

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REFORMER

ISSUE 1



Autumn 2025



250,000
members

REFORMUK

Heartfelt thanks to every one of you for helping Reform UK's membership soar to an incredible 250,000 your support is the backbone of our movement

Welcome Reformers

It is with great pleasure that we present the first edition of the Gloucestershire Reformer, our new newsletter for members and supporters.

This publication is designed to keep you updated on Reform UK here in Gloucestershire, including our local branches and councillors.

Reform UK Gloucestershire established seven branches in late 2024.

During the first year, membership grew significantly, and details of our local branches are included in this newsletter.

We also saw electoral success in 2025, and now have eleven County Councillors and three District Councillors.

With your continued support, we can become the dominant force in Gloucestershire Local Government.

LOCAL BRANCHES



Tewkesbury

Chair: Mike Masters
Vice Chair: Warwick Ross
Camp Mgr: Darren Tarling
Secretary: Maggie Savidge
Treasurer: John Steel

chair.tewkesbury@reformuk.com



Cheltenham

Chair: Matt Podmore
Vice Chair: Andy Stinton
Camp Mgr: Ben O'Neil
Secretary: Marcia Jacko
Treasurer: Vacant

chair.cheltenham@reformuk.com



Gloucester

Chair: Chris Farmer
Vice Chair: Lindsey McAleer
Camp Mgr: John Clarke
Secretary: Sarah Collins
Treasurer: Simon Hall

chair.gloucester@reformuk.com



Forest of Dean

Chair: Alan Preest
Vice Chair: Kelly Salone
Camp Mgr: Jacob Bradfield-Box
Secretary: Michelle Teague
Treasurer: Gill Higgs

chair.forestofdean@reformuk.com



Stroud

Chair: Kevin Hartshorne
Vice Chair: Rob Thomas
Camp Mgr: Laura Barrell
Secretary: Sandra Meecham
Treasurer: Daryl Smith

chair.stroud@reformuk.com



North Cotswolds

Chair: Helen Pernelet
Vice Chair: Chris Harlow
Camp Mgr: Julian Painter
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Gerald Billis

chair.northcotswolds@reformuk.com



South Cotswolds

Chair: Chris Bale
Vice Chair: Richard Jones
Camp Mgr: Mackenzie Vaughan
Secretary: Michael Tenerife
Treasurer: Peter Hanson

chair.southcotswolds@reformuk.com



County Councilors

TEWKESBURY

Cllr Vernon Smith
(Tewkesbury West)
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FOREST OF DEAN

Cllr Piers Camp
(Drybrook & Lydbrook)
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Cllr Leigh Challis
(Coleford)
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Cllr Ray Donaghue
(Cinderford)
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Cllr Stuart Graham
(Mitcheldean)
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Cllr Mark Howard
(Lydney)
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STROUD

Cllr Dean Botterill
(Stonehouse)
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Cllr Michael Rees
(Cam Valley)
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GLOUCESTER

Cllr Vernon Gray
(Tuffley & Moreland)
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Cllr Chris Mayo
(Quedgeley)
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Cllr Jason Preece
(Grange & Kingsway)
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Tewkesbury Borough Councilor

TEWKESBURY

Cllr Graham Bocking
(Northway)
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Forest of Dean District Councilors

FOREST OF DEAN

Cllr Stuart Graham
(Cinderford East)
stuart.graham@fdean.gov.uk

Cllr Alan Preest
(Lydney East)
Alan.Preest@fdean.gov.uk

Reform UK Calls for Flag Removal Transparency



Reform UK's Cllr Vernon Smith has written an open letter to Cllr Lisa Spivey, Leader of Gloucestershire County Council, challenging the council's recent actions and statements regarding the removal of Union and St George's flags from public spaces.

In the letter, Cllr Smith welcomes the council's recognition of national pride but criticises the framing of flag displays as being tied solely to sporting events. He argues that for many residents, flying the flag is a meaningful expression of heritage and identity—not just a celebration of victory.

The letter raises serious concerns about transparency, asking the council to publish all safety assessments related to flag removals and to clarify the rationale behind each decision. Smith also questions the vague references to “inflammatory comments” on social media and “planned marches,” warning against conflating peaceful public expression with safety risks.

“A flag in itself does not make a space less safe,” Smith writes. He calls on the council to reaffirm its commitment to fairness, inclusivity, and respect for national pride. Reform UK continues to stand with residents across Gloucestershire who feel their voices are being ignored.

Council Motions

Reform UK Pushes Planning Motion on Hotel Use:

Reform UK councillors submitted a motion at Gloucestershire County Council calling for stricter enforcement of planning laws around hotels used for migrant accommodation.



Led by Cllr Mark Howard, the motion urges district councils to review whether such conversions require formal planning approval.

Its concern is upholding lawful process and ensuring transparency, not immigration policy. A debate is expected at the next full council meeting.

Cllr Ray Donaghue Pushes for Urgent Action to Clean up Cinderford

Reform UK's Cllr Ray Donaghue is calling for urgent intervention to tackle the decline of Cinderford's public services. Despite repeated meetings with Forest of Dean District Council, Highways, and cabinet members, Donaghue says progress has stalled due to poor coordination, outdated infrastructure, and cultural resistance to change.

He's submitted over 80 FixMyStreet referrals, launched a volunteer clean-up group, and requested officer training. COVID signage and misplaced bollards still litter the town. He's now preparing to launch a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and hopes a roundtable with Cllr Lisa Spivey will finally break the deadlock.



