

## THE CAMPDEN SOCIETY

### Statement of Activities for the financial year ended 31 January 2025

During the financial year we were 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:

##### Planning

- Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). As you may know, committee member David Roberts was co-opted onto the Town Council's Working Party for developing this important piece of planning guidance. The focus of the NDP is on land use and it includes proposals for Local Green Space designation and a wider team of committee members worked on developing a number of LGS proposals which were not originally included in the draft document. LGS designation provides the same level of protection as Green Belt to areas of green space that are particularly valued by their local communities. TCS felt that the draft document missed out several areas that could and should receive this protection. We also contributed our own observations to the consultation including extensive comments on the Design Guide. Last month the draft NDP was approved by Cotswold District Council to proceed to the next stage in the process to get the document ratified which includes a further round of consultation.
- In the last year CDC undertook a partial update of the Local Plan and we made comments on the section which pertained to Chipping Campden. This was generally about the location of proposed housing, net zero proposals, and sustainable development.
- We attended a 'consultation' about a proposed Phase 2 of the (Upper) Leasows on Dyers Lane. We were not given a conclusive answer to the question of whether this constituted a consultation under planning law, but we expect that an application will be lodged in the near future.
- We have watched with some frustration the delay to the Aston Road outline planning application mainly (and simplistically) caused by the inability of GCC to gain access to the land to carry out surveys.
- Committee member Sue Pritchard has taken the lead on monitoring planning applications and we have reviewed the applications that came before the Town Council and where appropriate make representations to the Town Council Planning Committee, the Cotswold District Council and to the developers themselves such as Cutts' Yard. We continue to develop our standard approach to applications within the constraints of planning law.
- We continue to monitor the work on Listed Buildings including the Town Hall and the Kings Hotel. We are looking at the Listed Building Consent for the repair of the Almshouses wall and we will be following up on the funding for this important project.

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### Resilience

- We are supporting Flood Warden, Trevor Webb, with his work producing a Report on the Park Road Flooding back in September 2024. This report will consider the chronological order of events, the rainfall data, the response of the emergency Services, the impact on properties and the likely causes of the flooding. We will be supporting Trevor to seek grant funding for a hydrological survey of the town which is the first step in analysis flood risk in any one area of the landscape. TCS put Sue Pritchard forward to be a co-opted member of the Town Council's Resilience Committee, but we did not get a response.
- We are also helping residents of Olimpik Drive to develop a response to the on-going issues with the development, including the flooding of the pathway between the new estate and Littleworth in the September flooding.

### Natural Environment

- Owen O'Connell will give an update on the developments of maintaining and enhancing Wolds End Orchard in a moment. I would like to give special thanks to Owen, who is stepping down from the Orchard Sub-Committee, but will continue as a Committee Member for the Campden Society.
- The Cam Project continues. A team of volunteers, Frank Badger, James Lindner, and Owen O'Connell, has been testing the water quality weekly since July 2024. Last year we organised a series of work parties including members of the Cam Clearance team and Cotswold Volunteers to hand pull the invasive Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the Cam and surrounding areas. There were 11 sessions between June and September – totalling 150 hours across 17 volunteers.
- Alongside this work, we helped to organise Tom Smith's walk and subsequent talk at the Town Hall on the Campden House Wetlands Project which was very well attended.

### Communications and Finances

- We are committed to keeping our members updated about our work and activities relating to the Town and we have done this on a monthly basis by means of our newsletter, and we keep the town informed through the Campden Bulletin with a condensed update.
- I would also like to thank our Treasurer, Geoffrey White, who is standing down at this AGM. His extraordinary attention to detail, far sight, and depth of knowledge whilst running the finances and governance of the Society will be missed, yet I know his role will be enthusiastically taken up by James Davies. Geoffrey will remain on the Sub-Committee of Wolds End Orchard.

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### What will be happening this year?

- We will continue to monitor the progression of the town's NDP through the next stage of consultation.
- We are putting together a 'pre-position' for any potential planning application that may be submitted for the Upper Leasows.
- We will continue to monitor the progression of the Aston Road development, press for design excellence in the proposals and monitor how this project will impact the Town. We are currently looking at development models that can 'bake in' good design and urban planning to the process of the land sale.
- We will continue to support Chipping Campden School in their 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 the viability of solar panels on individual properties and of making this a planning condition on new developments and the feasibility of connecting into the grid, rather than using lithium batteries.
- Committee member James Davies will continue to look into a proposal for improved waymarking of popular walking routes in conjunction with the Cotswold Wardens, Court Barn Museum, the Town Council and the Visitors Centre.
- We will continue to support the residents of the Olimpick Drive development in in whatever way we can.
- We will continue to monitor the water quality of the Cam and investigate more ways to support this wildlife corridor.
- 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 making a call for volunteers for both the Orchard and the Cam Project.

Elizabeth Devas  
Chair

21 April 2025