

## **SOUTHROP PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**Present:** Cllr Guest Cllr P Brickley  
Cllr C Brickley Cllr Giles

**In attendance:** Vanessa Lawrence - Clerk

- 026 25/26 Apologies for absence**  
Apologies were received from Cllr Jones.
- 027 25/26 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda**  
None declared
- 028 25/26 To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025**  
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded C Brickley – all in favour
- 029 25/26 To consider and agree to appoint an independent member to the Council**  
The Clerk had circulated information relating to this prior to the meeting. She explained that any new member being appointed as an independent would not be able to vote or participate in any meetings where sensitive information is being considered. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to appoint an independent member. Propose Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr C Brickley – all in favour.
- 030 25/26 To agree to adjourn the meeting for Public Participation, if members of the public are present - there is a 10 minute time limit**  
**N/A**
- 031 25/26 To agree to reconvene the meeting following Public Participation, if applicable.**  
**N/A**
- 032 25/26 Clerks Report**  
None
- 033 25/26 Chairman's announcements**  
None
- 034 25/26 To receive report from District/County Councillor**  
The District Cllrs report had been circulated prior to the meeting and will be added to the Minutes as an appendix.

## **FINANCE**

- 035 25/26 To approve retrospectively, any payments made since the last meeting and to approve payments to be made.**  
The list of payments had been circulated prior to the meeting. Additional invoices had been added since circulation, and these were made available to Cllrs. It was **RESOLVED** to approve, retrospectively, payments made and payments to be made in June. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr Guest – all in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to arrange to pay invoices**

- 036 25/26 To consider and agree cashbook & reconciliation at the end of May 2025**  
The cashbook and reconciliation information was considered and it was **RESOLVED** to agree the figures. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr Giles – all in favour.

- 037 25/26 To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26**  
The Annual Governance Statement was completed, and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the details. Proposed Cllr Giles, seconded Cllr P Brickley – all in favour

**ACTION: Clerk to post this information on the website**

- 038 25/26 To approve the Accounting Statements 2024/25**  
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounting Statement for 2024/25 Proposed Cllr Giles, seconded Cllr P Brickley – all in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to post this information on the website**

- 039 25/26 To consider and agree to certify Southrop Parish Council as exempt from limited assurance review, and to sign the Certificate of Exemption.**  
It was **RESOLVED** to certify Southrop Parish Council as exempt from limited assurance review. The Certificate was signed. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr C Brickley – all in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to post this information on the website**

- 040 25/26 To consider and agree allocation of CIL money received in April 2023 – (£426.84)**  
The Clerk reported that a CIL report has to be submitted to CDC. CIL funds received in 2023 need to be spent by 2028. Council considered how this money could be spent, and it was **RESOLVED** to put this towards the cost of a container for storage of Council equipment. Proposed Cllr Guest, seconded Cllr C Brickley – all in favour

**ACTION: Suitable supplier to sourced and order placed subject to exact location being agreed.**

- 041 25/26 To receive details of fete finances, how this has been managed and to agree to sign this off**  
Cllr Brickley reported on the expenditure and income associated with the fete. The Fete turned over £20902.50 with total expenditure being £4262.18 leaving a surplus of £15380.83. This is a record for the fete and congratulations need to be sent to the Fete Committee. The Fete Committee had voted to purchase 2 x containers to store equipment.

**ACTION: Cllr P Brickley to send the Clerk e-mail contact details so that the Clerk can send a message of thanks.**

## **PLANNING**

**042 25/26 To receive Decision notices:-**

**1 - Conifer tree - Laterally cutback the roadside clump by approx. 1.0m up to approx. 8.0m**

**Boxwood Cottage Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3PH**

**Ref. No: 25/01706/TCONR | Validated: Wed 04 Jun 2025 | Status: NO**

**OBJECTION**

**Removal of sewage treatment plant and installation of new package sewage treatment plant in a different position**

**Site Off Wadham Close Southrop Lechlade GL7 3RL**

**Ref. No: 25/01142/FUL | Validated: Wed 30 Apr 2025 | Status: PERMITTED**

**043 25/26 New Planning Applications**

**25/01271/FUL:** Garage conversion insertion of ear glazed door and insertion of roof light within rear facing roof slope, erection of garden store outbuilding and stone boundary wall at 1 Wadham Close Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3NR. Received CDC 17.4.25; Validated 21.5.25 – **Awaiting Decision – Council had no objection**

