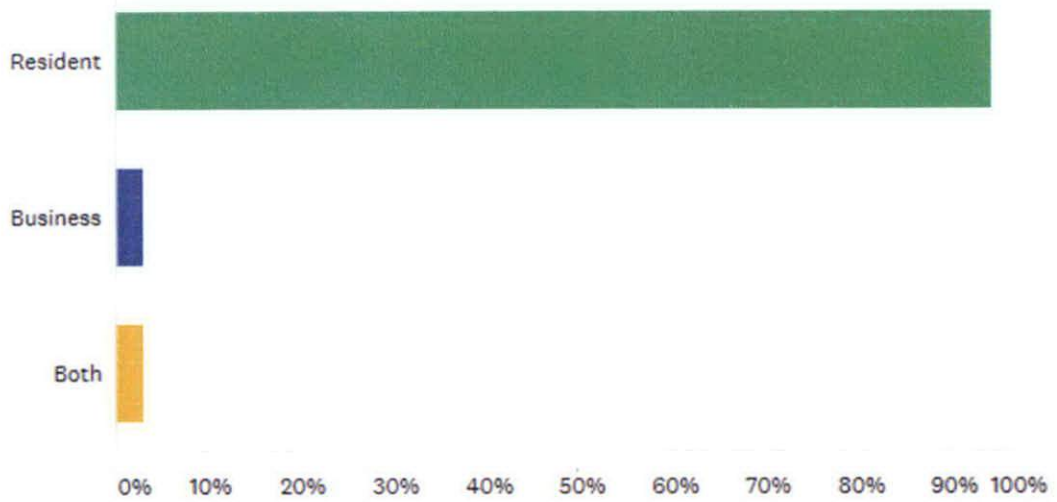


Online Survey Responses

Q2

Are you a...

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0

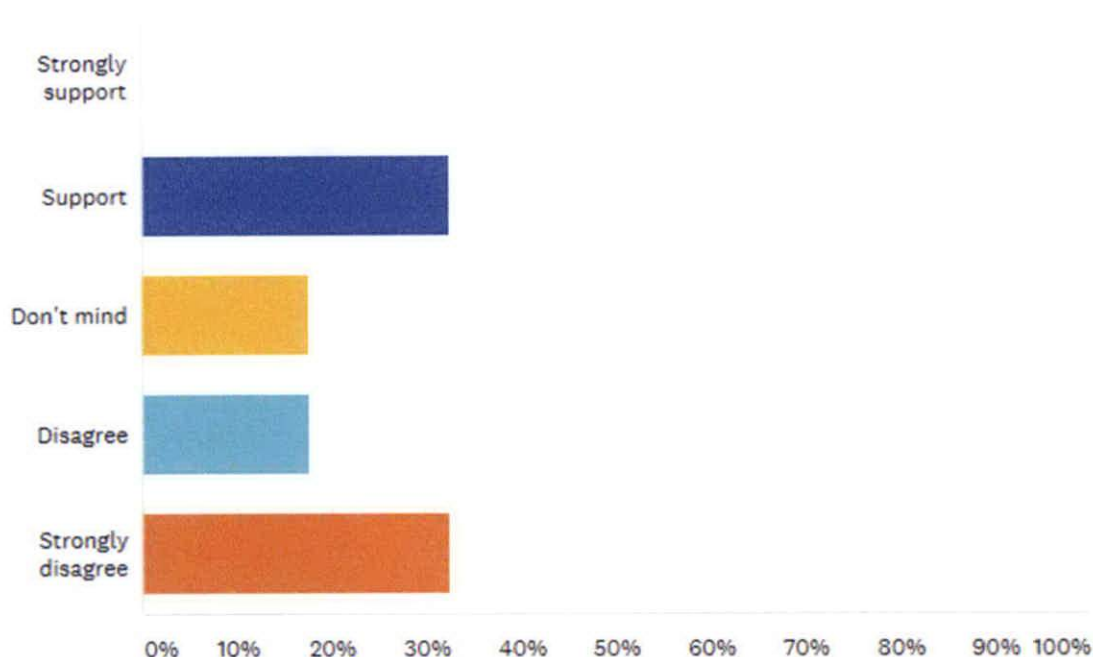


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Resident	94.12%	32
Business	2.94%	1
Both	2.94%	1
Total Respondents: 34		

