



# HANHAM DISTRICT GREEN BELT CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**Founded 1981**

**Defending our green fields and the Avon Valley**

**Newsletter No 153**

**April 2018**

## **Our Green Spaces Under Threat of Development**

It is now obvious that there is a very serious threat to our Green Belt. Hanham District Green Belt Conservation Society and the Keep Hanham Abbots Special Group are deeply concerned that once again the question is being asked, in the New Local Plan Consultation Document 2018-2036 to consider building on the Green Belt. We would like to remind South Gloucestershire Council that in the 2014 parish survey 93% of households stated that the Green Belt should be preserved. They are now asking for Stakeholder and Community Engagement on the Consultation Document This is the same question. Why?

There is a direct threat to swathes of our green spaces, including the Abbots Road Cricket Ground and Hanham Hills, through to Longwell Green as well as The Batch, off Castle Farm Road and Gover Road, as all these areas are listed as residential development in the "Call for Sites" map in the New Local Plan Consultation Document. This Call for Sites List has been collated by SGC from sites suggested by Landowners and Developers. None of their suggestions have been discounted at this stage, but to be promoted in the future by the Council, they must pass a "deliverability test". The Cricket Ground was also not included in the recent Spacial Plan, as a Designated Green Space (designation would have given protection against development) although the Minister, Amok Sharma, said it could have been, at the discretion of South Gloucestershire Council.

One obvious area that could be developed for housing, is the Kleeneze site, able to provide the type of homes needed today, close to the heart of Hanham, its facilities and transport routes. The site has been an eyesore for 10 years and is now being 'packaged' for development by Homes England, a Government organisation, but surprisingly is not included in the Call for Sites register. We are pressing for this site to be included in the consultation and thereby, relieve the need for encroaching into the Green Belt.

Hanham Hills and most of these areas are in the Green Belt, and part of the site is in a Conservation Area.

The Trustees of Hanham Community Centre, who are the custodians of the Cricket Ground, are in discussion to possibly dispose of the current Cricket Ground and build improved facilities elsewhere!! 1,200 local residents signed our MP, Chris Skidmore's petition to protect these sites against development, but this was ignored during the JSP process, in favour of the just one agent. There is a question over whether this should have been allowed? We are fighting for the Cricket Ground to be registered as a Designated Green Space and to protect the Hanham Hills in perpetuity.

If the Cricket Ground is sold for development and planning permission applied for, to re-site it in the Green Belt, the promise of enhanced facilities will be limited, and possibly not deliverable.

Other Green Belt areas that are included as potential residential development are The Batch (between Castle Farm Road/ Water Lane/ Hencliffe Way and Avon Valley Woodland) plus land adjacent to Williams Close, behind Pearsall Road Longwell Green. The consultation document is available to view at SGC offices in Kingswood and is online.

If viewing online, type in

[www.southglos.gov.uk/newlocalplanfeb2018](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/newlocalplanfeb2018). Under evidence base click on "call for sites", scroll down to "Map of submitted sites", click on "online map". Enlarge and click on each yellow area you wish to view. Details of what the proposed use will be are shown, where there is an online form attached. There is a counter proposal to place the Cricket Ground in the Green Belt. Also under Evidence Base are the updated Sustainable Access Profiles. Scroll down to the green grid and click on the name to view the individual sustainable access profiles. For our area Urban Edge Location by Hanham and Urban Location - Longwell Green. You only have until the 30th April to respond, either online, via email or post. We urge you to please take a little time to view these proposals and use your option to influence the decision to preserve our Green Spaces, which are the natural lungs of the area for the next generations.

## A letter from our Chairman

Hi, I'm Alan Jones, and have been Chair of the very active Green Belt committee, since November last year. These are challenging times as the whole ethos of our Society is under severe danger.

Since Autumn last year, we have needed to respond in detail, to a Green Spaces Review, a Joint Spatial Plan for the Unitary Authority and now, we will provide fierce opposition to SGC's New Local Plan. As our lead article explains, if South Gloucestershire Council have their way, they will enable housing developments on a large number of our precious Green Belt sites!!!

Your committee is very actively collaborating with like-minded groups to resist construction on these areas of natural beauty. Be assured, that we as a committee will submit a strong defence against these proposals, but we ask you too to review the proposals, either by visiting the SGC offices in Kingswood, or online.

Every submission to the Inspector will add weight towards the opposition to these proposals.

Alan Jones

## The Common

The parish council had meetings with South Gloucestershire legal team who have been very supportive in their objective to build a new pavilion on the common. The biggest outstanding issue is the size of the new build. They have asked for evidence to support an increase in the footprint and that means trying to find out if the plot it stands on was any bigger originally. They have talked to footballers who actually played there in 1948 when they changed in a railway carriage and an army tent!! There is some verbal evidence that the patch inside the gate, adjacent to the pavilion has in the past been used as a small car park for grounds men and team officials. The parish council would like any of you with some early photographs of the site to assist them with their research.



## The WeekIn

To involve as many people as possible we have discussed our situation with the WeekIn and they have included a wide ranging article about intrusion into the green belt in their current issue a copy of which is enclosed.

## Hanham Common Fayre



This year the fayre is on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 12 noon - 4pm and as usual we will have a stall enabling us to raise money to facilitate future campaigns, promote awareness of the green belt/the Society and attract new members. Attractions include Raffle, Bottle lucky dip and Children's drawing competition, plus a display showing the latest news on what is happening regarding the Green Belt within the Hanham area and what impact this is likely to have on us all.

**To all our members can we ask you to donate a bottle of something (anything from shampoo to champagne) to our stall or perhaps a prize for the Raffle.**

We could do with any help (9 am to set up the tent) or an hour during the day to sell raffle tickets. Volunteers would be most welcome.

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

## Subscriptions

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 A Jones

Treasurer/Secretary : Mrs G Forward Phone : 0117 9677658

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