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THE CAMPDEN SOCIETY

Protecting the architectural and historic quality of Chipping Campden, its open spaces and its natural setting.

March 2022

Dear Member

Planning Matters

In our February update we reported that with respect to the **Craves/Leasows offer** the Cotswold District Council has advised the Town Council that:

(a) a proposal to include the development of further housing on the Leasows in the Neighbourhood Development Plan should only be made if the Town Council has first made an evidence-based decision, supported by a Strategic Environmental Assessment, that further housing in the town is needed and, after all reasonable alternatives have been considered, the Town Council has determined that the Leasows is the preferred site;

and (b) such determination by the Town Council should not have been induced, for example by an offer of any other land.

The Town Council then sought legal advice from the National Association of Local Councils as to whether the **Craves/Leasows offer** was legal. The response from the NALC in-house solicitor was that,

although the Council is empowered under Section 124 of the Local Government Act 1972 to acquire land for its functions or the benefit of the community, it is important to ensure that a gift of land from a planning applicant was not, in fact, a bribe.

Full copies of these exchanges between the Town Council and NALC can be found on the Town Council's website under About the Council/Documents. You can go straight to them by these links: [NALC Craves Leasows Submission CJ](#); [The Craves Leasows NALC Additional Information](#); and [NALC Response Craves Leasows](#).



In other news, a draft of the **Chipping Campden**



the Council/Documents: Draft Design Guide. It can also be found [here](#).

The document is aimed at providing guidance informing the design of future planning applications, principally for residential development, and is part of the town's Neighbourhood Plan. We encourage everyone to read and comment on the draft.

Wolds End Orchard Update

Blossom Weekend Saturday 30 April

– Monday 2 May Join us over the bank holiday weekend! The gate will open from 10.30am-4pm each day. Come and enjoy what we hope will be a breath-taking pink and white mosaic across our 94 fruit trees, sitting within nearly three acres of ridge and furrow landscape on the edge of town.



It's not just about the fruit trees. We also have a 'Shadow Orchard' in the form of boundary hedges where you'll also spot a variety of blossom including hawthorn, blackthorn, elder and wild damson as well as pussy willow catkins and maybe even some early wild rose. We have been tending the hedges along Back Ends and Aston Road as part of our hedge rejuvenation project, as well as to allow great views into the orchard as it springs to life. Our thanks to Gloucestershire County Council's Build Back Better Councillor Scheme for their financial support towards this project which will run over the next twelve months.

Everyone is welcome – just pop in and have a wander around. *Note: the orchard is very uneven underfoot so ensure you wear appropriate footwear. Also, no dogs please as the orchard is a nature reserve as well as a working orchard.*

Art in the Orchard. Track the arrival of Spring through monthly visits to sketch, paint, photograph, etc., the orchard as the season shifts from winter to summer. Meet in the orchard between 4 – 6 pm on **Friday 15 April** (which is a Bank Holiday). Bring your own art materials and come for the whole time, or whatever part suits you. There's no expectation to show anyone your work or to attend every session. Our next visits are planned to be on : **20 May, 17 June**, taking us to Midsummer. If you register your interest by contacting foweo2020@gmail.com, or ringing/texting 07767111338, we can let you know if the dates change due to weather or other circumstance – but feel free to just roll up on the day too. (Poets also welcome, though we have no daffodils.) Organised by Christina Kingsmill, Derry Sharman, Susie Tombs.

Our thanks to everyone who has taken part in our twice monthly work parties this Winter. You have made a tremendous difference and helped put the orchard into shape for Spring and Summer events. so far.

from anyone with event organisation experience, to lead one or two of our open day events. It's great fun!

Update from the Wolds End Orchard Sub Committee: Geoff Carr, Julianne Davis, John Ellis, Donna Evans, Chris Leese, Mike Newman, Susie Tombs, Geoffrey White.

Society News

We are looking for a new committee member. The committee meets once a month. Enthusiasm for the town, a willingness to pitch in and a few hours spare a week are all that is necessary. If you are interested, please contact us via campdensociety20@gmail.com for an informal chat.

We hope you will be able to join us for our 53rd AGM to be held on **Wednesday 27 April** at 1900 for 1930 in the Chipping Campden School hall. Further details will be sent out as soon as we have finalised arrangements.

Elizabeth Devas
Chair

Images: Map Detail/Exton Archives; Design Statement/Town Council & AECOM; Blossom/Keyna Doran



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