Q5

The Council has indicated that it may need to increase its council share of the council tax by a maximum of 1.99%. This would increase council tax for a Band D property to £128.92. What are your views on this level of increase in council tax?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0

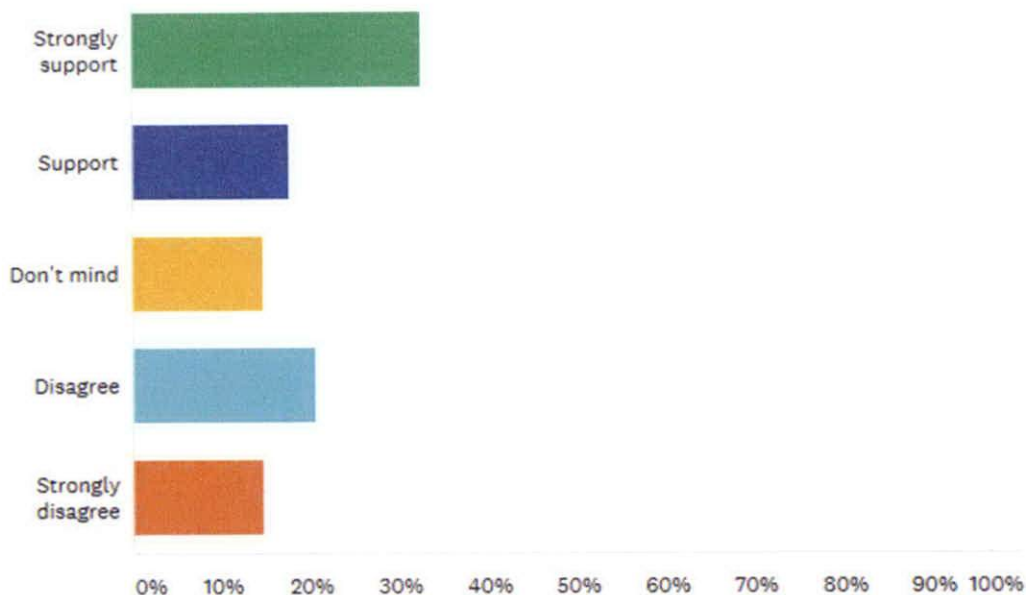


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly support	0.00%	0
Support	32.35%	11
Don't mind	17.65%	6
Disagree	17.65%	6
Strongly disagree	32.35%	11
TOTAL		34

Q6

The Council is proposing to freeze car parking charges for 2018/19. What are your views on this proposal?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0

