

Bourton Vale Ward
District Councillors Report
May 2019

Some highlights of recent Cotswold District Council decisions during 2018/19:

Council Tax

CDC has agreed a 2% increase in the authority's share of residents' council tax payments for 2019/2020. This follows a sequence of either reductions or freezes over more than 10 years which represents a real terms reduction of c50% against a 2010 baseline.

The 2% rise means the average band D charge for District services will increase from £126.40 per annum to £128.93 per annum - less than 5p per week.

Car Parking

There will be a continuation of the freeze on parking charges at all CDC owned car parks for 2019/20.

There will be a continuation of the 'free after 3 pm' parking scheme until the end of March 2020 at selected car parks across the District, including in Bourton-on-the-Water, Cirencester, Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold, and Tetbury.

Work is progressing with detailed plans for the proposed Waterloo decked car park in Cirencester and with interim arrangements for additional parking at Cirencester Rugby Club.

A structural ground survey began on 18th March prior to submitting proposals for the new multi storey car park.

To make up for the shortfall of spaces whilst the Waterloo car park is constructed the Council is to provide temporary decked car parking for c100 extra spaces in the town.

Garden Waste service

The Council reversed a decision, after consultation, to suspend the garden waste collection for 3 months during the winter. The revised arrangements reinstate the all year-round collections albeit on a fortnightly basis from November 2019. The licence fee for the service remains at £30 per annum.

The new arrangements – which include separate collections of food waste (in new larger and more robust outdoor caddies) on a weekly basis – will come into effect on 1st November 2019.

Publica

The work to establish and develop Publica continues. The company is a council owned arrangement delivering shared services to Cotswold, West Oxfordshire and Forest of Dean District Councils and Cheltenham Borough Council.

By sharing services and staff Publica delivers efficient, value for money services and enables the use of digital technology that would not be possible or cost effective for Cotswold District Council on its own,

Savings estimated in the 2020 -2023 budget period are £2m for Cotswold District Council.

District Council Election 2nd May 2019

The recent election produced success for the Liberal Democrat Party who now control the District Council with 18 seats to the Conservatives' 14 with one Independent and one Green Party representative.

Thank you to all who returned me as District Councillor to the Bourton Vale Ward.

The initial meeting of the Lib Dems administration last week included only one item for decision – that of voting to increase Members Allowances. The Conservative Members voted against the motion. We shall be keeping a close watch on the Council's finances.

Richard Keeling

Bourton Vale District Councillor

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