**25/01717/FUL:** Full Application for Erection of 98 dwellings including landscaping and associated infrastructure at Land West Of Hatherop Road Fairford Gloucestershire – **Council had no objection**

## **OTHER MATTERS**

**044 25/26 To consider and agree to upgrade the website and to change domain name and take.gov.uk mailboxes. Report from Cllr Giles.**

Cllr Giles reported that he has been liaising with Bulldog websites and following his reported he advised that the Council should go ahead with an upgrade of the website at a cost of £49 a month for 2 years plus a one-off payment of £90 for retaining newsletter facility. The Council should register for a .gov.uk domain name at a cost of £12 per annum. Following discussion, it was agreed to upgrade the website and to opt for southrop-pc.gov.uk as a new domain name. Cllr Giles said that he would check the cost for support and would advise accordingly. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr C Brickley – all in favour.

**ACTION: Cllr Giles to contact Bulldog and Clerk to place order**

**045 25/26 To consider and agree to request that the District Council undertake a Community Governance Review with a view to increasing the number of Councillors for Southrop Parish Council.** Council has for some time expressed an interest in increasing the number of Councillors for the Council. The Clerk reported that in order to do this a request to CDC would need to be made to undertake a Community Governance Review. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to request that CDC undertake a Community Governance Review with a view to allowing Southrop PC to increase the number of Councillors from 5 to 6 or 7. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr Guest – all in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact CDC**

**046 25/26 To consider and agree to purchase storage facility for housing items relating to the fete and other council equipment.**

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to purchase 2 x 20 foot storage containers in green and damp proofed. SPC will donate £1600 towards the cost, the remainder will come from fete proceeds. Proposed Cllr C Brickley, seconded Cllr Guest - all in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to source suitable supplier – and to allocate the £1600 which includes CIL money received - £426. 84**

**047     25/26   To adopt a Publication Scheme as required under the Freedom of Information Act.**

The Publication Scheme was considered, and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt this, but that all items contained in the document should be made available on the website only. Proposed Cllr Guest, seconded Cllr Giles – all in favour.

**048 25/26 To receive an update on speeding.**

Cllr P Brickley reported that a recent Police speed trap resulted in a reduction in speed by numerous vehicles, a reduction from 30 to 5. The speed trap was put in following notification to Chief Constable and the PCC about the most persistent speeders still not slowing down even with the new speed monitoring devices installed in the village. Discussion took place regarding one persistent speeder and the best way of trying to make contact.

**ACTION:** The Clerk to contact the PCSO to seek assistance

**049 25/26 Anything the Chair considers urgent.**

The Chairman reported that he had been informed of two break-ins and asked Cllrs if they had heard anything. The Clerk advised that residents need to contact the Police immediately, if they notice anything suspicious, so that a picture is built up. The more reports the more chance that police will take action.

**050    25/26    Date of next meeting 4<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm in the Village Hall**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm**

.....Chairman

.....2025

## **APPENDIX**

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – JUNE 2025**

Forthcoming Committee Meetings (underlined texts are linked)

The May Full Council Meeting is the Annual Meeting which is mostly about appointments. The next opportunity for Public Questions is 16 July as there is no full Council Meeting in June.

Thursday 6 June 6.00 pm Meeting of Cabinet

Wednesday 11 June 2.00 pm Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee

Wednesday 21 June 6.00 pm Meeting of Annual Council, Council

Wednesday 25 June 2.00 pm [Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee \(Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading\)](#)

Recent Committee Meetings (underlined texts are linked)

Tuesday 6 May 4.00 pm Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 6 May 6.00 pm Meeting of Cabinet

Wednesday 14 May 2.00 pm Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee

Wednesday 21 May 6.00 pm Meeting of Annual Council, Council

Tuesday 27 May 4.00 pm Meeting of Audit and Governance Committee

Thursday 29 May 2.00 pm Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading)

### **There will be no FULL COUNCIL MEETING in June 2025**

[No Members Questions at the May Annual Council Meeting](#)

### **ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 21 MAY 2025**

#### **UPDATED: Cabinet roles and responsibilities**

##### **Role of a cabinet member:**

- leading on developing council policy and make recommendations to the Cabinet
- providing guidance to the Cabinet on running activities
- giving guidance to the Cabinet on budget priorities
- monitoring performance and make sure policy is delivered
- leading on improving council services
- making sure that activities meet the council's overall vision, core values and guiding principles
- contributing to debate and decision-making
- working with councillors who are not members of the cabinet, members of the opposition and officers to make sure that the overview and scrutiny process works correctly
- appearing before and responding to overview and scrutiny committee reports
- representing the council at a national and local level

Each cabinet member is the spokesperson for the policy area or 'portfolio' they are responsible for.