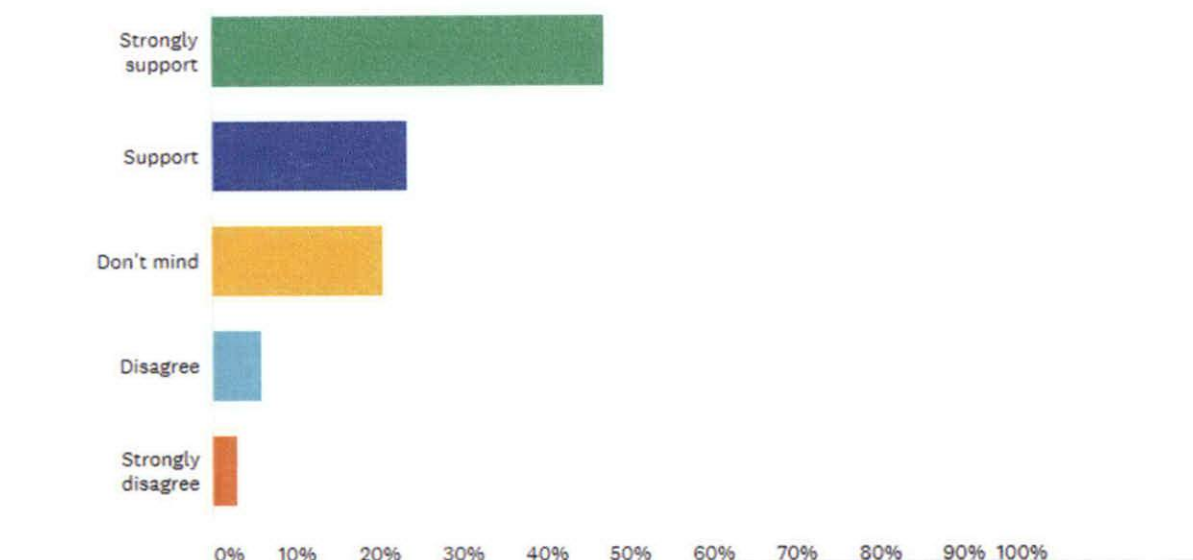


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly support	32.35%	11
Support	17.65%	6
Don't mind	14.71%	5
Disagree	20.59%	7
Strongly disagree	14.71%	5
TOTAL		34

Q7

The Council is proposing to freeze garden waste collection fees for 2018/19. What are your views on this proposal?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0

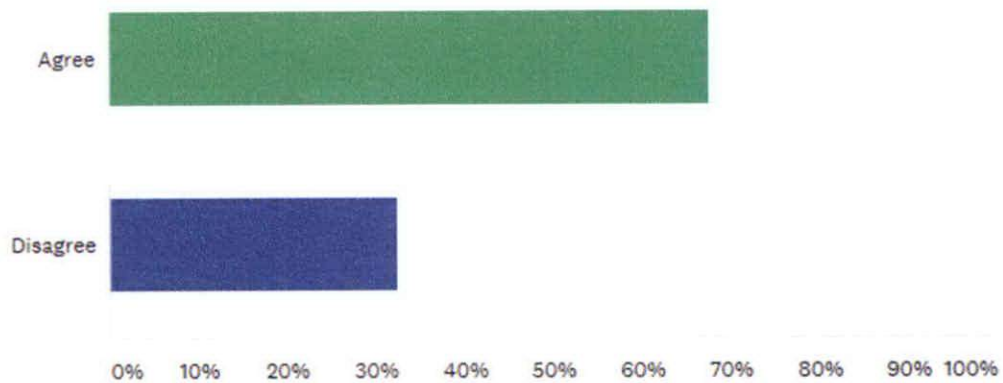


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly support	47.06%	16
Support	23.53%	8
Don't mind	20.59%	7
Disagree	5.88%	2
Strongly disagree	2.94%	1
TOTAL		34

Q8

The Council is not proposing to make any changes to standards in front line services for 2018/19. What do you think about this proposal?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0

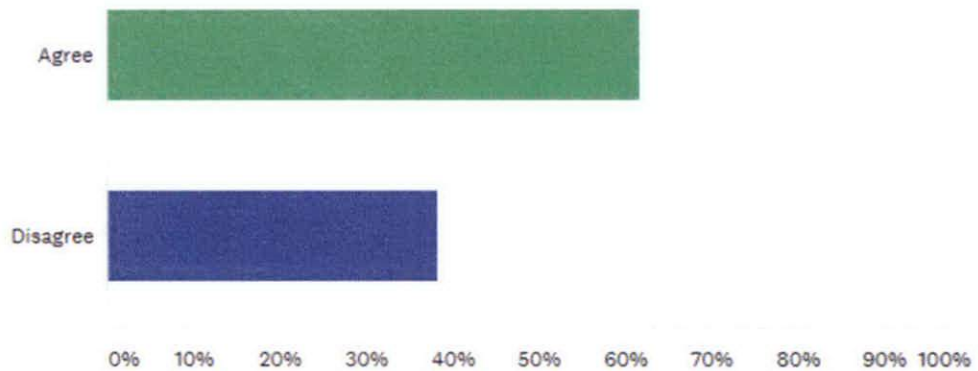


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agree	67.65%	23
Disagree	32.35%	11
TOTAL		34

