

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER UPDATE OF 2016

The referendum, leadership campaigns and the risk of uncertainty will clearly be with us for some time, so it is more important than ever that we retain our focus on regenerating key sites and reinforcing the message that Cheltenham is a vibrant place to do business. Consequently it is pleasing to note that

- The Brewery development continues apace and new tenants such as Brewhouse & Kitchen into the original scheme seem to have been very well received
- Phase 1 of the Cheltenham Transport Plan in Albion Street has been delivered
- The John Lewis store construction works will begin in August
- Decluttering works continue
- North Place has opened as an interim car park pending a wider proposal for this key site



Graham Garbutt – independent chair

TRANSPORT PLAN

Part of Albion Street has been returned to two-way as phase one of Cheltenham's Transport Plan, delivered to target, by colleagues at Gloucestershire County Council.

Whilst some disruption during the works was inevitable it is pleasing to note that traffic has quickly adjusted to the new layout. Once John Lewis is completed it means that the c900 off street car spaces in the John Lewis complex, Town Centre East and Sherborne Place will be accessible from both the east & west, in a 300m zone on Albion Street.

Subject to further traffic flow assessments of phase 1, Gloucestershire County Council will be considering the next phase which is works to Imperial Square fronting the Town Hall; again with the objective of creating two-way working thereby improving access to the Regent Arcade and Rodney Road with 557 & 111 spaces respectively.

The transport plan – to be delivered in 4 phases – is working towards a target end date of 2017.

LATEST HEADLINES...

MAY

Building work continues at The Brewery Quarter in Cheltenham

Cheltenham Transport Plan in Oriel Road U-turn

Businesses split over plans to introduce two-way system in Albion Street, Cheltenham

Driver fury as John Lewis roadworks bring Cheltenham town centre to standstill

JUNE

John Lewis Cheltenham: Road closures announced as work to bring £30m store to town continues

Cheltenham Transport Plan continues work across town

Roadworks causing headache for motorists

JULY

Are you looking forward to the lower High Street NOT being a building site?

Traffic chaos could hit Cheltenham as Albion Street closes

Carnageddon in Cheltenham: Even more of Albion Street to be closed from Monday



RETAIL UPDATE

- John Lewis: enabling works have now been undertaken, notably the diversion of a major high voltage cable on the High Street, such that works proper can begin in August 2016.
- The new connection from the High Street to the Brewery Quarter which it is hoped will be open by the New Year.
- Additionally Topshop are aiming to be in their new High Street premises in the autumn.

LOWER HIGH STREET

A classic example of every little helps.

With thanks to colleagues at Gloucestershire highways the street clutter in the form of the excess railings at St George's Square have been removed from this prominent footfall zone – and what a difference it makes.

The next target has to be removal of the unsightly and seemingly redundant phone boxes so that a use can be found for the former toilet block. An approach to British Telecom will be made soon.



WEST CHELTENHAM

Three key issues have coalesced that create a unique opportunity to tackle the employment land shortage that has been a challenge for so long.

1. The announcement by the Chancellor of a GCHQ led cyber innovation centre in Cheltenham
2. The interim findings of the Joint Core Strategy inspector that supports the release of 45 hectares of employment land at West Cheltenham
3. The opportunity to submit bids to Growth Fund 3 via gFirst LEP

These initiatives could provide the basis for a major cyber business park at West Cheltenham which could create many thousands of high value job opportunities.

Discussions are ongoing and complex with local, regional and national decision making processes, however there is burgeoning support at district, county, LEP and MP level as this site could provide the largest single employment that opportunity Cheltenham has ever created and put the town at the forefront of the cyber business industry.

CHELTENHAM SPA STATION

Negotiations continue with the rail industry over the funding and delivery of the planned upgrade. Whilst some elements of funding were seemingly under threat from wider transport cut-backs it is pleasing to report that Alex Chalk MP co-ordinated a meeting with the Minister to press our case, and funding for Cheltenham Spa has been protected.

GWR will progress the masterplan designs over the coming months in order to begin a wider public consultation.

SHOPFITTERS SITE

This blighted site connecting St Georges Place and Synagogue Lane, acquired by CBC last year and has now been demolished and further works will ensue to create some temporary additional car parking in this area.

The images below show the changing skyline and the very variable weather experienced lately.

