

The Campden Society AGM 2022

Statement of Activities 2021-2022

We are very glad that life seems to be getting back to some sort of normality after the last two years and we are happy to see you again in person for this AGM.

Over the last year, we have been kept busy by various ongoing issues in the town, by our business-as-usual activities, by the matters that we have identified as being of importance and by the projects that come up without warning.

Activities

- Julianne Davies will give an update on the developments of maintaining and enhancing Wolds End Orchard in a moment; but one of the key issues has been getting the long-term future governance in place, through amendments to the constitution which will be voted on at this AGM.
- On planning matters, we have reviewed and commented on the proposals for the Aston Road development, including seeking the maximum number of affordable housing units on the site, the creation of a public car park at the School; pressing for good design and energy efficiency standards and effective environmental considerations. We also monitor and comment on what we consider to be the more important planning applications submitted.
- We have been closely monitoring the Town Council's deliberations over the offer of gifting the Craves to the town, in exchange for Planning Permission for a further 40 houses on the Leasowes in Dyers Lane to ensure transparency and correct procedure. We attend TC meetings, make statements and have written questions to ensure that our response is on the record. We have grave concerns over further development of the Leasowes for reasons of flooding, traffic and the effect on the development boundary. We are pleased to report that the Town Council is now taking the advice of Cotswold District Council and the Planning Consultant they employed to redirect their efforts to completing the Neighbourhood Plan in order to receive the full Community Infrastructure Levy of 25% on any new development in the towns. The TC are also committed to seeking Green Space designation for the Craves.
- We have been compiling a list of land which we consider 'at risk'. By this we mean land which we think may be in the sightlines of developers and which we do not consider to be appropriate for residential development. We are totally supportive of more housing in the town, provided it is in an appropriate location and provides at least 40% affordable housing. We anticipate that this will be supplied by the Aston Road development, but changes to planning law may put this at risk. We are also currently assessing various potential Green Space protected sites around Chipping Campden including Wolds End Orchard.
- We are looking at ways to protect and increase the biodiversity of the town. We would like to see more of our verges being designated as wildflower verges and are looking into ways of the town developing a 'good verge policy'. We are also in discussion with various members regarding the benefits or not of the weed

'problem'. We are against the use of herbicide to control the urban weeds, but we think that building occupiers may want to pull the weeds in front of their own properties once they have flowered and matured.

- We have been lobbying the Town Council to revitalise the Resilience Committee which is responsible for coordinating the TC response to emergencies, and specifically to a flooding incident.
- We continue to monitor and review the Planning Applications that come into the TC and where appropriate make representations to the Planning Committee and others.
- We have recently completed our response to the CDC partial update of the Local Plan, covering all eighteen sections of the consultation. This was a substantial piece of work which was shared by all members of the committee; we edited and collated before we sent it off. Our responses focused on pushing for better environmental standards, improved transport, health and wellbeing.
- We are committed to keeping our members updated about our work and activities relating to the Town on a monthly basis by means of our newsletter, and we keep the town informed through the Campden Bulletin with a condensed update.

What will be happening next year?

- We will continue to press for design excellence for the Aston Road development and monitor how the development process will impact the Town.
- We will continue to support Chipping Campden School in the development of the new town car park which will be created out of the existing car park at the front of the school.
- We will be looking at ways to improve the overall sustainability of the town and to promote zero carbon measures for the town.
- We will be reviewing the Chipping Campden Design Guide that has been issued in draft and which will be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- We will be reviewing the Neighbourhood Development Plan, and monitoring its progress through the various approval stages.