Q9

The Council is not proposing to make any changes to grants to the voluntary sector for 2018/19. What do you think about this proposal?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0

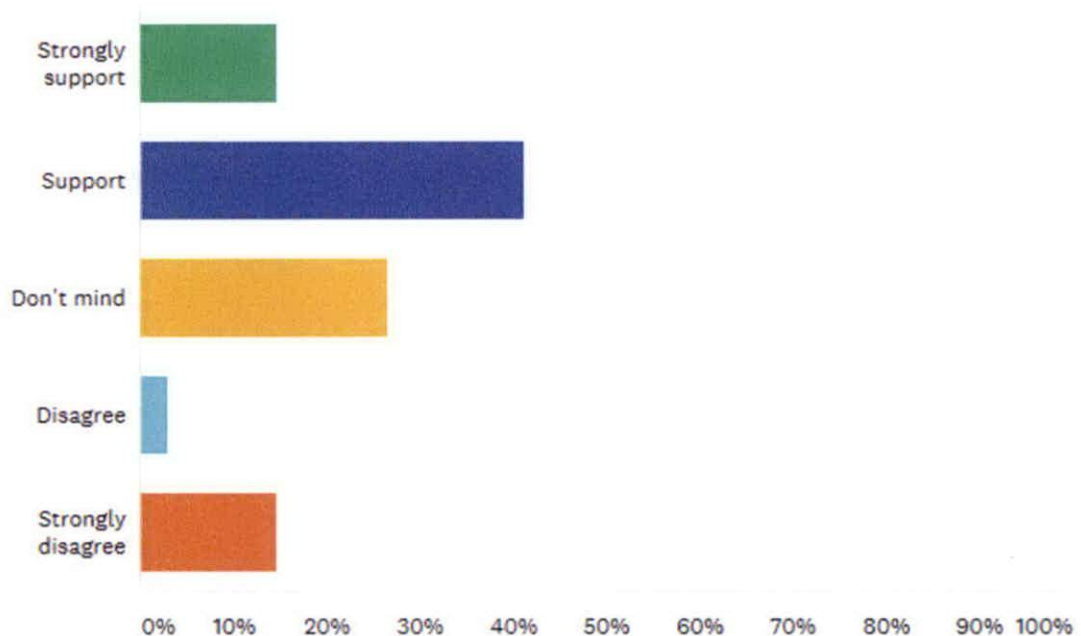


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agree	61.76%	21
Disagree	38.24%	13
TOTAL		34

Q10

The Council plans to use £1.845 million of New Homes Bonus to protect the delivery of existing services to the community. Any New Homes Bonus received in excess of this amount will be made available to fund investment in initiatives which support the Council priorities. What are your views on this proposal?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0



