



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

Joint Lewes District and National Park Authority Core Strategy

The Inspector considering this draft strategy has found it sound and so the two authorities will be adopting it shortly. All planning applications in Lewes will then be considered against the policies in the Core Strategy until such time as the National Park Authority's own draft local plan is adopted.

The Society was very disappointed that the Inspector chose to zone the fields at Old Malling Farm for at least 200 houses and also eliminated some of the mitigating measures that the National Park Authority had proposed.



Bearing in mind that the inclusion of this greenfield site was an initiative of the Inspector and not one that had been put forward by the two authorities in the original draft plan it is particularly frustrating. The decision does not mean that house building will start immediately as a developer has first to acquire the land and prepare plans for consideration. When this happens, the Society will try to ensure that the

design is good and that measures are included to prevent the development being too visible from viewpoints around the town.

Neighbourhood Plan

The preparation of a draft Neighbourhood Plan, on which a town referendum will be held in due course, is proceeding slowly and the Society is involved in the Steering Committee overseeing progress. The Town Clerk has been following up suggestions made at the public exhibitions about the Plan for possible housing sites and when information about their availability has been obtained they will be sifted for suitability. The latter should lead to sites already having a designation such as a site of an ancient monument being taken off the list. The aim is to find sites for 200 more houses and the Society has suggested that brownfield sites, such as building above car parks, should be considered before any further greenfield sites are used.

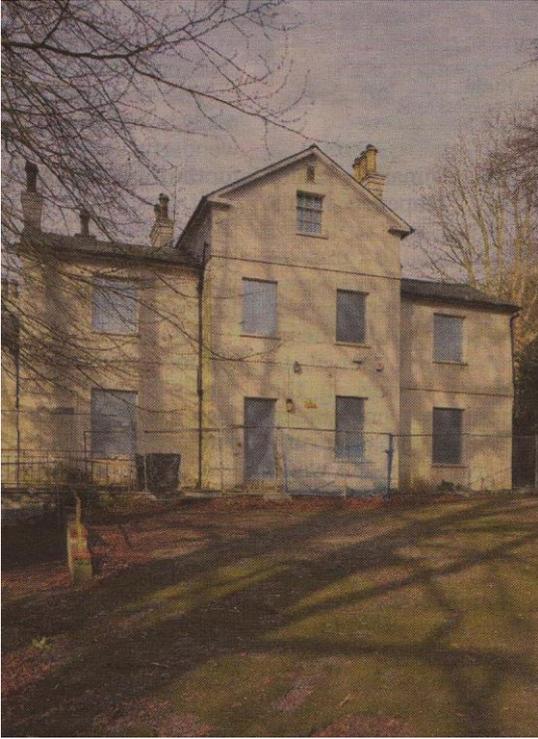
St Anne's School site

The County Council agreed some three years ago that this redundant site should be made available to Subud for community facilities. However negotiations have broken down and the County Council are revisiting the question of how the site should be used in future. The Society believes that it would be a good site for social housing with an element of green space.

FRIENDS OF LEWES

c/o Lewes Town Council Offices, Town Hall, High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2QS
enquires@friends-of-lewes.org.uk www.friends-of-lewes.org.uk

PRESIDENT: Baroness Kay Andrews of Southover OBE Registered Charity No. 258756



Access to it could be provided from St Anne's Crescent through the existing County Hall car park next door. These points have been put to the County Council and we await being able to consider proposals.

North Street Quarter

Agreement between Santon, the District Council and the National Park Authority over the conditions applicable to this development are concluding. The various tenants on the part of the site between North Street and Phoenix Causeway have been given notice to quit and demolition of the buildings in question is expected to start in September. Some of the tenants are moving to newly-built accommodation at Malling Brooks. The Society is represented on a Sounding Board that will be overseeing the project's progress.

Chandler's Wharf

The development opposite the Linklater Pavilion, known as Riverdale, is almost complete. A planning condition for it was that there should be a riverside walkway and the Society will be taking

steps to ensure that this is provided. It is also endeavouring to have this extended beside the electricity sub-station at the end of Bear Yard so that it will then be possible to walk from Cliffe High Street to Timberyard Lane this way.

Premier Inn

Construction is well advanced and consideration is being given to the signs and external lighting that will be attached to the building. In addition a planning application is being made to build houses on the car park opposite the Premier Inn which has been used by the building contractors.

South Downs Road

Prior to this approved development commencing the County Council have undertaken some pruning of their trees in Blake's Walk adjoining the site.



They have agreed a 35 year management plan for these trees with the developer and have pledged

that any trees removed will be compensated for by new and appropriate planting.

Other approved developments

The Society is concerned that whilst planning permissions were given some years ago for a housing development behind Lewes House and the conversion of the Canon O'Donnell centre to housing, no action has been taken by either developer to start construction. It is therefore endeavouring to try and find out the position from them as well as the District Council. In the case of the Canon O'Donnell centre the planning permission will lapse in April next year if no work on site is undertaken.

Consultations

The Society endeavours to respond to all public consultations affecting the town to endeavour to influence the outcome and also to gain respect from the various authorities. In recent months responses have been sent to the Department of Communities and Local Government on proposed changes to the planning system and the County Council on flood risk planning.

Buildings at risk

Where the Society considers that buildings in the conservation area are at risk due to neglect it takes the matter up with the owners or planning authority. A recent example is the former Lloyds Bank building at 82 High Street. It is also in touch with the Post Office about their intentions for the building they currently occupy as this could soon become a building at risk if they move out.

Trees

Tree works planned for later this year by the Society include further planting on industrial sites, replacement of damaged trees on green spaces in residential areas and starting a long-term project to restore the avenues of street trees which have deteriorated through previous

felling of diseased or damaged trees without re-planting. If you know of sites in the town where trees could be planted or need replacing please let the Society know.

Heritage Open Days – 8 to 11 September

A team from the Society is again organising a programme for Heritage Open Days.

A leaflet, which will include new venues and walks, will be available from the Tourist Information Centre and Library from the beginning of July, or you can go online then to heritageopendays.org.uk

All visits are free, but for some you have to book in advance, so sign up early to ensure a place.

At 7.45pm on Thursday, July 21st, there will be a preview event in the Lecture Room at the Town Hall, when owners of properties featured in previous HODs will describe their experiences and some of this year's opportunities for visits will be outlined.

Check out the Friends of Lewes Facebook page, launched a few weeks ago, for news and photos.

A Lewes quiz to keep families entertained over the summer holidays is planned.

Also of possible interest:

LEWES HISTORY GROUP MEETINGS: at King's Church, Brooks Road

June 13th:

Living in History: Researching your House - Rosalind Chislett.

July 11th:

Alec Clifton Taylor's Lewes re-visited - John Kay & Marcus Taylor

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Friends of Lewes Autumn General Meeting will be on Thursday September 29th, in the Lecture Room of the Town Hall.