	<p><b>Leader - Mike Every</b>  <b>Portfolio responsibilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive functions and corporate plan delivery</li> <li>• Local government reorganisation and devolution</li> <li>• Town and parish council liaison</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Publica and UBICO</li> <li>• Member development</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Deputy Leader - Juliet Layton</b>  <b>Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning</b>  Portfolio responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic housing Homelessness</li> <li>• Forward planning and the local plan Development management, heritage and conservation Biodiversity emergency response Neighbourhood planning</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Cabinet Member for Finance – Patrick Coleman</b>  <b>Portfolio responsibilities</b>  Financial strategy and management  Property and assets  Revenues and benefits  Grant funding and Crowdfund Cotswold</p>
	<p><b>Climate Change and Digital – Mike McKeown</b>  Portfolio responsibilities:</p> <p>- Climate emergency response</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>- Council sustainability and sustainable transport</li> <li>- Digital innovation, inclusion, and accessibility</li> <li>- Adoption and governance of AI technologies</li> <li>- Cybersecurity and data governance</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Economy and Council Transformation – Tristan Wilkinson</b> Portfolio responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic development Council transformation Business liaison Flooding and sewage</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Health, Culture and Visitor Experience – Paul Hodgkinson</b> Portfolio responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public health</li> <li>• Parking operations and public toilets</li> <li>• Leisure centres</li> <li>• Culture and museums</li> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Community safety partnership</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Communities – Claire Bloomer</b> Portfolio responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of living support Liaison with third sector Diversity, inclusion and young people Safeguarding Refugee and asylum response</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Environment and Regulatory Services – Andrea Pellegram</b> Portfolio responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste and recycling Environmental and regulatory services Street cleaning Public realm</li> </ul>
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### **UK Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)**

This was only announced on 19 May with a deadline on 30 May. We raised this at Full Council and the deadline has now been revised to Monday 16 June, which is still very tight.

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/business-support-and-advice/rural-england-prosperity-fund/>

This fund is designed to support projects that boost rural communities and economies.

The Council has been allocated £229,240 from the UK Government's fund, which supports capital projects which enhance rural businesses and communities.

### **CABINET DECISIONS - 8 May**

#### **Rural England Prosperity Fund 2025/26 (REPF) Update**

To update Cabinet on award of Rural England Prosperity Funding for 2025/26, to seek approval for the approach to delivery of REPF projects in 2025/26 and to agree the necessary delegations.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend to Council to

1. Amend the capital programme for 2025/26 to include the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) scheme capital budget of £229,240, which is fully funded from the 2025/26 REPF grant allocation.
2. Approve the provisional allocations as set out in para 3.1. Notification of Draft Decisions Thursday, 8 May 2025
10. 3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Environment and the Council's Section 151 Officer to allocate the funding, having regard to the recommendations of the REPF Assessment Panel.

#### **Cotswold District Council Renewable Energy Study January 2025**

To present the Cotswold District Renewable Energy Study and to provide evidence-based advice to inform decisions on renewable energy deployment and achieving net zero, while also supporting the Local Plan Update. Cabinet endorsement was sought to use the study as an evidence base for Council policies going forward.

Cabinet RESOLVED to endorse the Renewable Energy Study for use as: part of the evidence base for the review of the Local Plan; part of the evidence base for future Council policies and procedures in regard to responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies.

#### **Endorsement of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) Management Plan 2025-2030**



The purpose of the report was to seek Cabinet's endorsement of the Cotswolds National Landscape (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - AONB) Management Plan 2025 – 2030 and seek endorsement of its use as part of the evidence base for the preparation and implementation of relevant Council strategies, policies and projects including but not limited to the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans.

Councillor Juliet Layton and Councillor Paul Hodgkinson declared an interest as they serve on the board of the CNL. Both Councillors left the Chamber for the debate.

