

## WELCOME

### TO OUR AUTUMN UPDATE OF 2016

As anticipated the referendum result has seen volatility in the stock market and the value of the £. Hopefully this turbulence will be short term and not impact upon our on-going plans. From the evidence below it would appear that Cheltenham retains its resilience.

- Planning approval for Honeybourne Place – an 80,000ft<sup>2</sup> new office block on Jessop Way. A major endorsement for the town in the face of the wider uncertainties.
- The launch of the Cheltenham Business Improvement District – a most welcome result and we look forward to working with the BID team in the future
- Bedding-in & monitoring of phase 1 of the transport plan on Albion Street



Graham Garbutt – independent chair



### BREWERY QUARTER

Works continue apace as shown below in this stunning aerial photo, with the ambition to open the connecting link to the High street by Christmas 2016.

### LATEST HEADLINES...

#### August

Is the new two-way system in Cheltenham an accident waiting to happen

Signs for Premier Inn go up as Brewery work continues

#### September

See how Cheltenham is changing before our very eyes



### CHELtenham TRANSPORT PLAN

The outcomes of this exercise will be published soon, but the general consensus seems to be positive; certainly the key outcomes of improving bus connectivity, cycling and pedestrian access and also enabling easier access to car parks have been achieved without any obvious drawbacks. The monitoring exercise will hopefully corroborate that soon.

Stagecoach Service B is the main beneficiary and this route sees about 7,000 people use the route every week. By using the bus lane it means a shorter route into the town and saves about 1,500 miles per annum. That's great for the environment as Stagecoach will use about 190 less gallons of diesel. The shorter route will see everyone travelling on the B from the London Road and Charlton Kings area arrive in the town centre about 2 minutes quicker than they did before the bus lane was completed.

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

## HONEYBOURNE PLACE

This scheme for an 80,000ft<sup>2</sup> new build office block on Jessop Avenue as a headquarters building for an international company is a real coup for the town with opportunities for several hundred new jobs, in addition to the construction work.

This is the first town centre new build office block since c2000 and given the loss of office stock (particularly for retirement schemes) sends a powerful message that Cheltenham is very much still attractive for employment. Even more encouraging is that this has been achieved post-Brexit.



## ROYAL WELL

And it is not just about large projects. This conversion of former stabling to the rear of Royal Crescent into work units has been particularly successful providing start-up space.

So with this improvement, works nearly completed on the former Shopfitters site and Honeybourne Place consented for development the whole area will be improved and three brownfield/derelict sites brought into use.



## WEST CHELTENHAM UPDATE

A key stage in the process for delivering this scheme is securing the support of the 3 Councils – Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Gloucester – to support the main modifications to the Joint Core Strategy.

In parallel a host of other activities are on-going including

- Pre-application discussions to help determine the final form of the strategic allocation
- Autumn statement that will determine the outcome of the Gloucestershire growth fund 3 bids

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 involve not only the councils engaged with the Joint Core Strategy (Cheltenham, Tewkesbury & Gloucester) but also gFirst LEP, Gloucestershire Highways, Highways England, DCMS, DCLG etc but the prize will be the largest single employment opportunity Cheltenham has ever created and put the town at the forefront of the cyber business industry.

The diagram (right) from the JCS shows the extent of employment land being proposed totalling c45 hectares (108 acres).

