

LEGLAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE LECKHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL, 27th OCTOBER, 8pm (doors open 7:30)

We extend a warm welcome to all members at our annual AGM and look forward to seeing you. For non-members you could easily join on the night. It's a free no subscription membership, all we need is a name and your preferred contact details or alternatively join via the website.

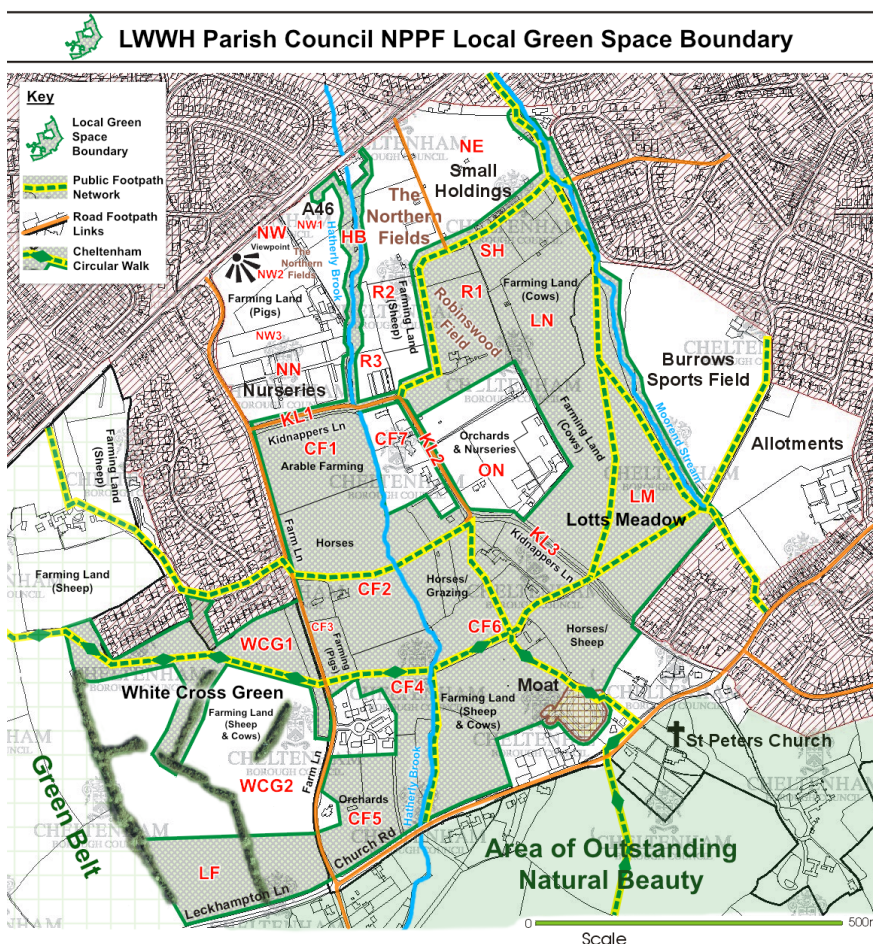
Please come along to hear the latest news and views, plus the election of new/existing members to the committee. The AGM will get pretty lively given the current destruction on White Cross/Farm Lane from REDROW in collusion with Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning Officers. Their tactics are clear to see, destroy as much of the White Cross landscape character, rip out all the internal hedgerows prior to the LEGLAG judicial review on the 29th November. If the judge decides in our favour, REDROW will immediately go back to TBC with a renewed planning application, the residents will be left with nothing to protect.



Fortunately we have a far more enlightened council in Cheltenham, the latest news is that for Leckhampton Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) is in broad agreement with Inspector Ord's Joint Core Strategy recommendations. This means moving Leckhampton from a JCS strategic site to the local plan, reduce the housing allocation to approximately 200 and strong support for the new Local Green Space designation. The JCS response to the Inspector's report will be put to full council on the 18th October, Municipal Offices, 6pm. We sincerely hope the council moves forward on the JCS and you will be delighted to hear the next stage is yet another public consultation!!

LECKHAMPTON LOCAL GREEN SPACE APPLICATION

Following your overwhelming response to the Parish Council's Local Green Space application for Leckhampton, supported by nearly 1500 residents, this will now be dealt with under the Parish Neighbourhood Plan and Cheltenham Local Plan. The application is one of twenty nine key green spaces across Cheltenham that seek important long term protection, this was out of the original 110 applications submitted. The application is fully supported by Inspector Ord on the JCS and Cheltenham Borough Council. Steve Jordan (Leader of the Council) understands the importance of green space to the town and has previously added important LGS wording to JCS resolutions.