Dr David Bull Visits Gloucestershire

Reform UK's Chairman's Tour rolled into Gloucestershire in August and what a night it was! Hosted at the historic Gupshill Manor in Tewkesbury, the event drew an incredible 184 members from across the county and beyond, making it one of the most successful stops of the nationwide tour so far.

The evening opened with a warm welcome from South West Regional Director, Paul Mills, who celebrated the outstanding results achieved in May's local elections. Reform UK gained a remarkable 23% of all seats contested across the South West, winning: 🏆 11 seats in Gloucestershire 🏆 10 seats in Wiltshire 🏆 18 seats in Devon 🏆 28 seats in Cornwall



These victories firmly established Reform UK as the main opposition party across the South West.

Next up was Mike Masters, Gloucestershire County Organiser and Chair of the Tewkesbury Branch, who spoke passionately about the vital role volunteers play in building on this momentum. He highlighted both the strong performance in May's council elections and the recent District by-election win, with 41% of the vote, showing the growing strength of the movement in the county. Mike explained how branches operate and emphasised that there's a role for everyone, whether on the doorstep, behind the scenes, or out in the community.

Mike then introduced Cllr Vernon Smith, Reform UK Councillor Group Leader on Gloucestershire County Council. Vernon gave a frank and powerful update on the state of local democracy in Gloucestershire and beyond.

The evening concluded with a rousing speech from Dr David Bull, followed by an energetic Q&A session covering topics from illegal immigration, to the future of the NHS, to the challenges facing Britain today. The questions showed not only the passion of members but also the depth of Reform UK's growing grassroots movement in Gloucestershire.



MEET YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLORS



Shadow Leader – Cllr Vernon Smith

Vernon Smith leads the Reform UK shadow cabinet, setting the strategic direction and holding the council leadership to account. He will champion a bold, cost-conscious alternative to the current administration, focused on cutting waste, improving transparency, and working with other Reform-led councils to deliver shared savings.

Deputy Shadow Leader (Finance, Assets & Transformation) – Cllr Piers Camp

Piers Camp will scrutinise the council's financial management, asset use, and transformation programmes. He will push for leaner operations, challenge inefficiencies, and lead efforts to identify joint savings opportunities with other Reform authorities, ensuring taxpayers get maximum value.



Whip & Shadow Spokesperson for Communities, Fire & Public Health – Cllr Chris Mayo

Chris Mayo will maintain discipline within the Reform group and lead scrutiny of community services, fire safety, and public health. He will promote joined-up services and cost-effective public health strategies, working with other Reform councils to maximise impact and savings.

Shadow Spokesperson for DOGE Business, Economic Development & Planning – Cllr Stuart Graham

Stuart Graham will challenge the council's approach to economic development and planning, advocating for a pro-growth, pro-business strategy that removes red tape and delivers results. He will promote planning reform and cross-council collaboration to unlock cost-effective development.



Shadow Spokesperson for Children – Education & Skills – Cllr Leigh Challis

Leigh Challis will hold the administration to account on education and skills, ensuring funding is directed toward improving outcomes and practical learning. She will explore shared education initiatives with other Reform councils to reduce duplication and deliver better value for families.

MEET YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLORS



Shadow Spokesperson for Crime & Waste Reduction – Cllr Mark Howard

Mark Howard will scrutinise the council's crime prevention and waste management policies, promoting smarter, community-led solutions that reduce costs and improve safety. He will work with other Reform groups to develop joint enforcement and waste reduction strategies.

Shadow Spokesperson for Sustainable Transport & Road Safety – Cllr Jason Preece

Jason Preece will scrutinise transport and road safety policies, promoting practical, affordable solutions that improve safety and reduce congestion. He will work with Reform colleagues in other areas to trial shared transport initiatives and deliver savings.



Shadow Spokesperson for Highways – Cllr Ray Donaghue

Ray Donaghue will challenge the council's highways spending, advocating for a maintenance-first approach and better value from contractors. He will seek collaboration with other councils to share infrastructure solutions and reduce long-term costs.

Shadow Spokesperson for DEI / Environment – Cllr Dean Botterill

Dean Botterill will challenge environmental and DEI policies that lack cost-effectiveness, promoting initiatives that deliver genuine impact without excessive spending. He will seek to align Gloucestershire's approach with other Reform councils to share low-cost, high-impact environmental strategies.



Shadow Spokesperson for Adult Social Care – Cllr Vernon Gray

Vernon Gray will challenge the council's adult social care provision, advocating for compassionate care that is financially sustainable. He will seek innovative models and shared procurement opportunities with other councils to reduce costs while maintaining high standards.

Group Secretary & Political Strategist – Cllr Michael Rees

Michael Rees will coordinate the group's political strategy and communications, ensuring Reform UK's message is clear, consistent, and focused on savings and service delivery. He will support councillors in developing policy alternatives and building strategic links with other Reform-led councils.



NEXT STEPS



Keep informed of local branch meetings, events and receive future digital editions of the **Gloucestershire Reformer** Newsletter.

Email your branch chair to be added to the branch WhatsApp

Ask your friends & family to Join Reform UK

**BECOME A
MEMBER**



Your local branch is looking for members
to volunteer to help:

Deliver **Leaflets**

Canvass for Voting Intention data

Organise **Events**

