

URGENT – GREENBELT AND OPEN COUNTRYSIDE TARGETED, 40,000 HOUSES IN NEW PLANS - 12th Feb

The public consultation on the Joint Core Strategy pulled together by Council Officers of Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Cheltenham **ENDS ON SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2012**. The plans for the future of the region to 2031 include upto 40,000 houses to be built, much on open countryside and the greenbelt.

At full Council in November **NOT ONE elected member of council spoke in favour of the officer plans to build on the Greenbelt at Swindon Village and open countryside at Leckhampton**. MP Martin Horwood made an impassioned speech at the LEGLAG Public Meeting on Friday 20th January, '*we need homes for young people and for growing families, and we need jobs in expanding businesses, but this must not be at the expense of our natural and historic environment*' ... '*unsurprisingly, the most valued and used green space is that closest to where we live*', Leckhampton is well connected to the town and for all to enjoy. Jonathan Porritt, prominent environmentalist and authority on Sustainable Development made the very important point, '*economic prosperity is not mutually exclusive to protection of the environment as portrayed in the absurd JCS questionnaire*'.

- Building large urban extensions will put a strain on local services, will add even more congestion and air pollution to our roads. Already, due to worsening air quality the whole town has been made a Air Quality Management Zone (AQMA)
- Places at Bournside and Balcarras Schools are difficult to attain, always oversubscribed due to the high standards; catchment areas will reduce to allow for new families moving to Cheltenham
- Local businesses have been pushing for more local food production, the fields being targeted by the JCS are a very valuable farming resource for livestock and arable farming
- Plans for a showcase city farm and large scale vegetable/fruit production have been scuppered by landowners in favour of speculation with developers pushing plans to build on open countryside

Please support option A or your own variation on option A, this is brownfield development which will support council policy of continued town regeneration. **There is no case for building on the Greenbelt and open Countryside on the basis of untested population estimates.**

Q1 What DO YOU think is the way forward on the number and location of NEW HOUSES ?

- By building on derelict sites in the town, more regeneration, allow small developments in villages where needed and wanted by residents, **16,200 houses - Option A or LESS**
- By building on Open Countryside and the Greenbelt FIRST - **33,200 to 40,500 Option B, C or D**

Q2 Are there any areas you would protect from development and why?

NAME (needed)

ADDRESS in brief (needed)

please ask other household members and friends

send to CBC, Municipal Offices, Cheltenham, GL50 9SA

by SUNDAY 12th Feb. 5pm

or email info@gct-jcs.org)