

*Serving the community - Keeping you informed*

# FOCUS

**On Swindon Village**



Jan/Feb 2012

# Don't forget to have your say

**Joint Core Strategy consultation ends 12th February**

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. **Scenarios B,C and D all propose building 4,450 houses to the North West of Cheltenham (Swindon Village and Uckington areas) in the Green Belt.**

**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.

**Fighting to save Cheltenham's green fields**

For more detailed information about the campaign go to the Save The Countryside website:  
[www.savethecountryside.org.uk](http://www.savethecountryside.org.uk)

# Future closure of the M5 bridge at Piffs Elm - Tewkesbury Road

## Government told to think again about road closure plans

Protests by local residents, businesses, MPs and councillors have forced the Government to think again about its plans to close part of **Tewkesbury Road** for up to a year from this March. They planned to do this as part of a scheme to replace the bridge at junction 10 of the M5.

The planned closure of the bridge at Piffs Elm on Tewkesbury Road has been delayed while the **Highways Agency go back to the drawing board and work on a better way to do the needed repairs** which causes less disruption to the surrounding areas.

Gloucestershire Highways have already made plans to attempt to minimise the expected pressure on our roads from cars that need to travel through our area to complete their journeys. In truth, we all know it is likely that people will take the shortest route they can find and no amount of signs will make a difference. When we have more information on this, we will share it through Focus.

**Councillor Suzanne Williams** said, "We were particularly concerned about the impact on local roads, which would have had to carry an even greater volume of traffic during the closure. We also want the government minister to look at the possibility of building a full **four-way interchange at junction 10**, which would help to reduce unnecessary traffic trips across Cheltenham."



The scheme has now been put on hold for at least a year, while the impact of the scheme is more fully investigated

## How to contact your Lib Dem team

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## Working for Swindon Village ward all year round