Cabinet RESOLVED to endorse the recommendation of the report that the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2023-2025 be used as part of the evidence base for the review of the Local Plan; part of the evidence base for the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans; part of the evidence base for the preparation and implementation of relevant Council strategies, policies and projects; as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications (where compatible with relevant Local Plan and national policy); and to inform the development and delivery of the Council's services and activities.

### **CDC HAS A NEW LEADER**

Councillor Mike Evemy has been elected as the new leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on the council and formally took over as council leader at the Annual Council Meeting on Wednesday, May 21.

He succeeds Councillor Joe Harris, who stepped down after six years in the role.

Cllr Evemy represents the Siddington & Cerney Rural ward and has served as deputy leader and cabinet member for finance since 2019. He has led on financial strategy and projects including the Bourton car park levy.

### **RETROFIT ROADSHOW**

On Thursday 22 May, CDC organised Retrofit event in Kemble Village Hall. This event was to learn about the latest technologies and issues as the Cotswolds have the second (to Westminster) highest number of listed properties and although beautiful, are hard to update in line with modern standards of insulation.

I understand it was a very interesting and rewarding event which could have been better attended if it had been published as a Cotswoldwide event and held at the Council Offices.

Justine Mallinson - the Retrofit officer at CDC made a superb presentation. Redbridge & Sons Property Services are working with CDC - (Showroom Hempstead, Gloucester) and their representative Craig has been installing for 18 years in business for 10 years.

Here are a few notes which may interest you:

- Solar PV generates electricity
- Solar heat panels heat hot water
- A change to LED lighting saves 60% to 70%
- Battery storage - 20% solar in winter average
- Solar PV and Battery pay for the investment, return in 7 to 8 years
- Private wind turbines are still not efficient enough so probably not worth the investment
- Book a home visit HOME ENERGY PLAN [furnbnow.com/gloucestershire](http://furnbnow.com/gloucestershire) \*
- Old houses are moisture permeable - impermeable systems have been introduced (such as the wrong paint) which can create damp issues. Use vapour permeable paint.
- Damp homes lose heat faster
- In the Cotswolds, 20% of carbon emissions are from our homes
- Less than 100m loft insulation - GB Insulation Scheme might assist
- Heating & hot water use the most home energy

- We produce a lot of Moisture in our houses - washing, cooking, drying
- Current EPCs are a blunt tool, they are not detailed enough nor are they accurate. It doesn't make recommendations so limited uses
- EPC value methodology will be Updated on 15 June 2025, will take more into account.
- PAC2035 is the latest British Standard - it is tighter than building regs so we don't get failures and incorporates other British Standards. It is a Professionalised energy efficiency, a framework for professionals.
- External wall insulation has proved to be a FAILURE
- Eventually the Grid will be decarbonised
- To achieve Energy security if we need to be self-sufficient
- To prove 2050 target, all houses will need to be assessed
- PD Rights are changing for ground source heat pumps - size, noise, boundary

A Home Energy Plan is a blueprint to work from. It works out the economic sequence, e.g. prioritise guttering - the plan will put effective work in the right order, you don't have to carry it all out at once. Doors, windows, secondary glazing, draughty proofing etc. eg. 3% heat loss from each fireplace - chimney balloons/sheath vapour permeable all make a difference.

Other bodies who can help with further information:

Fairer Warmth/ Gloucestershire - Will bring up your house details or compare with your neighbour

FURBNOW - Retrofit consultant - ask them to put together a full house plan. They Use local installers

Make my house green

Warm & Well - charity in Gloucester offers advice and finds funding if income less than £36,000

Insulation materials — eg cellulose- holds onto the heat then eventually releases the heat after 2 to 3 hours, making a warm house hotter whereas wood fibre takes 7 to 8 hours, so overheating can be controlled as temperature will likely fall in the evening

### **WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE - 2 TO 6PM - TOWN & PARISH SUMMIT AT THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**

June 4th - Town & Parish Council Summit... Boutflour Hall, Royal Agricultural University.

