circulated to those on the distribution list.

Sir Geoffrey is regarding this first meeting as a trial, and is prepared to adapt future meetings accordingly, if necessary.

[Forthcoming Committee Meetings](https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?XXR=0&M=7&DD=2024&ACT=Go) (underlined texts are linked)

Thurs 5 December 6pm [Cabinet](https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1136&MId=2298)

Wed 11 December 2pm [Planning and Licensing Committee](https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1162&MId=2300)

Wed 18 December 2pm [Licensing Sub-Committee Taxis, Private Hire](https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1168&MId=2299)

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!