

Have your say on key housing plan

A draft plan for future housing has been published which will have an impact on Cheltenham and the surrounding area. This plan has been published jointly by Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Cheltenham councils.

The plan, called the Joint Core Strategy (JCS), says that up to 36,800 homes will be needed in the area covered by the three Councils by 2031, based on the County Council's projections for population growth.

The JCS proposes four different options:

- Scenario A would see 16,200 homes being built by 2031. It would involve building on 'brownfield' (previously developed) sites which would mainly be in Gloucester and Cheltenham as well as building where planning permission has already been approved.
- Scenarios B,C and D would include development on new areas of land, including greenbelt land, as well as the land earmarked under Scenario A. Scenario C involves building 36,800 houses whereas Scenarios B and D are just below and above that figure.

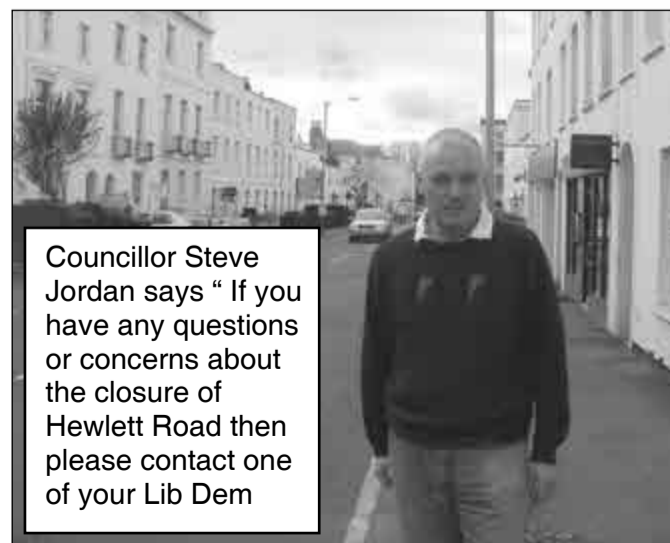
Liberal Democrat Councillor for All Saints, Steve Jordan said "I recognise that with a rising local population we do need new homes, especially affordable homes for the younger generation. However we also need to think about the impact on our local environment and I am concerned that scenarios B,C and D would damage our greenbelt forever whereas Scenario A, focuses on using existing brownfield sites, and protects the greenbelt and open countryside around the town. I would strongly urge all local residents to make their views known during the consultation period which ends on the 12th February."

The following public exhibitions have been arranged where you can meet with council officers to discuss the proposals:-

Friday 27 January	5-7pm	Sainsbury's, Oakley
Saturday 4 February	10am-5pm	Sainsbury's, Oakley

You must submit any comments on the JCS by 12 February 2012. You can make your comments through the JCS website at www.gct-jcs.org or by email to info@gct-jcs.org or in writing to the JCS Team, Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 9SA. You can also contact the JCS team on 0800 073 1441.

Hewlett Road - road closure



Councillor Steve Jordan says "If you have any questions or concerns about the closure of Hewlett Road then please contact one of your Lib Dem

From 16th January work will be carried out to install a new puffin crossing outside Londis in Hewlett Road.

As reported in the last Focus this follows a campaign to solve the problems caused by motorists driving straight through the red light on the existing crossing. An investigation showed that poor sight lines for approaching drivers were a problem and sadly this was demonstrated only days before work started when a pedestrian was knocked down on the crossing. Fortunately she was not seriously injured.

In total the work will last for a month. As well as replacing the crossing, it includes the complete resurfacing of **Hewlett Road** from **All Saints**

Residents Parking - update

Now that the new residents parking zones have been in place for 6 months, the county council is intending to review the position in Zone 3.

This covers the area between **Hewlett Road** and **Hales Road** and from **London Road** to **Brighton Road**.

Since new parking schemes went ahead in nearby zones, the feedback from residents to local councillors is that there has been no real deterioration in the parking situation in Zone 3. This was the message given to the county council at a meeting on 6th January when they briefed local councillors on their plans.

The county council now intend to consult on 2 options. The first is the original plan which was the subject of consultation last year and wasn't very popular. However, option 2 drops all streets north of **Carlton Street** from the scheme. It also restricts the proposed residents parking scheme in **Priory Street** to one side of the street as now.

Letters informing residents of the details and how to respond to the consultation should be going out in the next few weeks although we are still awaiting the final timetable.

Councillor Steve Jordan said "We have also been promised that detailed maps of the proposals will be on display locally during the consultation period. For more information please contact one of the Focus Team"



Road to London Road and replacement of sections of the kerbing. **From 23rd January Hewlett road will be closed all day with temporary diversions in operation.**

Then from 3rd to 14th February the road will be closed from 9am to 4.30pm. **Hewlett Place, St Annes Road** and **Leighton Road** will be made temporarily two way while Hewlett Road is closed.

