

January 2022

Dear Member

Planning Matters

Members may recall that in our December newsletter we reported that the Town Council has deferred the **Town Referendum on the Craves/Upper Leasows** on the advice of the Cotswold District Council's monitoring officer. We gather that the Council is currently seeking guidance on a way forward.

We have been informed by the Cotswold District Council it 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.

In the words of the CDC: *“an allocation in a development plan must be evidence-based, and thus is not a tradeable commodity that can be exchanged for the gift of land at another location”*. In the circumstances therefore, we trust that the Town Council will not proceed with the planned Town Referendum. The CDC has confirmed to the Society that it is happy for us to make public the above advice it has given to the Town Council.

In other Planning news, we are broadly in favour of **the proposed development at Aston Road**. We are pressing the GCC and CDC to ensure that zero carbon housing is costed and included in the outline planning application and to put mandates on the chosen developer to adhere to the highest standards of planning and design, and provide the maximum available quota of affordable housing.

We have also been in contact with Bob Skillern of GCC Highways over the Broad Campden footpath and the finishing of the High St footpaths. Our letters can be found on our website: www.thecampdensociety.org

Wolds End Orchard Update

The Wolds End Wassail took place on Friday 14 January, under a clear sky and bright moonlight. The Magnificent Campden Wassailers and representatives of the Sealed Knot led about 70 of us in this annual tradition which dates from the Anglo-Saxon era. We were also joined by Rev Craig Bishop; plus our Wassail Queen, Teresa Doran, who scaled one of the large veteran apple trees in the ceremony to bless the orchard and ensure a good harvest for the year to come.

Our thanks to everyone involved in the planning and execution of the event, including Geoff and Paddy Carr for the magical orchard decorations, mulled cider and bonfire;



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

Andy Doran; our Wassail 'Butler' and master of ceremonies Tim Sexton; plus musicians led by Paul Bryan; Roly Whear and the Sealed Knot; our sub-committee members Donna, Mike and Susie, Mark who assisted with the Procession and signage; and not forgetting the staff at The Lygon Arms and The Red Lion Tavern where the Wassailers gathered to enjoy some traditional Campden hospitality!

Last month the **Rotary Club** of Chipping Campden Chair, Jill Leese, handed a cheque to us for £235 towards the purchase of new tree pruning equipment. Our sincere thanks to the Campden Rotarians for this very generous gift. In addition, for the second year in succession, the **Midcounties Co-Op** has kindly provided us with a Local Community Grant of £250 to support the orchard. We are most grateful for this continuing support.

We are starting our **Winter Works schedule this weekend** and will be welcoming volunteers 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 10am-12pm. If you'd like to join us, please email Donna on foweo2020@gmail.com. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone with event organisation experience, to help us with this year's community event program.

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

It is with regret that we are announcing Simon Chapman's resignation from the committee. Unfortunately Simon found that his other commitments were claiming more of his time than he anticipated. Simon has been a valuable member of the team working especially on the Green Infrastructure paper and hosting our recent Zoom lecture. We will miss his good humour and depth of experience. We are therefore 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.

Just a reminder that member subscription falls due on the 1st January each year and is £10 per person; £15 for joint membership. These fees pay for the administrative costs including website hosting, society memberships to like-minded bodies, and holding events. Probably the easiest way to pay is by bank transfer. Our bank details: Lloyds Sort Code 30 - 93 - 11 Acc. No. 00331052 If you prefer, you can send a cheque to: Teresa Newman at our address at the bottom of this letter.

With our best wishes for 2022,

Elizabeth Devas - Chair
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