

Serving the community - Keeping you informed

# FOCUS

On Oakley ward

January 2012

Edited by  
Rowena Hay



www.cheltlibdems.org.uk

# Have your say on development in and around Cheltenham

## Residents urged to take part in consultation

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 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 Cheltenham and Gloucester as well as building where planning permission has already been approved.
- Scenarios B, C & 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 homes whereas Scenarios B & D are just below and above that figure.

Liberal Democrat councillor for Oakley **Rowena Hay** said "I recognise that with a rising local population we 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 green open spaces around the town forever whereas Scenario A, focuses on using **existing brownfield sites, and protects the greenbelt and open spaces.**

"We have to work co-operatively with neighbouring local authorities especially Tewkesbury. The impact of housing developments just across the Tewkesbury boundary could be very significant, through increased traffic and pressure on local school places, as well as a loss of wildlife and habitat. **I would strongly urge all local residents to make their views known during the consultation period** which ends on the **12th February.**" 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  
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](http://www.gct-jcs.org) or by email to [info@gct-jcs.org](mailto: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.**

Have  
Your  
Say

**Working for Oakley all year round - not just at election time**

## News in brief

### Whaddon Road

Colin Hay reports that the old **Cat & Fiddle pub** is now owned by the Bromford Group and work has started to build sixteen one and two bedroom affordable housing units.

Because of concerns raised by residents over the gates and their historical value they have been included as a condition on the planning decision.

The gates are to be stored whilst building works are in progress and re-used within the new development.

### Starvehall Farm

No decision has yet been made on this application, we are still waiting to hear back from the County Council on a number of requests that have been put forward to them by councillors. We will keep you informed of progress

### Whaddon Rec

Rowena is pleased to report that the benches in Whaddon recreation ground have been replaced.

As a result of increased anti-social behavior and some criminal damage to the wall in the **Rose Garden**, at residents request Rowena has been successful in getting the Parks department to install 'defensive planting'.





**Local residents hope that the new children's nursery at Pengwern won't cause too much disruption**

## Pengwern - Pittville Circus Road

Berkhamstead School finally got planning permission for a change of use to a children's nursery at **Pengwern on Pittville Circus Road**.

Local Lib Dem councillors from both All Saints and Oakley managed to get important concessions to address resident's fears over parking and congestion.

**These include the parking layout on site, widening the entrance/exit and the need to fund any necessary parking restrictions on Pittville Circus Road before any work starts.**

The school also has to have a plan to protect any of the existing trees close to any of the new works.

## Priors Farm

Rowena & Colin would like to thank the Oakley residents chairman, Martin Hall and neighborhood watch coordinator, Harold Bennett for helping them with an open evening for Priors residents at the pavilion, which has recently had work done to allow the large upstairs room to be useable again. The path around it has also been resurfaced.

A letter was sent to all residents on the estate asking them to come along with any suggestions they may have for making use of the room upstairs and we would still welcome any suggestions that you may have about this.



**Rowena checking out the condition of the resurfaced path around the pavilion**

**Dog fouling is also a significant problem in the area;** Rowena has put in a request for another bin to be placed in the top left hand corner of the playing field. The Borough Council 'community protection team' has been made aware of the problem, but they need to hear from residents to increase their patrols - so please report it by calling **01242 775020**

## Gloucestershire Warm and Well

### - Keep your home warm and stay well

Gloucestershire Warm and Well offers the opportunity to improve the energy efficiency of your home, reduce the cost of your fuel bills and to reduce associated health problems caused by the cold, meaning you are more comfortable in your home this winter and can stay warm during the cold winter months.

**Councillor Rowena Hay** said "The Warm and Well scheme offers free advice on saving energy and can help you claim a grant towards the cost of insulation.

**If you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit, on a low income or aged over 70, it may be FREE.**

If you do not fall into these categories, cavity wall insulation can now be installed from £99 and loft insulation from £149. The total cost of a job for a typical 3 bed semi is £400-£450, so it represents a 75% reduction through grant funding"

For free, impartial advice about this and other energy saving grants and offers call on **0800 512 012**.

The Gloucestershire Warm and Well scheme is funded and managed separately from the Energy Saving Trust Advice Service by the Severn Wye Energy Agency. To apply online visit: [www.warmandwell.co.uk](http://www.warmandwell.co.uk).

## Imjin Road

**Councillor Rowena Hay** is pleased to report that the path at the top of **Imjin Road** has finally had tarmac put down and railings put around the brick wall.

After removal of the climbing frame from its original position requests by Rowena to the council have been successful in getting it reinstated alongside the new play area.

## New police non-emergency number

At the last meeting of the Neighborhood Community Group a number of residents raised concerns over the increase in anti-social behaviour.



It was agreed that this would be set as a SARA plan so please do report any incidents to the police on the new non-emergency police number which is now fully operational - **just call 101**.

Calls cost 15 pence for however long you are on the line from both mobiles and landlines.



## How to contact your local Lib Dem team



**Councillor Colin Hay**  
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**Councillor Rowena Hay**  
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### We want to hear from you

Use this space to tell us of any local issues or problems

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Liberal Democrats, 16 Hewlett Road,  
FREEPOST SWC0744, Cheltenham, GL52 6ZZ.

