

November 2024

Dear Member

PLANNING & CONSERVATION MATTERS

Progress on the NDP continues. The Town Council appears to have disbanded the Working Party – which included ex Cllr Mark Benson and CS Committee Member, David Roberts. This leaves a reduced Council to deal with a large document and the consultant's suggested changes. These include dropping 4 key Local Green Space sites i.e. The Craves, The Cley, The Hoo (West), and The Hoo (East). The Craves was described by CDC as "The Green Lung of Campden". It has been a valued green space for centuries, with three well used public footpaths and is a unique remnant of the separation of the Norman new town from the distinct and earlier settlement of Westington. The Cley is an area of natural pasture and wild woodland located behind Grevel Lane has been categorised by the DEFRA as "Priority Habitat Inventory Deciduous Woodland". It is in an area categorised as "Environmentally Sensitive" and is included in the "Ground Water Vulnerability Map". The Hoo (West and East) provides the skyline views from most of the town and is also highly visible from its approaches. It is a key part of the green landscape within which the town nestles and includes ridge and furrow features which illustrate our agricultural history. We strongly oppose the dropping of these. All four areas make important contributions to the Natural Flood Management of our town and are a key part of the town's "fine landscape setting within the AONB" as referred in CDC Local Plan Policy S16. Please see our letter to the Editor in the Chipping Campden Bulletin.

We viewed the Warners' Supermarket proposals for Cutts Yard last month. The plan is to demolish the showroom and workshop and build a food store; the Post Office and Cambrook Court etc. will remain. This is a redesigned proposal based on preapplication comments from CDC Officers in July 2020. After adverse comments from the public over AirBnBs, they are rethinking the upstairs residential accommodation. The architects and developers are willing to hold another public session for people who didn't get a chance to see the plans. We are in discussions with the architects about how this might be arranged.

Bob Skillen from Gloucestershire County Council is waiting for Listed Building Consent before scheduling the long-awaited repair work to the Almshouses wall. The Heritage Statement submitted with the application (24/03301/LBC) includes the reassuring paragraph: *"Almshouses Wall is surrounded by multiple heritage assets, including Almshouses (Grade I) to the west and within Chipping Campden there are many Listed buildings and historic sites. Our client and contractors are committed to ensuring works around these assets are carried out with the utmost respect. We plan to utilize traditional construction methods that align with the historical character of the area, ensuring that our restoration work contributes positively to its heritage."*

In addition, Listed Building Consent has just been applied for repairs to the Town Hall windows. (24/03260/LBC Repair two first floor timber casement windows on the front/southern elevation.)

WOLDS END ORCHARD - Update from the Sub Committee

As the days grow shorter, the more observant of you may have seen or heard us working during November to prepare and sow the Orchard with a mix of wild flower seed and yellow rattle. We have cut and collected the grass and raked the ground to weaken the existing grasses. Wild flower seed has then been sown on the south facing sunny slopes. Strangely, Winter's cold snap will assist the seed to germinate in Spring. We will survey the Orchard again next Summer to see what new species we have managed to introduce. Our hope is that this will further improve biodiversity. Certainly, it will be a pleasing sight for us all here in Campden to look forward to next year.

Our 2024 Apple Juice is available for purchase (details below) and we have been receiving very favourable feedback on this year's crop. Additionally, this year we are offering a special festive stocking filler. For £10, enjoy a bottle of our Apple Juice together with a hand printed Apple Tote Bag. Look out for these on sale; both at the Court Barn Museum and at the Campden Christmas Market. A special 'Thank you' to Marco for allowing us space on Huxley's Christmas Market stall to be able to offer these for sale. All sale proceeds are used to help towards the upkeep of the Orchard. Finally, just to wish all our readers of this WEO update a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Thank you to all the Orchardeers for their time and effort - and to all our many supporters for continuing to help in the work undertaken within the Orchard.

Dates for your diary: Work parties for January Saturdays 11 & 25 (10 -12)

!!WASSAIL!! Friday 10 January 2025 7pm leaving from The Eight Bells.

Festive greetings from Geoff, Marilou, Susie, Mike, John, Steven, Geoffrey and Owen

SOCIETY NEWS Our membership subscription is due on the 1st January each year and is £10 per person; £15 for joint membership. These subscriptions pay for the administrative costs including website fees, and holding events. If you are interested in supporting our charitable objectives, please send subscriptions to our Treasurer, Geoffrey White at The Campden Society, The Old Police Station, High Street, Chipping Campden.

With our best wishes,

Elizabeth Devas - Chair

Wolds End Apple Juice is now available to purchase at £3.50 a 75cl bottle (or at a discounted price to Campden Society members of 6 bottles at £20 or 12 at £40) with free delivery in the Campden area; to purchase, please contact Geoffrey White on 0781 500 5879 or geoffreymwhite@gmail.com. In addition, they can be purchased from the Court Barn Museum and from Rachel's Back Ends stall.