

# Have your say on key housing plan

## Joint Core Strategy could affect our green belt

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 Up Hatherley, **Roger Whyborn** 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 greenbelt forever whereas Scenario A, focuses on using existing brownfield sites, and protects the greenbelt and open countryside around the town.

We also have to work co-operatively with neighbouring local authorities especially Tewkesbury. The impact of housing developments just across the Tewkesbury boundary in Grovefield Way is already immense, 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



**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. The full 19 question questionnaire and consultation document is available on the website [www.gct-jcs.org](http://www.gct-jcs.org) and this may be also accessed at **Up Hatherley library.**

### Support grows for 20 MPH speed limit

In our August Focus we asked what people thought about an experimental 20 mph scheme in the area between **Hatherley Road** and **Hatherley Lane** (Wards Road, Hollis Road/Gardens, Kingscotes). The scheme could also cover cul-de-sacs off Hatherley Road.



There was significant support for this amongst those who responded. We are going to make enquiries with Gloucestershire Highways about what is possible, but will continue to consult local residents at every stage.

Councillor **Chris Pallet** said "A number of towns have introduced "Twenty's Plenty" schemes where all residential streets have a 20mph speed limit. Only streets which 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 your views on all aspects of the "Twenty's Plenty" idea for Up Hatherley.**

Please contact Chris on **01242 523202** and let him know what you think.

# News in brief

## Update on the traffic calming scheme

Following the second consultation day in December which was carried out by the County Council, the traffic scheme should be going ahead, with traffic orders being advertised in the New Year. This will include sorting out of the parking problems around the post office.

Additional calming has been added to the scheme in **Hatherley Road** either side of **Coombe Glen Lane** following a request by local residents. There are various issues still to resolve in **Hatherley Lane** where your councillors are in contact with residents.

## Up Hatherley Way

**Simon Wheeler** reports that Up Hatherley Way will be resurfaced in 2012/13 and with quieter tarmac, subject to County Council budgets being maintained.

## Potholes

You can report pot-holes on **08000 514514** or by emailing:

**highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk.**

Alternatively you can contact any member of your Lib Dem team and we will take up the issue for you.

## Street Lighting

The **part lighting at night scheme** is finally going ahead in January. Gloucestershire Highways tell us that alternate lights will be turned off from 12:00 -5:30 am except in certain streets where it is essential that they stay on all night.



## Survey says - Parish Council should stay as it is

In response to a Parish wide survey, people in Up Hatherley have said that they want the Parish Council to retain its present boundaries and definitely not expand or reduce them. Those responding overwhelmingly approve of remaining within the parished area by 8 to 1. People were against expanding the parish boundaries by about 5 to 3.

We received many comments saying that the Parish Council works well because it represents a small self-contained area, and your Lib Dem councillors, **Roger Whyborn** and **Andrew Mckinlay** agree with that view.

Comments such as 'The whole essence of a Parish Council is that it should be **small and intimate** and that is **truly local**' were typical.

We also surveyed people in the un-parished area between **Windermere Road, Hatherley Road** and **Alma Road**, who said they preferred to remain outside of the parished areas by a margin of 4 to 1.

The survey did not say, or mean to imply, that the Parish Council should be abolished, though it did recognise and say that reducing its area was as much of an option as increasing it. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to reply, we had a huge response.

## 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 Andrew McKinlay** 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.**

## Tories keep their incinerator plans burning

Lib Dem Councillors from Cheltenham are stepping up opposition to the County Tories ill thought out and expensive plans to commit **£500M** (yes half a billion) to build and run an incinerator.

At a recent meeting Cheltenham Borough Council agreed a Lib Dem motion asking the county to pause and reconsider the proposals.

The motion asked the County Council to pause and **reconsider their mass waste incinerator proposals.**

We understand the importance of getting the economics of any waste strategy

correct, but there is also a need to protect public health and the environment.

There are alternative, smarter UK technologies available at a fraction of the cost and some are now operating at plants across the South West.

Use of Mechanical Biological Treatment technology could push our recycling rates to **over 80%**, and more importantly avoid the health risks of increased cancer caused by waste incineration, as reported by the **British Society for Ecological Medicine.**

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## Martin Horwood Member of Parliament for Cheltenham

holds regular advice surgeries at his constituency office and at other locations around the town  
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