This was a local government reorganisation (LGR) special. It detailed what opportunities there are and how do town and parish councils prepare themselves to deliver more for their residents, in the event of Gloucestershire becoming a Unitary Authority? The role of town and parish councils is set to become even more important in meeting the needs of local people, as local government sits on the cusp of fundamental change. The event featured a roster of speakers who have first-hand experience of local government reorganisation. Full details below, including the list of speakers. It was an informative, interesting and engaging session:

Special guests include:

- Jackie Weaver, social media star and Chief Officer, Cheshire Association of Local Councils
- Matthew Kirby, Deputy Chief Executive, Chippenham Town Council
- Andrew Tubb, Chief Executive Officer, Cirencester Town Council
- Barbara Pond, Head of Operations, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
- Sabrina Dixon, Community Development Officer, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council

## PLANNING

On 14 May, the planning committee had training before the Planning Committee meeting. The update of the NPPF has rendered the Cotswold Local Plan 'out of date' and therefore obsolete - specifically Policies DS1, DS2, DS3 and DS4 - other policies are still relevant. CDC either has to update the local plan (which will take 3-5 years) or do a partial update (2-3 years). This opens up opportunities to build against the existing Local Plan. CNL areas will still have the usual protections. At the time of writing, the Forward Development team has yet to advise on their recommendation. This update will be broadcast by CDC media in the next month or so.

CDC has a revised expected 5 Year Housing Land Supply 2024-2029 of 5,439 but can only demonstrate delivery of 1.8 years (1,908).

NPPF Paragraph 10 - Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Delivery - the 'Tilted Balance' of Benefits outweighing Harm has shifted - i.e. applications are more likely to be approved.

Other Paragraphs of the NPPF which are steering the new shift: In particular 11d, Footnote 8, 68, 84, 91, 110, 115, 129, 135, 139.

## BINS & WASTE COLLECTION

Some villages continue to suffer from missed collections. Please report them to me at [david.fowles@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:david.fowles@cotswold.gov.uk) - you'll need the date of the missed collection, your address and what type of waste. I will report to the Cabinet Member for Waste and the contracts team. As many of you already know that if Ubico knows that they will not be making a scheduled collection, you cannot report it on the Council's portal! My latest efforts are focused on trying to be informed when Ubico KNOWS that your bins are not going to be collected so that you can be informed.

Please note that the new Cabinet Member for waste is Andrea Pellegram. She has experience in the waste industry so hopefully she might be able to bring about some solutions to our ongoing problems of non-collect, inability to report missed collections, regular missed collections and communication.

## FLY TIPS

Please keep your eye out for lorries with loads parked in unusual places especially if they are in remote areas. Take a note of the number plate or other distinguishing signs and report to [contracts@publicgroup.uk](mailto:contracts@publicgroup.uk)

## FLOOD RESILIENCE & RIVER POLLUTION SIR GEOFFREY CLIFTON BROWN PUBLIC MEETINGS FRIDAY 27 JUNE

**The Westwoods Centre, Northleach, GL54 3QJ**

Flood Resilience: 10-12pm

River Pollution: 1-3pm

These meetings are an opportunity for residents of the North Cotswolds constituency to hear from and speak directly with key officials from Thames Water, Severn Trent, the Environment Agency, Gloucestershire County Council, Cotswold District Council, and other stakeholders involved in ongoing flood resilience work and addressing sewage and river pollution problems.

For those wishing to ask specific questions, Sir Geoffrey would be grateful if you could submit these in advance to [cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk](mailto:cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk) by Friday 20th June. We will forward any questions we receive to the relevant agencies to help them prepare answers in advance of the meeting.

As has been the case for previous meetings, we will be requesting written reports from the key stakeholders which will be circulated to those on the distribution list. A minute will be produced of the meeting which will also be circulated afterwards.

#### **A417**

Bridge beams for Stockwell Crossing, Cowley Crossing and Gloucestershire Way Crossing have all now been transported safely to site. These will be installed over the coming months as work on the scheme progresses at pace.

Members of the project team visited the A3 Hindhead Tunnel at Devil's Punchbowl, Surrey this month by invitation of the National Trust, to understand what lessons could be learned about building a repurposed road, like that planned on the A417 scheme. This is especially important for the Missing Link project. We know that poor planning of disused old roads can lead to antisocial behaviour, failure to take up missing opportunities of repurposing and expensive servicing by both Gloucestershire County Council, Cotswold District Council, the Police and other bodies.

Innovative carbon-saving trial starts next phase

The Missing Links scheme has shared an exciting update about the innovative UK-first trial it's been running to explore how vegetation removed from the site can be reused to make significant carbon savings.

Biochar – a charcoal-like material produced by burning organic matter at extremely high temperatures – was produced from vegetation removed by the scheme, turning it back into a product that can be reused to fertilise new plants and catch microplastics. The study produced five tonnes of biochar on site, which is a saving of 13 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> – the equivalent of roughly five flights from London to Perth.

The next stage of the trial is to use the biochar in different elements of the A417 project, turning waste from the project into a material that is being used to support the project.

- Landscaping: Biochar will be mixed into the soil when planting thousands of new trees, which will help them establish and grow quicker, while removing more carbon from the atmosphere.
- Green Bridge: Biochar will be used in the construction of the green bridge, which is going to be the largest green bridge in the UK at the time of building. On the deck of a green bridge, man made gels are normally used to help retain water in dry periods to stop plants dying. Instead, biochar will be used to store and retain the water to improve resilience.
- Microplastics: The biochar will be used to remove microplastics from highway runoff in the highway drainage system.

On completion of the trial, a case study will be developed detailing benefits, improvements and lessons learnt. This study could then be shared across National Highways and the supply chain to see if its implementation can help reduce carbon across future builds.

Celine Acard, Senior Project Manager for National Highways, said: "We're always looking to improve how we design and build our major projects, especially in relation to the environment and our commitment to net zero. This trial is incredibly exciting because it means we can look in detail at new ways of repurposing and reusing site materials to cut down on our environmental impact.

“By investing in innovation, we can explore new technology and solutions to protect and enhance the environment and increase biodiversity benefiting communities that live alongside our roads.”

Biochar is created through the process of pyrolysis, when organic materials such as trees or vegetation are turned into solid carbon under extremely high temperatures in the presence of little or no oxygen. This biochar is then reused across the project in new elements such as soil, where it is proven to enhance plant growth, improve nutrient exchange and water retention.

This increases the chance of successful habitat establishment, provides climate change resilience, improves the soils’ ability to sequester CO<sub>2</sub> and reduces reliance on synthetic materials such as swell gels.

Using pyrolysis to manage site biomass is a pioneering approach to capturing carbon in construction and reusing it onsite. The process of pyrolysis will reduce carbon emissions through carbon capture, reduction in vehicle movements and reduction in purchased materials, contributing to National Highways’ carbon reduction targets set out in the Net Zero Plan.

It will also support National Highways objectives to design, build, maintain and operate roads more efficiently and effectively by incorporating a site-won material into the design, reduce waste, reduce carbon emissions and reduce maintenance on the soft estate.

The study produced five tonnes of biochar on site, which is a saving of 13 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> – the equivalent of roughly 5 flights from London to Perth

The successful completion of this project will provide National Highways with proof of concept for this approach and could allow for the technology to be deployed across all other suitable highways schemes, supporting National Highways in their objective to deliver better environmental outcomes across all schemes.

### **Translocated adders doing well**

Adders were translocated as part of the Missing Link scheme. High numbers have been seen to be in good health and have moved across their new receptor sites well.

The Customer Hub, located at the crusher compound at Shab Hill, continues to open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am until 2pm. You can visit any time during these hours, without pre-booking an appointment. Members of the team will be on hand to and answer any questions that you may have.

A417 Project Office, Birdlip, Gloucester, GL4 8JX

What3words: ///shaped.quietest.payback

Site restrictions must be adhered to, which is 10 mph. Please Reverse Park.

Site visits will begin again in June for members of the public. If you are interested, please contact [A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk)

All roadworks and planned road closures on motorways and major A roads, including the A417, are published on the Traffic England website: [www.trafficengland.com](http://www.trafficengland.com).

Road Closure Reports, which includes a seven day look ahead of planned road closures, are updated twice daily, Monday to Friday except for bank holidays: [www.nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/road-closure-report/](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/road-closure-report/).

To find the latest information about local road closures, please visit:  
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/>.  
Webpage: [www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link/](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link/)  
Email: [A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk)  
Phone: 0300 123 5000  
X: @HighwaysSWEST  
Facebook: @HighwaysSWEST

Cllr David Fowles  
Conservative District Councillor  
Coln Valley Ward, Cotswold District Council  
07747012256

**Coln Valley Ward PCs: Bibury, Coln St Aldwyns, Coln St Dennis, Eastleach, Hatherop, Quenington & Southrop**

If you are contacting me as a local constituent please be aware I may need to share your personal information when contacting District Council officers or other agencies relevant to your query. \*

For more information on how the District Council use personal data visit <http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-data/data-protection/>  
<<http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-data/data-protection/>