Councillor Charlie Stewart commented, "I'm pleased that this work is being done as it will be a big improvement when it is done. However, this is bound to cause disruption for locals and it is important that Gloucestershire Highways keep people informed as work progresses."

Local news from around the ward

Albion Street

Steve Jordan reports that work has now been done to replace the pedestrian crossing in **Albion Street** outside **St John's School**. The equipment had become worn out and was increasingly prone to faults.

Fariview Road



Local police have been targeting drivers attempting a short cut through the no entry sign in **Fairview Road**.

They will be particularly watching to ensure the situation doesn't get worse while the road works in **Albion Street** and **Hewlett Road** are underway.

Grosvenor Terrace

Proposals have been announced to refurbish **Grosvenor Terrace car park**. This car park often has over 300 vacant spaces and has a number of problems which make it unattractive to customers. The council is considering a package of improvements (checking details).

Councillor Steve Jordan said "This work is particularly important now that Cheltenham Council is close to agreeing the **sale of North Place** and **Portland Street** for development.

"While any proposals will include a new multi-story car park and will need to get planning permission there will be a period during any development when the current car park will be close so **Grosvenor Terrace** will need to take up some of the slack.

Traffic Speed issues - Would you support a '20's plenty' scheme in your area?

Fears about traffic speed are one of the key issues that people raise with us. Roads such as Carlton Street and Kings Road seem to be of concern to people living nearby who are worried about the dangers of speeding traffic.

Councillor Klara Sudbury said " A number of towns have introduced "Twenty's Plenty" schemes where all residential streets have a 20 mph speed limit. Only arterial streets, so called because they carry a larger amount of through traffic, retain the 30 mph limit. Supporters of "Twenty's Plenty" believe that such schemes reduce accidents and provide a more cycle and pedestrian friendly environment. They also say limiting speeds to 20 mph on residential streets has very little impact on journey times (only slowing journeys by an average of 40 seconds) and leads to a 10% reduction in petrol consumption."

We would like to know whether you would support a "Twenty's Plenty" scheme in our area. Please use the box below to let us know where you think there are traffic speed issues in our area and whether or not you feel a Twenty's Plenty or alternative solution would be appropriate. More information is available at <http://www.20splentyforus.org.uk>



How to contact your Lib Dem team

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Martin Horwood MP
01242 224889
martin@martinhorwood.net



Eldon Road

Councillor Klara Sudbury reports that Gloucestershire Highways have ruled out putting in yellow lines at the junction of **Eldon Road** and **Hales Road**.

The request followed continuing concerns from residents that parked vehicles at the junction were blocking the view and making the junction more dangerous.

Highways say there is not enough evidence of a problem to justify the work. So if you have any evidence (eg photos) let us know.

Jersey Avenue

Steve Jordan reports a similar problem at the **Jersey Avenue / Hewlett Road** junction.

Recently vans parked by builders working locally have caused problems and led residents to request yellow lines. Gloucestershire Highways have added this to their list for review.

In the meantime local police have been encouraging the builders to park more considerately.



Pengwern & Worcester House



At the December meeting of the planning committee permission was given for **Berkhampstead School** to convert **Pengwern** in **Pittville Circus Road** to be a nursery for up to 60 children.

It was previously used for respite care and some residents were concerned that the nursery would make the existing traffic and parking issues in the area worse.

The existing nursery and **Berkhampstead School** itself have long been a source of complaint from residents about the inconsiderate parking by parents when dropping off and picking up their children. **Local councillor Steve Jordan** put residents' concerns to the planning committee and they applied a number of conditions including a no waiting restriction to tackle the parking in peak periods.

This was in addition to extended yellow lines to improve visibility at the entrance to Pengwern. Both of these need a Traffic Regulation Order which will be subject to separate consultation.

Separately Gloucestershire County Council have applied to convert **Worcester House**, next to Pengwern, from a day centre to a residence.

Haines and Strange site

After no sign of activity on this site for months, there was a surprise before Christmas when the owners installed security fencing around it.

This brought a rapid end to what had become an informal car park. Unfortunately, there is no news on any plans for the site to be either sold or developed.

Name of street where traffic speeds are a problem

Do you support the idea of a Twenty's Plenty Scheme for just the Road or area you are concerned about? Yes / No

If No what solution do you think would work best and be most supported by the local community?

Do you support the idea of a Twenty's Plenty for us scheme for Cheltenham as a whole? Yes / No

Name _____ Tel: _____

Address _____

Email _____ @ _____

Return to: Klara Sudbury, Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST SWC 0744, 16 Hewlett Road, Cheltenham, GL52 6ZZ