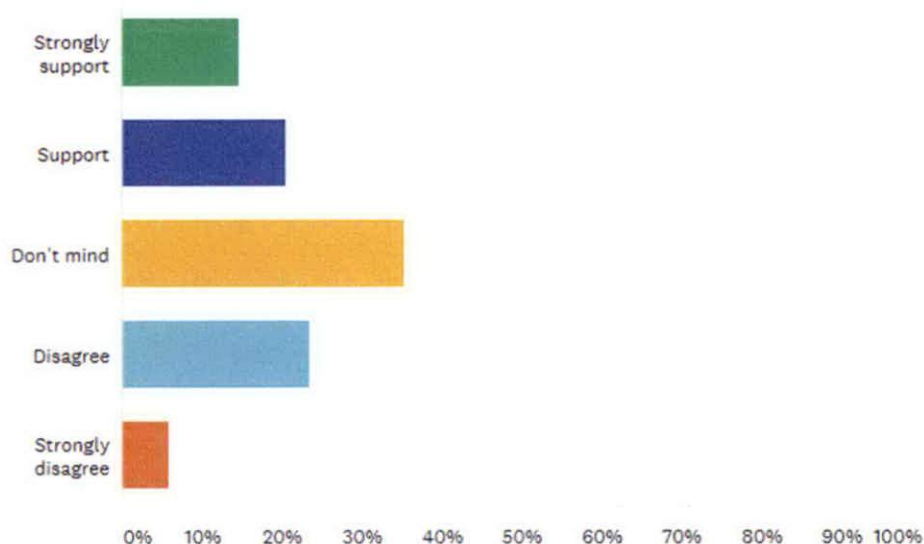
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly support	14.71%	5
Support	41.18%	14
Don't mind	26.47%	9
Disagree	2.94%	1
Strongly disagree	14.71%	5
TOTAL		34

Q11

Since 2013 the Council has provided grants to some Town and Parish Councils to compensate them for council tax lost through changes to accounting arrangements for Council Tax Benefit (now known as Local Council Tax Support). The grants were funded through Revenue Support Grant received by Cotswold District Council. With effect from April 2019, the District Council will no longer receive any Revenue Support Grant from central government. The Council is therefore phasing out the grant to the Town and Parish Councils. The Council has proposed that 2018/19 will be the final year that grant funding for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme will be made available to Town and Parish Councils. What are your views on this proposal?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly support	14.71%	5
Support	20.59%	7
Don't mind	35.29%	12
Disagree	23.53%	8
Strongly disagree	5.88%	2
TOTAL		34

Q12

Do you have any further comments for the Council to consider as part of its budget setting meeting in February? Please note that roads/highways are the responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council and not Cotswold District Council

Answered: 16 Skipped: 18

- 1) There has to be stronger investment in our towns infrastructures and services A key priority should be recycling rewarding households for good practice and perhaps fining households for poor practice. Completely disagree with any council tax hike. These are stealth taxes on top of everything else hard working but struggling households have to endure. Charge more for town centre car parks less for car parks on outskirts of town.

┌
- 2) With the approval of the Chesterton development, the CDC must make serious plans to mitigate the effects of such an increase in population. In particular, the CDC must take a positive role in the re-establishment of a rail link to Kemble.

┌
- 3) You do not represent the people you serve. The services you do offer are poor. You do not offer good return on investment.

┌
- 4) I think that the council should increase charges on opt-in revenue stream services only (green waste, car parking, planning, building control) provided by the authority, and avoid raising council tax at all costs - it will be deemed fairer on residents. Residents in some areas of the Cotswolds saw quite an increase in local parish precept of council tax (Moreton in Marsh saw a hefty rise as an example) last year this is understandable as town/parish councils have had services to them devolved and being dealt with on a more local level, thus needing more money required to carry out the services that used to be carried out by other authorities and funding has been significantly cut or deminished. (An example of this is Youth Work in Moreton is all delivered now by our town council...this used to be delivered by Glos County Council).

┌
- 5) Skate boarding park or something like for the teenagers as all this new tax revenue from new estates how about giving something back to the community there is nothing for the vast number of them to do evenings and weekends how about shelters on the parks too the youth club is NOT ENOUGH
- 6) Make things a lot better for disabled people.

┌
- 7) Apart from the requirement for more parking in Cirencester there are very few new investments being considered over this budget period, and although any excess in New Housing Bonus will be used for the 'Council's priorities' it would be nice if we were able to be more specific. Forward planning is looking at potential infrastructure projects for 106 agreements and other monies coming from new development, and it

would be good to have some 'joined up thinking' between the forward plan and the budget processes. 3 items which I would like to be in the mix for prioritisation and the allocation of some money:- - The feasibility study to build an ultra-light railway system between Kemble and Cirencester. - The inclusion of funds to investigate the feasibility of a Western Cirencester By-Pass. - A review of our loans to charities and the possibility of writing these off (in particular CHYP) Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you want any further information on any of the above.

