

WELCOME TO OUR SPRING UPDATE OF 2019

The light up Cheltenham event organised by Cheltenham BID was clearly a singular success with positive footfall recorded in February, so often the low point in the year. This was followed in March by the Festival which generated bumper crowds despite being one of the wettest starts to a Festival in memory.

The news for High Street names remains challenging with House of Fraser and LK Bennett at risk but meanwhile Cheltenham still manages to attract new names; the latest being Anthropologie to replace the Promenade unit vacated by Laura Ashley. Certainly suggesting that Cheltenham is holding its own in this challenging environment.

Meanwhile Honeybourne Place is progressing towards completion and will provide much welcome new office space in the town centre.

Graham Garbutt – independent chair

PROJECT UPDATE

Honeybourne Place is rapidly progressing towards completion and will provide some of the highest quality office space within the town. The pictures below show the site emerging on the day that the hoarding was removed.

Addington Capital have completed the structural works of the unit at 111-117 High Street (the unit East of JLP) and we understand are about to appoint a local contractor to progress the next phase of refurbishment.

The Quadrangle works are we believe imminent. The popular Swallow Bakery has moved to Montpellier and reopens as Clementine, thus opening the way for contractors to start the refurbishment programme. Meanwhile the architects, AWW, have been exploring ways to better improve the connection between the site and Imperial gardens to the South; an important relationship so long over-looked by previous owners.



CHELTENHAM TRANSPORT PLAN

Works to make changes to the road layout in Clarence Street and Clarence Parade will be delivered soon. The delay being occasioned by the change of contractor by GCC, as the highways authority. Meanwhile traffic calming options are being finalised for Rodney Road.

Initial evidence from race week suggests that the trial survived the increased activity associated with the Festival, with most racegoers arriving by private car heeding the signage and avoiding the town centre.

FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND

The government issued a prospectus for this national £650m fund at the end of 2018 and working with fellow stakeholders an expression of interest bid was submitted by the deadline in late March 2019.

The bid will focus upon attempts to create affordable workspace for start-ups, particularly in the creative field, based upon a planning application for a container based solution on the restricted access car park at Chester Walk, behind the children's library.

The site also plans to house the new Growth Hub site for Cheltenham, as part of the GFirst LEP roll-out plan for the growth hub network.

We are grateful for letters of support from a host of supporters, notably local office developers who fully subscribe to the ambition given the shortage of affordable rented space and the need to promote young entrepreneurs.

The site will also benefit from a performance space and the opportunity to tie in with the Cheltenham Festivals and reach out to a younger audience.

The bid also seeks funding to complement the sustainable proposition by helping to better connect the site and St Mary's Minster to the High Street and south to Clarence Street and the wider cycling network.

Initial responses to the bid anticipated mid to late summer 2019.



J10 HIF BID

Gloucestershire County Council with support from Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Borough Councils has submitted a major Housing Infrastructure Fund bid to upgrade J10 of the M5. The ambition is to make the junction an all-movement junction replacing the current restricted access facility and in so doing accelerate the housing and employment delivery associated with the strategic land allocations made through the Joint Core Strategy at West and North West Cheltenham.

If successful the time scales for delivery is challenging with the project having to be delivered by 2024, and will represent the largest capital project ever undertaken by GCC highways, as normally such schemes would be delivered by the Department for Transport via Highways England. Decisions on this round of HIF bids are anticipated autumn 2019 and in order to maintain the momentum GCC have committed to funding further exploratory works 'at risk'



CIVIC AWARDS

Pleasant to note that several projects which the Task Force has promoted won awards at the Cheltenham Civic Society awards event on 10th April 2019.

Formal Storage on St George's Place won the Cheltenham Civic Society Restoration of a Building or Structure Award for the sensitive restoration of this interesting building.

"The Awards are not competitive but we had a couple of outstanding examples this year, e.g. the Restoration of Formal House from a furniture store/billiards club to serviced offices," said Mr Buchanan. We liked the attention to detail and that the architects had retained many of the existing features of the original building, such as: the glazed brickwork and the heavy security doors. A minimalist glazed extension was also included in the design which provides an interesting contrast to the existing building."

John Lewis & Partners building was commended in the New Building or Structure Award.

The Pocket Parks in Lower High Street, delivered as a community project was commended in the Improvement to the Built or Landscape Environment section.

Our congratulations to all the winners.



GROWTH DEAL 3

Colleagues at GCC are progressing the design and development stages of the planned interventions along the A40 corridor in preparation for final business case submission of the various phases to GFirst LEP as custodians of the Growth Deal monies, later this year. This in turn will create highways capacity for the cyber park to progress. Additionally the proposals will improve local connectivity including access for public transport, cycling and walking. It is anticipated that this scheme will connect West to the Highways England cycle scheme between Cheltenham and Gloucester, and to the East to Cheltenham Spa station and the revised cycle and pedestrian access from Lansdown Bridge.

LATEST HEADLINES...

A quick round-up of some of the latest news stories

JANUARY

Thousands more cars use roads near Boots Corner since trial closure began

Council and Boots Corner protesters on collision course today

These are the roads which have seen the most traffic increase since Boots Corner closed

FEBRUARY

This is when two-way traffic and other changes are happening at Boots Corner

The huge number of fines issued because of Boots Corner trial and the massive amount of money it has raised for the council

MARCH

Could key ruling stop people having to pay fines for driving through Boots Corner?

How has Cheltenham coped with races' traffic and Boots Corner ban? Council issues statement

Bus station hub 'vital' to cope with major plans to build thousands of homes and cyber park

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