

Serving the community - Keeping you informed

FOCUS

On College ward

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County Council's parking review under fire

A recent parking consultation in our area has been branded a shambles by a senior local councillor. Klara Sudbury, who is County Councillor for our area has hit out at a parking review launched by the Tories on the County Council which consulted people in Leckhampton who have never asked for residents parking schemes whilst locking out people in our area who have repeatedly asked for help with commuter parking.

In a consultation costing tens of thousands of pounds, people living as far out of town as **Moorend Crescent** were asked about problems with commuter parking which they are not affected by. Whereas residents plagued by commuter parking in **Naunton Park Road** and **Whitecross Square** were excluded from the consultation. The County Council put these two streets into a very small zone, apart from the rest of the neighbouring Naunton Zone and then concluded that as it was too small to function properly the zone should be taken out of the Southern Area Review.

Klara said "Residents have been excluded from a consultation when they were the very people whose voices needed to be heard. Elsewhere in nearby **Exmouth Street**, I have also been contacted by residents who didn't realise they had been sent a survey because it was sent with junk mail and they are now desperately trying to work with the County to try and improve the parking situation there."

Klara added "The review process in the Southern Area was supposed to have improved after the significant problems that occurred when the County consulted people in the first phase which included Fairview and All Saints. I have offered advice on where the consultation should happen, and to advertise that it is happening through leaflets or help deliver the letters to residents but these offers of help have fallen on deaf ears. I have lost count of the number of emails I have sent to county officers trying to find out what is going on, the whole thing has been a shambles."

If you have problems with parking you would like the County Council to be aware of you can visit their website at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/parking and click the link which says 'Talk to us' to give your views on parking in the area. Alternatively please feel free to contact any of your local Lib Dem team directly. There is also more detailed information about the particular issues in the Naunton Park Zone on Klara's Blog <http://klara1967.blogspot.com>



Left out - Naunton Park Road residents were excluded from recent parking survey

Imperial Gardens and Montpellier Gardens planning application



Montpellier residents pack a public meeting to hear about Gardens plan

A planning application has been submitted for the erection of temporary structures in Montpellier Gardens and Imperial Gardens in connection with festivals and special events for a maximum of 75 days in each Garden.

The use of both Montpellier and Imperial Gardens for events on an increasing number of days has caused controversy between users and residents and the application seeks to create boundaries on the usage to try and protect the amenity of those living nearby.

At a public meeting on January 3rd arranged by Councillor Lloyd Surgenor many local residents attended to hear more about why the plans had been submitted and to express their views.

You can view the plans online via the planning portal on the council's website or at the Municipal Offices. The Application number is 11/01807/FUL and comments need to be sent to the Development Control Manager, Planning Dept, before 19 January when this issue will come to the planning committee.

Have your say on key housing plan



It is important that local people make their views known so that we can continue to defend Cheltenham's valuable green spaces

A draft plan for future housing has been published which will have an impact on Cheltenham and the surrounding area. This plan has been drawn up by officers from Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Cheltenham councils and has now been published and is out for consultation. 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 or where land has been allocated in current Local Plans; for example, the site at Farm Lane, Shurdington on the border with Leckhampton is included in Option A for 350 houses because it is already in Tewkesbury Borough Councils Local Plan.

Scenarios B, C and D would include the housing proposed in Scenario A plus development on new areas of land, including fields in Leckhampton which are earmarked for 1,300 houses. Scenario C involves building 36,800 houses whereas Scenarios B and D are just below and above that figure.

Councillor Lloyd Surgenor said "It is vital that people who want to have a say on what the future development in our town should look like. What is planned in this document, whilst not directly affecting College Ward will have a massive impact on our area. For residents in College, the extra traffic generated by 1,650 houses on fields in Leckhampton will have a huge impact on the congestion on the Bath Road".

Councillor Garth Barnes added "The issue of school places is also of huge concern to many families in our area. It is not always possible to get a place at a local primary school as we have seen in recent years and access to Bournside School for families in and around the Naunton Park area will be very much limited with so many new houses proposed. Whilst the number of 1,650 houses is massive it is not enough to generate enough planning gain money to provide a new senior school for the South of Cheltenham."

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

Friday, 20 January 10 am-5pm Regent Arcade, Cheltenham
Saturday, 21 January 10 am-5pm Regent Arcade, Cheltenham

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.

Friends help Naunton Park young people find 'Common Ground'

A bid for funds to provide activities for young people from the Naunton Park area has been successful.

Friends of Naunton Park submitted a bid for funds to provide an opportunity for young people living in the area to take part in a project with youngsters from the Moors area of Cheltenham called 'Common Ground'.

The project aims to build on existing links between young people from Naunton Park and The Moors to develop young people's creative and communication skills by holding a series of workshops to help them attain an arts award.

Councillor Klara Sudbury welcomed the bid saying "The County Council cut funding for youth centres which meant the end of the popular youth club at Naunton Park. The proposals put forward by FONP will provide an innovative opportunity for young people from our area to take part in creative activities in a safe environment."

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 Old Bath Road and Naunton Lane 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>

Your local Lib Dem team hold regular advice surgeries at our Office at 16 Hewlett Road on the first Saturday morning of every month. They are held between 10 am & 12 noon and no appointment is necessary. Please feel free to come along and discuss issues of concern with us, we will be pleased to see you.

How to contact your Lib Dem team

Councillor Klara Sudbury
T: 01242 256936
klara.sudbury@gloucestershire.co.uk

Councillor Lloyd Surgenor
T: 01242 529387
lloyd.surgenor@btinternet.com

Councillor Garth Barnes
T: 01242 230638
cllr.garth.barnes@cheltenham.gov.uk

Martin Horwood MP
01242 224889
martin@martinhorwood.net



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