- ┌
- 8) Does filling this in make any difference. Looks like just to tick the boxes. Not much of a questionnaire!
- ┌
- 9) Unsure where the £1.845 million from New Homes Bonus is coming from, and so cannot answer the question properly. If it is money accrued already through homes already built, then I agree. If the figure has anything to do with Bathurst's proposed 2,350 homes at Chesterton Cirencester, then I more than strongly disagree as none of these should be built as the local house build numbers have already been met, any new house built would be pure overdevelopment. Mass amount of houses should not be built at Cirencester wrecking the town further just to obtain this bonus.
- ┌
- 10) Regarding Question 8 , I fully agree that no retrograde changes in standards in front line services, but cost efficient improvements should always be sought. Regarding grants to Town and Parish Councils , grants should continue to be made available through local Councillors, they would be more focused and objective than Precept subsidies. Due to new housing in principal settlements, income from Precept would naturally increase and compensate for the loss of the Local Council Tax Support Grant.
- ┌
- 11) The Council should use new homes bonus to provide necessary infrastructure... to support new homes instead of putting pressure on existing facilities. The Council should be more commercially minded and make investments in property in order to bring in Revenue .. they should invest I. Property through the HRA for market rent homes to take pressure off of the housing waiting list. We need a more financially savvy Council who creates revenue through investment like other authorities instead of expecting residents to keep stumping up more and more money they can't afford. It's taking the easy way or .. if you are not capable then get someone in who is
- ┌
- 12) To strongly consider further budgetary impacts on the 2350 housing development plan. We need to prepare for the inevitable and need to prepare now.
- ┌
- 13) I don't support any raises in council funding. Car parking - this is a shambles and to even consider charging more for a service that is failing to deliver is unacceptable. Garden waste - again, the service provided needs to be consistent. Countless times our garden waste bin has disappeared only to reappear a few days later. I would like to know exactly what any change in budget allocation would be used for, I'm my opinion and I've been living here 10 years this year and it seems that budgets are increasing and services are disappearing. That's my concern.
- ┌
- 14) There should be no increase in Council tax or any charges for residents for essential services. If savings need to be made to achieve this, non essential services should be cut.
- ┌
- 15) Increase council tax significantly to fund house building for the homeless

┌

- 16) More generally not convinced we need all the different levels of governance, Moreton Town Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire County Council - all require financing and infrastructure so at least two could merge to reduce running costs? As an area encouraging tourism, agree with holding parking costs but need to ensure areas where population is growing that facilities are fit for purpose. For example, in Moreton in Marsh the central town area is increasingly challenging regarding car parking. Traffic management throughout CDC needs reviewing as traffic flows through Stow on the Wold in particular are appalling in summer periods.

Letter received from a resident in Moreton-in-Marsh

16 January 2018

Mrs Jenny Poole
Chief Finance Officer
Cotswold District Council
Trinity Road
CIRENCESTER GL7 1PX

Dear Mrs Poole

SUGGESTION FOR COUNCIL MEETING ON 20 FEBRUARY AS REQUESTED IN "THE COTSWOLD NEWS".

I am aware that Cotswold District Councillors work extremely hard on our behalf however:-

1 Why must we pay for 'consultation' meetings affecting different towns and villages when decisions have already been made by the Council and ratepayers know that their views are irrelevant and highly unlikely to be listened to? How much do these meetings cost?

2 The question of outside consultants is also worrying. Surely the Council has many well-qualified members of staff able to cover these duties. Contracts for these people seem heavily weighted on the side of the consultant. It is obviously in their interest to prolong the consultation for as long as possible. I would have thought that the budget for each project should have a fixed percentage set aside for consultation fees, which should never be exceeded.

3 I understand that the dreadful state of the county's roads is the responsibility of Gloucestershire Highways. But I am sure that CDC has to pay them large sums to cover this expense, and has a responsibility to see our money is not wasted by them - as it obviously is!

