

LEGLAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE LECKHAMPTON HALL, TUESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 8.00 PM (DOORS OPEN 7.30)

We extend a very 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 non-subscription membership. All we need is a name and your preferred contacts details or alternatively join via the website: www.leglag.org.uk.

Please come along to hear the latest news. The agenda will cover the usual AGM topics, approval of last year's minutes, the Miller proposals for the Northern Fields, REDROW update and the Hitchins plans for Kidnappers Lane now going to Appeal. Treasurer's report for members agreement (explanations on the accounts), brief report from the Chairman covering: update on our Neighbourhood Planning & Local Green Space, Joint Core Strategy (JCS), the election of Officers and Committee, plus any other business.

The last item will include proposals for the change of our Constitution, mainly to update matters such as showing that LEGLAG is now a Limited Company, remove member subscriptions, and add a code of conduct to bring us in line with CBC and the Parish Councils. We will explain further at the meeting.

As mentioned at earlier meetings, consideration will also be given to a change of name for LEGLAG. It is thought by many that the name has served us well in the past, but times are changing, and "Action" Groups are often looked upon as Pressure Groups or Nimbys and can be dismissed by decision makers. This has happened to LEGLAG. We would like consideration to be given to becoming a Friends Group, where our work will move toward conservation and enhancing the area in which we live, whilst keeping a close eye on what is happening locally. Anne and Ian came up with a more contemporary name, "Friends of Leckhampton Fields". Please give some thought to this and email us/telephone us with other possible suggestions, we would like to have a shorter name that reflects our main activity. We would like a general discussion of the members and committee, not all committee members agree and this could result in a proposal and vote at the AGM.

FOR YOUR URGENT ATTENTION, SCHOOL PLACES & LOCATION OF A NEW THROUGH PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL

Until May this year, we were told that a new Cheltenham School would be needed close to the proposed developments on the North West and Western part of Cheltenham, but then suddenly that idea is dropped and it is announced that there is an urgent need to have a new through school South of Cheltenham, (age range 5-16), it got brought to our attention when the Leckhampton Fields were mooted as a possible location. Demographic reasons are quoted that areas such as Warden Hill and Up Hatherley now have more young families and fewer older people, and by 2020 there will be a short fall of 180 school places. We have Cheltenham Bournside & Sixth Form Centre with a very large catchment area, another school so close with the traffic congestion on the A46 to frustrate parents does not make alot of sense **You would have thought five years of JCS planning, three consultations and two years at Public Examination with Inspector Ord would have picked this up? We believe that an in-depth statistical analysis of school place requirements, locality, trip estimates and catchments areas should be undertaken at very high level to determine the best location for a new school. Is this school really needed so close to Bournside and within a very traffic constrained area, and WHY has the proposal for a school elsewhere been dropped for the foreseeable future. Is the real need for additional school places elsewhere in Cheltenham, but South Cheltenham is being selected for other planning purposes?**

In the meantime, the well respected Balcarras School wishes to sponsor the new school and a consultation by them is in progress. The school would not make the decision on its location, mistake number one, but we want them to be made aware that in 2016 Inspector Clark turned down an Appeal for 650 houses to be built on the Leckhampton Fields, due to the "severe" traffic conditions, (the highest level). Inspector Ord, the JCS Planning Inspector deemed that the area should be removed from being a strategic site for development for landscape and sensitivity, schools should be co-located with housing. For these reasons alone this Leckhampton area should not be the site for a school, where children on bicycles and parents in cars would be dropping off youngsters.

Consider responding to the Balcarras Consultation, a letter, a quick email or on their website, you might raise some of the points above, New School Consultation, Balcarras School, East End Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL538QF <http://www.balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=33> (formal questionnaire here and space for comments) The closing date of the consultation is: 6th October, email address: admin@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

If you have any questions on any related matters, please do email us, or telephone.

PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY CHANGE OF YOUR CONTACT DETAILS, PARTICULARLY EMAIL ADDRESSES, ALSO PLEASE SPREAD THE NEWS AND WE NEED MORE MEMBERS IN BOTH WARDEN HILL and LECKHAMPTON.

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Email us and we will keep you updated: enquiries@leglag.org.uk:

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