Alex Chalk MP spoke in strong support of the green space at Leckhampton when he addressed Inspector Ord and the JCS Officers. Martin Horwood who originally put forward the LGS concept for the National Planning Policy Framework is one of the leading authorities on this new green space designation and submitted a comprehensive twenty page letter of support for the Leckhampton LGS.

Important also to thank Cllr Chris Nelson, Ken Pollock, Mary Nelson and Cllr Adrian Mears CBE for the huge effort at the Appeal and JCS Examination in Public, working closely with LEGLAG with the evidence and cross examinations.

STATUS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

As you will probably be aware, the Bovis/Miller 650 appeal decision was in our favour in May, but it cost us the best part of £6k in legal and planning costs. The developers took this decision back to Court twice more, losing both, the Parish Council and LEGLAG shared costs.

LEGLAG v Tewkesbury Borough Council and REDROW – Whitecross/SD2 Judicial Review

LEGLAG is being forced into taking Tewkesbury Borough Council to Court over the REDROW planning application on Farm Lane. This planning application goes against the objections of Cheltenham Borough Council and all three Parish Councils on joint working and masterplanning, and against the findings of Inspector Ord. This TBC planning permission breaks all the planning rules on urban extensions, clearly unlawful, TBC cling to the fact that the Secretary of State has reviewed the landscape sensitivity and all other sustainability issues and made the decision to permit stating the importance of local decision making in planning. This is plainly NOT true. The JCS examination has provided a great deal of evidence that will be used at the Judicial Review, we will also ask our barrister to review the Secretary of State's decision letter. We have strong evidence to fight this dreadful application, which is extreme in its destruction of hedgerows, trees and wildlife habitats. More information and documents are published on the LEGLAG website news page. **We have the very best legal team already working together, Richard Stein of Leigh Day, David Wolfe QC of Matrix Chambers and Dr Ashley Bowes of Cornerstone;** Ashley successfully represented LEGLAG on the Bovis/Miller 650 appeal with Inspector Clark. The LEGLAG Letter of Claim and TBC response is published on the LEGLAG website.

JOINT CORE STRATEGY to 2031, EXAMINATION in PUBLIC

Inspector Ord has been listening to all the detailed evidence and has supported Local Green Space at Leckhampton (above) and Swindon Village in her preliminary findings report in December 2015, the detail is being worked upon and there is contention over WCG1, SH, R1, LN, CF1 and CF2. In April the Inspector recommended a rebalancing of housing from Cheltenham back to Gloucester and Tewkesbury, this is all great news for Leckhampton and exactly what we have argued for with the evidence presented.

The position for Leckhampton has greatly improved now that Inspector Ord is supporting the majority view and more importantly the views of Leckhampton residents. Such a large housing development on one ward never was sustainable.

This work has come at a cost, last year the spend was high at close to £7,000, this year we spent £910 on Court fees, £900 on Barrister costs and approximately £400 on leaflet printing.

Getting that vital planning and legal expertise has delivered results. LEGLAG's consultants on both planning and transport/traffic really made the difference on the Bovis/Miller 650 application which was refused 10 votes to 1 by the Cheltenham Planning Committee. To help us pay for all that we have achieved residents have contributed generously to the fighting fund, this has paid for legal experts, planning consultants and the printing/distributing flyers across Leckhampton and Cheltenham. Every penny has been carefully spent and is shown in our audited accounts. The majority of leaflet deliveries have been made by our voluntary team, saving costs, thank you.

So if you can help us on the funding we would be very appreciative, it allows us to access the professional assistance we need to even the odds when dealing with developers. This is a critical time for Leckhampton with the ongoing judicial review and JCS.

LEGLAG FUND RAISING - HOW TO DONATE

There are two ways of making a donation to LEGLAG:

Direct to LEGLAG account:
Leckhampton Green Land Action Group Ltd.
Sort Code: 401710 -Account Number 62363925

OR by sending a cheque, payable to LEGLAG LTD,
to our Secretary: Mrs Margaret White, 11 Arden Road ,
Leckhampton, GL53 0HG

Any sum large or small will be very much appreciated, direct debit is also possible, PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN, FOR NON MEMBERS IF YOU INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL or ADDRESS WE WILL THEN MAKE YOU A MEMBER. The LEGLAG accounts are verified annually by an independent Actuary, LEGLAG is now a limited company and administered in accordance with Company House regulation, all donations are logged, and our accounts are open to the public for inspection.

We believe that the huge JCS infrastructure funding gap of £750M coupled with the building of so many houses will result in insufficient resources to support all the necessary add on's for such a large increase in population. Building houses without investing in schools, hospitals and roads is yet another way of central and local government to borrow from future generations.

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