Why do they send out surveyors to look at the holes; measure their depth, and spend time spray-painting lines round them? Then a road crew eventually comes to put a spadeful of tarmac into the marked hole and tamp it down. If cold weather and snow then arrive the filling crumbles and breaks up. Also, by the time the road crew arrives several other holes have reached the regulation depth for filling in and the whole thing starts again. What a waste.

Not to mention the places where 10 or 12 square metres of road has 20 to 30 small holes which are individually filled in. 2 weeks later it needs doing again, when a large patch should have been used in the first place.

Why doesn't the foreman of a road crew make his own decisions without measuring the depth of each hole and fill them in as appropriate. He can then report back to the department if the road is really bad, and only at that time should expensive surveyors go out and approve the use of a large patch or even total re-surfacing.

This would save money, last far longer and hopefully also stop so much compensation paid to drivers whose cars have been damaged.

Thank you for what you've done to date and keep up the good work!

Yours sincerely 

Email responses to Budget Consultation inbox

To: budget consultation
 Cc:
 Subject: Medium Term Budget Strategy

I am emailing to express my support for allocating funding to carry out a feasibility study into providing a light rail facility between Kemble and Cirencester following the old railway line and creating a park and ride facility adjacent to the proposed Chesterton farm development with possible tramway links into the town centre.

This proposal would help to reduce traffic travelling between Kemble and Cirencester and provide an attractive facility for visitors to the town.

To: budget consultation
 Cc:
 Subject: Budget issues

I think CDC needs to focus more on value now, having done a workmanlike job on a range of costs.

Many of the towns and other parts of the district look distinctly down at heel. It is reasonable to note that some of this is due to the bonkers organisation of local govt, so town and parish councils, district and county don't manage areas of overlap very well.

I would therefore like to see more investment in the presentation of towns, so that roundabouts, parks, pavements etc. are well kept and display suitable plants and flowers at different times of the year. Roundabouts might include heritage displays such as one sees at Beaune in the Burgundy wine region. At the same time we should be seeing that verges are clean and mown, fallen trees cleared up and litter is removed regularly.

I understand that some of this is down to town and county councils, but I'd pay a bit more council tax to see CDC focus on co-ordinating and even funding some of this work.

It was done by borough, urban district and rural district councils in the 1950s when money was scarce, so there's no excuse now!!

To: budget consultation
 Cc:
 Subject: Views on Budget issues

I would like to point out that the various monetary awards made to a variety of causes comes from the pockets of the ratepayers of the district. When reading the latest edition of Cotswold News one might be tempted to believe that monies came from the personal wealth of the Councillors named. For example Councillor Annett states..... "I am very pleased to be able to award.....etc etc (Business Relief.....page 3). He goes on in another item on same page " We can invest in much needed community assets.....£200,000. Etc etc. He is not the only member of CDC to give this impression that his personal largesse and munificence, accrued no doubt from the huge expenses and allowances paid to Councillors, brought about this funding rather than the CDC dipping into the ratepayer diminishing pot of gold. Could our part in this be mentioned occasionally please.



Fairford Town Council

Mrs Jenny Poole,
Chief Finance Officer
Cotswold District Council,
Trinity Road,
Cirencester,
Glos,
GL7 1PX

16.01.18

Sent be email.

Dear Jenny

Comments on Cotswold District Council Budget Proposals 2018-19

We note that CDC has already agreed a 4 year deal with DCLG, together with estimates for the funding contributions from Business Rates and other sources; also, that the proposals assume any Council Tax increase will be kept within a 2% threshold, to avoid the need for a referendum being triggered. These represent 'top-down' constraints on the resources the Council will have to fulfil its statutory obligations. The key question is surely whether these resources are adequate. This is far from clear. Without this, the budget cannot be said to be sound.

