

FOCUS

on NEWENT

Liberal Democrats 

February/March 2026

Delivered by volunteers throughout Newent, Botloe's Green, Clifford's Mesne, Malswick, May Hill and Taynton.

New government targets mean Newent could take

1,000+ houses

The Labour government has demanded an 82% rise in the number of new houses that need to be built in this district.

Liberal Democrats say that it is impossible to create a fair, workable Local Plan for this new target in the Forest of Dean District in the required timescale. Space to build is severely limited by Statutory Forest and National Landscape and the extra traffic would worsen the heavy rush-hour congestion at Over and Chepstow.

- For Newent, this means a likely rise in the number of houses to be built from about 600 to over 1,000 within the plan period which runs until 2045
- The public consultation runs until March 18th. Details of local drop-in sessions and all the documents can be found at <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/>
- The documents and questionnaire are lengthy, but to keep it simple you can email your views instead to localplans@fdean.gov.uk or write to: *Local Plans Team, Forest of Dean District Council, Council Offices, High Street, Coleford, Glos, GL16 8HG.*



"We need a Local Plan to stop developers making decisions about where to build. But in spite of the fact that we all know that more housing is needed, especially affordable homes, these new figures are too much for the Forest of Dean District to cope with. We also need more local jobs, better transport and more retail and health facilities right from the start" comments Cllr Gill Moseley.

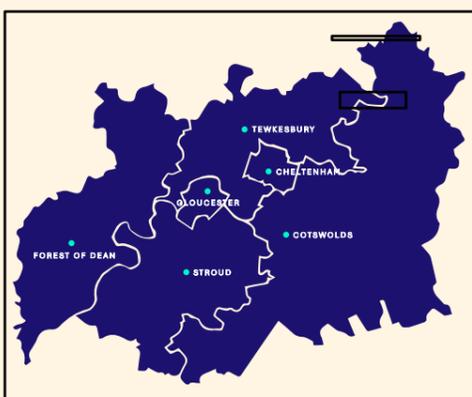
Lib Dem Cllr Gill Moseley says: "Please make your views known about what Newent needs as a town to make new housing work for local people."

Future  Gloucestershire

....and now for your views on the shake-up in Gloucestershire

The government has decided to abolish district and county councils and replace them all with unitary authorities. In Gloucestershire this will happen in 2027/28. Three proposals have been submitted and you can express your preference in this consultation which runs until March 26th. Go to <https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk/> and see overleaf for ways of finding more information.

One unitary



Two unitary (East/West split)



Two unitary (Greater Gloucester City)



Have you taken a ride on The Robin yet?



The area covered by The Robin (Newent Zone). A map showing all the stops is available on The Robin website and on Gill's Facebook page.

The Robin, Gloucestershire's on-demand, bookable bus service, has been running since June '25, BUT people are still asking how to use it.

YOU CAN:

- book the Robin between 1 hour and 14 days before travel for journeys between 7am and 7pm Mon - Sat.
- catch the Robin at a recognised bus stop or choose from the list of additional stops. (More stops may be added in the future.)
- use the Robin where timetabled buses don't run frequently or at all. The service is for people in isolated areas as well as within Newent town and the surrounding villages.
- make use of a bus pass. There is a space for wheelchair users or buggies. Fares are set at the same rate as for standard bus services.



"My car was in for a service so I was delighted to be able to book The Robin to get to Kempley and back for a Xmas craft fair." says Gill.

Call 0345 263 8139 between 8am and 4pm Mon-Fri to book. For a list of stops go to <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/the-robin/>. You can also use the website or app to book.

Solar Farm application goes to appeal in April



The application to build a (49.9MW) solar farm at Moat Farm, south of Newent, was refused by the Forest of Dean District Council in July last year.

The applicant has appealed and a hearing will take place on April 29th. A government inspector will then make the final decision. A solar farm of the same capacity (49.9MW) is being installed at Laynes Wood farm off the B4215 close by at Highleadon.

This was approved by FoDDC as it is less

intrusive, lies under the National Grid transmission lines and is not over-crowded with panels.

Cllr Gill Moseley commented: "We need renewable sources of energy but solar farms should be sensitively sited. The nearby Stream Lane and Murrells End applications were refused and the decisions upheld at appeal. I will be making strong representations for the refusal of this scheme not to be overturned at appeal."

News in brief

A round-up of just some of the casework and issues about which you've contacted Cllr Gill Moseley.

'No Through Road' at Whitegates

Residents at Whitegates, a cul-de-sac off Culver Street, have reported delivery vans and even emergency vehicles trying to cut through to the Merlin Gate development. After being chased by Gill Moseley, the FoDDC who are responsible for street name plates have finally added new signs to help.



Dangerous tree removed

A large, unstable tree on a footpath going through the Onslow Road estate was worrying a resident due to the risk of damage to their property. Gill found out who was responsible and the tree has now been felled due to its condition and position.

EV Charging (1)

A local tenant of Two Rivers Housing asked for help with a dispute over the installation of an EV charger for a mobility vehicle. Two Rivers had gone back on their word about permission but without explanation. After Gill supported the original request, consent was granted.

EV Charging (2)

People ask why the new EV charging points in the Lake car park are not yet available for use.



They were due to be working at the end of February but the FoDDC officer responsible states that there are still more hold-ups. There are also questions to be asked about the exclusive EV use notices.

Highways Diversions

Unsuitable diversions using narrow 'B' roads have been routinely signposted during road closures along the B4215/4221. Time after time, Gill has explained to Highways that this route is busier than the A40, and that 'A' road diversions are needed for HGVs and larger vehicles. This matter ought to be flagged and not need regular intervention. On the last occasion, a more suitable diversion for HGVs was quickly added following another urgent email from Gill.



The state of the roads

Since taking control of the County Council last May, Liberal Democrats are emphasising resurfacing and patching whilst still dealing with dangerous potholes.

Regular inspections are increasing to improve standards.

Please use the FixMyStreet website or app to report problems on the highways and footpaths.

For emergencies ring: **08000 514 514**



For more news and up-to-date information on items in this newsletter, visit Gill's Facebook page or our website:

www.facebook.com/councillor.moseley

www.fodlibdems.org.uk/

Did you know that our Focus newsletters are delivered to approx five thousand doors in the Newent area? Please get in touch if you can spare half an hour or more every few months to help our team of volunteers.

Get in touch

Gill and the local Lib Dem team want to hear from you on any topic for which you need help or information. Or just ring for a chat about local issues.



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Liberal Democrats - working hard all year round