

HANHAM DISTRICT GREEN BELT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Founded 1981

Defending our green fields and the Avon Valley

Newsletter No 155

MAY 2019

What has the Society been doing recently ?

In addition to reviewing current planning applications in our area and preparing for the Common Fayre, the Committee have recently been busy drafting responses to two more weighty 'Consultation' proposals issued by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA)

- * WECA - Joint Spatial Plan-Technical Evidence Work Consultation - Jan 2019
- * WECA - Joint Local Transport Plan 4 - Mar 2019

A period of 6 to 8 weeks are generally allowed for response to these Consultation documents, which can contain several hundreds of pages and appendices.

In a bid to ensure our views are broadcast as widely as possible, we have distributed copies of our responses, to other similarly interested groups, local Councillors, and our MP, etc.

Copies of these responses will soon be included on our website.

Hanham Common Fayre

It's nearly time for our main social event !! This year the fair is on Saturday 18th May 12 noon — 4pm and as usual, we will have a stall to promote the advantages and heighten awareness of the threats to the development of our Green Belt and other green spaces in our area.

Attractions will include our tremendous Raffle, Bottle lucky dip and Children's drawing competition, plus displays showing the latest news on what is happening regarding the Green Belt within the Hanham/Longwell Green areas.

In addition, this year we will invite our newly elected Councillors to 'call-in' and let us know their approach to safeguarding our environment.

Can we ask you once again to generously donate a bottle of something (anything from shampoo to champagne) for our stall, or perhaps a prize for the Raffle?

We will need some help with the tent, etc (either from 9 am to set up the tent, or at the end of the Fayre, to help pack away) or perhaps, an hour during the day to sell raffle tickets. All volunteers would be most welcome.

For Bottles, please call Jean Camm Tel 0117 9678248 or you can drop bottles off at 46 Riverside Way, Hanham, Bristol BS153TF.

We are keen to continue the involvement of children with our countryside and will again be holding a picture competition for children from the local junior and infants schools. This years theme is "My favourite creepy crawlies or beautiful bugs or bees" we hope to get some interesting contributions!

As a reminder, this was last year's winner:



Website update

Due to the extent of information now conveyed electronically, we have purchased our own, Society computer. It is intended that this will enable us to have all our information securely stored in one place.

We are now starting the process of updating our website, which has been neglected. We aim, over the next few weeks, to re-vamp the website layout, to provide and maintain a more vibrant and accessible section, including moving our Twitter responses into a dedicated News section, for you to access to our current activities.

As a reminder, our contact details are, at the bottom of this page.

New members

We have been pleased to welcome eleven new households as members. We need as many members as possible at these difficult times for our green spaces. If your membership has lapsed perhaps you could reconsider rejoining or as an existing member encourage friends and neighbours to join. Contact Gill Forward; **details at the bottom of this newsletter**

Committee

We are a committee of nine at the moment and are keen to attract others who feel they would like to join us.

We meet monthly (except January and August) for about an hour and a half, so if you feel you would like to come along and see what we do, please let us know by email.

Hanham footpath

There is encouraging news on efforts to have a well trodden route at the foot of the Hanham hills given official footpath designation. The footpath has been given provisional approval by South Glos council. If you attended the AGM in November you will have heard Parish Councillor Chrissie Cushing, who has put the process in motion, give a short talk on the details.

The route connects two existing footpaths. The Short stretch across two meadows allows pedestrian access along the foot of the hills North of Abbots Rd which avoids the danger of folk having to walk on a road with no pavement. It also allows walkers a circular route around the Hanham Hills taking in the conservation area and locally important wildlife sites.

Pollution

Currently, as a region, we exceed the legal levels of pollution. Contributing 29% of the regions pollution, transport is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. South Gloucestershire and the other Authorities comprising WECA (Bristol and Bath & North East Somerset) have stated that they intend to *exceed* the Government's objectives to reduce emission levels to 50% of their 2014 levels, by 2030!

In the preparation of our recent response to the WECA's Transport Plan, we have highlighted that additional traffic which will be generated from developing housing, away from current employment areas and off bus/rail routes, will only **add** to pollution levels.

Consequently, we have argued that development, such as the Kleeneze site ought to be prioritised, well ahead of considering construction on current green spaces. Regrettably, progress has been slow, but we understand that a conditional contract has been exchanged and is subject to the findings of a site investigation, which will get underway in August this year.

Many thanks

Thank you to all members for your continuing support. Your subscriptions and monies raised from the fayre now comprise our "fighting fund" which will be necessary to obtain reports and opinions necessary for us to combat the pressures to build on our green belt areas.

Subscriptions when due can be paid by standing order or to Gill Forward at 88 Whittucks Road.

Chairman: Mr Alan Jones

Treasurer/Secretary : Mrs Gill Forward Phone : 0117 9677658

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