We also disagree with the implication (para 2.3) that the New Homes Bonus (NHB) funding should be used to fund Council services in general – As stated below in relation to Planning services, it is clear from the DCLG background documentation that the NHB is intended to help address the impacts of development on communities and make it more acceptable to them (Ref https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6004/1846530.pdf). There is also a clear expectation that local councils should consult communities about how they will spend the money, especially communities where housing stock has increased (ref <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2010-to-2015-government-policy-house-building/2010-to-2015-government-policy-house-building#appendix-8-new-homes-bonus>) and therefore that it should not simply be used for other purposes.

The table in section 7 of the MTFS indicates total savings of £786,000 over the 4 year period attributed to '2020 Vision/Publica'. It is not clear whether/how this can be achieved without detriment to the quality of services. Also, it is partly offset by the expenditure on the 2020 Vision programme.

Community Centre, High Street, Fairford, Glos. GL7 4AI

One area which has given rise to particular concerns is Planning. This covers not only Forward Planning, but also Development Management including Enforcement.

Specific impacts from recent housing developments in Fairford have included:

- Increased traffic, congestion and pressure on car parking space at the doctor's surgery and other locations in the town, affecting both access and the local environment;
- loss of the Post Office sorting & mail collection facility, due to lack of physical capacity in the local Post Office to accommodate the additional addresses.

Additionally, the expansion of housing and the application of national and Local Plan policies has not prevented the closure of the town's last remaining Bank, Building Society agency and other shops. This clearly threatens the vitality and viability of our small town centre, which is struggling to maintain a 'critical mass'. We would suggest that, if the District Council is serious about maintaining the role of Fairford as a 'District Centre' serving the surrounding area and as a Principal Settlement potentially suitable for the location of further new housing (including 'affordable' housing), more radical action is needed, potentially including:

- Investing a significant proportion of the funds from NHB etc. proactively in securing public control of key premises in the town centre to provide opportunities for new businesses to complement the few that otherwise remain;
- Supporting reduced business rates in smaller key centres such as this;
- Continuing financial support to other services such as the Fairford sports/leisure centre, which have an important function as a locally accessible health/well-being related facility.

We would also suggest that the District Council should allocate resources to setting up an economic policy unit (as has been done by other similar authorities such as Vale of White Horse), with the principal aim of ensuring a better geographical balance of housing, employment and other economic activity and thereby maintaining the vitality of the District's essentially rural settlements for the longer term, rather than relying on the county Local Enterprise Partnership (GFirst LEP), which seems to focus almost entirely on the M5 corridor and do little that is of positive benefit to the majority of communities in Cotswold District.

We have previously agreed, through our District Councillors, that Town/Parish Councils can help the Council in performing its duties by providing a well-informed local perspective on Planning issues and in particular notifying the Council where it is observed that planning conditions (imposed to make developments acceptable and hence sustainable) are not being complied with, to the detriment of the local community. However, regrettably, there have been a number of occasions where we have raised issues related to new housing developments in Fairford impacting public health/safety, but CDC has either delayed or declined to take action, with the explanation that there are only limited resources and these have to be prioritised (Ref to specific examples in an Appendix?). This is unacceptable when Town/Parish Councillors and others are giving their time for free to perform a monitoring activity which is saving the District Council large sums of money, and is certainly not sustainable. It is also unacceptable given the large amounts of NHB funding that the Council receives. The very least that the District Council needs to do is to ensure that the relevant

functions are adequately staffed so that they can respond effectively (and reasonably) to these issues.

Appendix D of the Summary Service-Finance Performance Report indicates that both Planning & Strategic Housing and Environmental & Regulatory Services were significantly over budget in Q2 of 2017-18. This surely indicates that more resources need to be allocated to these areas.

Related to this, the recently announced 20% increase in Planning fees will presumably help. However, it is not clear how the 10% reduction in Building Control fees is justified.

Fairford Town Council would appreciate a detailed response to the above concerns so we can reassure our residents that Council funds are being spent wisely.

Yours sincerely

CLr Richard Harrison, Fairford Town Council.

Cc Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP.