

Serving the community - Keeping you informed

FOCUS

On Leckhampton

January
2012



www.cheltlibdems.org.uk

Have your say on key housing plan

Public Consultation is now underway on the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) which has been drawn up by Officers from Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Cheltenham Councils. The draft plan covers the period up to 2031 and sets out three scenarios with very large housing targets from 16,200 to 36,800 homes, based on the County Council's projections for population growth.

Local councillors and campaigners feel that Leckhampton has been unfairly targeted in the plan as it includes 1,650 houses to be built on open countryside in or next to Leckhampton. This would have a huge impact and forever change the character of Leckhampton from rural to urban. The land is currently designated as safeguarded land in Cheltenham Borough Council's Local Plan which recognises the need for an "Old Leckhampton" conservation area and to protect its rural character.

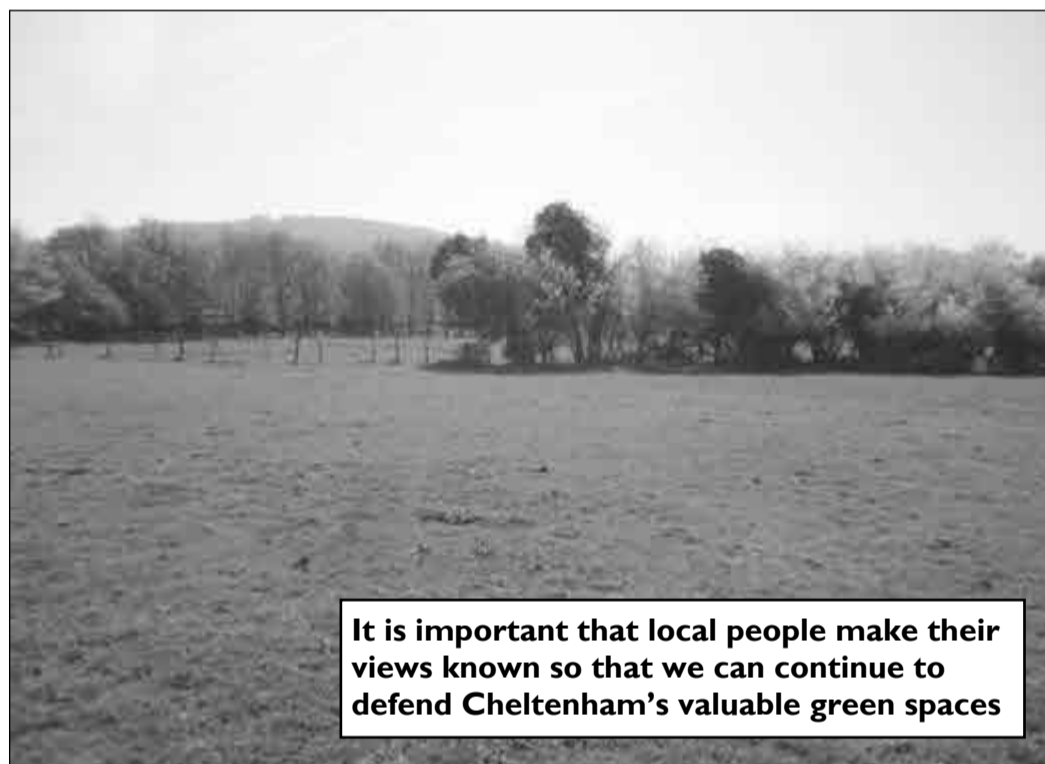
Cheltenham Borough Local Plan Second Review, Inspector's Report, considers the "value of the land should be protected as a resource for its recreational, landscape, wildlife and archaeological interest. Any proposals for development within this area will be considered against policies of landscape character and sustainable environment".

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 Council's 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 Klara Sudbury said "It is vital that local residents respond to this consultation. What is planned in this document will have a massive impact on Leckhampton and the wider area. **People are concerned about the impact on the environment** and wildlife, loss of informal recreation space, how the local road network would cope with the traffic, flooding issues, as well as the loss of potentially important sites for local food production during uncertain times."

Klara 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 senior school as we have seen in recent years and **access to Bournside School for families in and around Leckhampton** 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."



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

Have Your Say

A public meeting has been organized to discuss the JCS by **LEGLAG** (Leckhampton Green Land Action Group), **Leckhampton Primary School, Hall Road, 20 January, at 7.30 pm**. The speakers are **Martin Horwood, MP** and **Sir Jonathon Porritt**.

The following local public exhibitions and events have also 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.

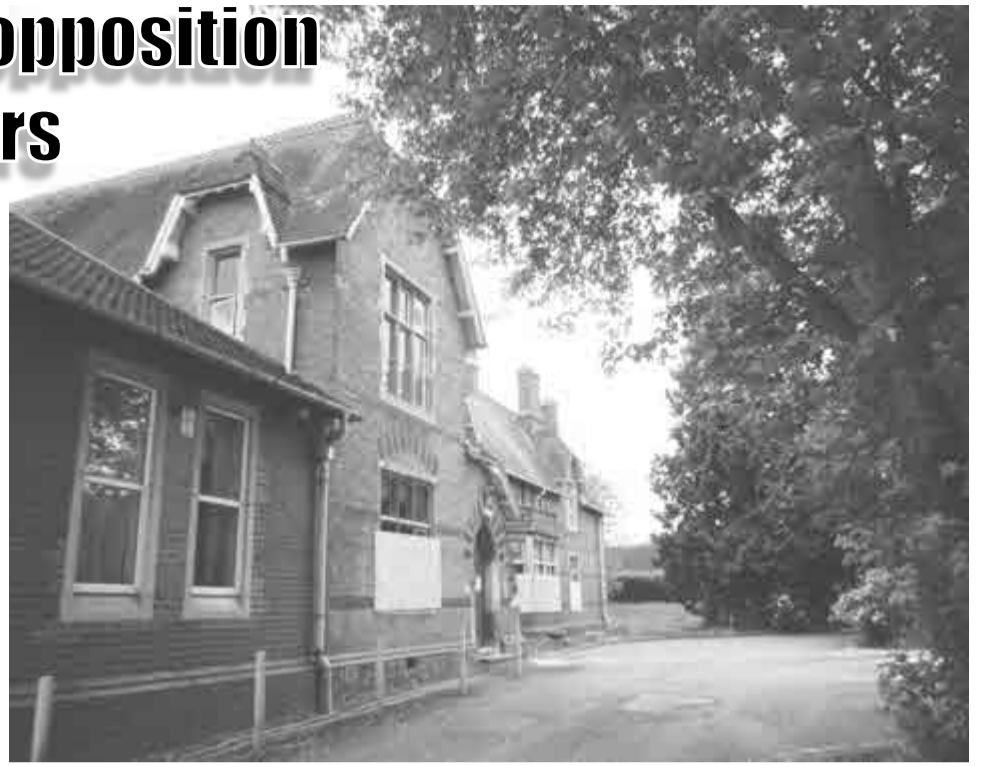
You can also contact the JCS team on 0800 073 1441. If you have questions please feel free to contact Ian (250473) or Klara (256936) who have had the benefit of councillors briefing on all JCS reports and evidence.

Delancey Plans Approved despite opposition from local residents and councillors

Plans to Redevelop the former Delancey Hospital site to provide 97 residential units, comprising 25 open market dwellings, 21 age-restricted dwellings and 49 extra care apartments was approved at the Decembers Planning committee meeting.

Although some aspects of the scheme had been well received, there were objections to the plans, with the impact of additional traffic on Charlton Lane and Pilley Lane being of particular concern. Also the height, scale and design of the extra care building facing on to Pilley Lane were strongly objected to by local people.

Local Councillors attended a public meeting at the end of November to try and help residents get their outstanding objections resolved and Ian Bickerton spoke on behalf of residents at the planning committee meeting but we were disappointed that the plans were approved without being further amended. Klara has since contacted Berkley Homes in a last ditch attempt to get the design of the extra care unit changed and we will keep you updated with progress on this.



Church Road

We are delighted to report that after pressure from your local Lib Dem team the County Council have finally agreed to resurface Church Road between Farm Lane and the entrance to the Sue Ryder Care Hospice. At the time of writing the work is programmed to take place between the 16th and 23rd January (weather permitting).

Klara said "This is great news. This is a busy stretch of road and the recent cold winters caused potholes which needed filling and then re-filling. Hopefully with proper resurfacing the need for these patching treatments will be a thing of the past."

Brown bin garden waste collections

Have you signed up for your brown garden waste bin yet? If not, now is a great time to do so as the Borough Council recently agreed a discount for new users and for those renewing their membership to the scheme within a certain timescale.

If you are a new customer, or if you renew before your renewal date, you will be able to use the scheme for a year for the price of £34 instead of £36. New sign ups and renewals to the scheme can be done via the council's website, by telephone or by visiting the Municipal Officers.

For more information please visit Cheltenham Borough Council website <http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk> or telephone them on 01242 262626.



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, Leckhampton Road, Naunton Lane** and **Charlton 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>



How to contact your Lib Dem team



Cllr Klara Sudbury
T: 01242 256936
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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.

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



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