



Local Plan Consultation responses submitted

There will be a sigh of relief in many local organisations now they have submitted their responses to the Consultation on the new Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan which closed on Monday 14 March. Chiltern Town Council, Chiltern Chamber, Chiltern Society and the River Chess Association all responded, along with residents and other local groups. The Chesham Society went one step further by including with their response “A Vision of Chesham”, a creative and radical proposal for the redevelopment of the Chesham Town Centre to bring together the High Street, the Old Town and Lowndes Park into one contiguous area. This will make Chesham a better place to live in as the town grows to accommodate more housing.

Meanwhile rumours spread around the area: houses will cover the Nashleigh Hill Playing Fields, Asheridge Road will be rife with drugs in a new housing estate and a steel works will be built near Ashley Green.

Fortunately none of these will occur. Chesham will undoubtedly need to cope with a large number of new houses and the District Council is examining options for placing some new development on the green belt. There will be second stage testing of two areas near Lycrome Road, Ley Hill and Botley.

The Chesham Society maintains new housing can be fitted within the existing town area provided redundant employment land is used, higher density housing is built close to the town centre and “A Vision of Chesham”, when accepted will allow for a large mixed housing, retail and parking development adjacent to the underground station. However no new housing can be started until our infrastructure (roads, schools, water, sewage, flooding, etc) are upgraded first. There is no spare capacity now.

Thank you to all residents who filled our consultation meetings to capacity – we have included your comments in our response to the council and I do hope you also responded directly.

There is now a quieter period before the next Consultation on Preferred Options starts in October, when the District Council will tell us what will be in the Plan. This is when the really hard work will start to ensure we get what we want. No new houses in Chesham will not be an option. Please treat this Consultation as an opportunity to create a better Chesham for succeeding generations.

In the meantime please let us have your views and watch this website for new information - or better still join the Chesham Society.

Tony Molesworth
Chairman, The Chesham Society

putting Chesham first