

Guilden Sutton Parish Council Newsletter

November 2012, no 151

A Quality Council promoting democracy and community engagement

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Have your say!

Guilden Sutton's Green Belt.

An important consultation on future planning in Cheshire West and Chester and its possible effect on the Green Belt in Guilden Sutton runs until 12 November 2012.

See inside.

Parliamentary boundary

The Boundary Commission has not accepted the view of the Parish Council and local people that Guilden Sutton should remain in the City of Chester constituency.

Comments are due by 10 December 2012.

See inside.

Green belt

Cheshire West and Chester Council is preparing a local plan for the borough which will set an overall strategic approach for the period 2010 – 2030. The plan will cover the broad scale, type and location of development.

When adopted it will guide decisions on planning applications.

During the period, 'no less' than 21,000 additional homes are proposed, 35% of which would be affordable. Chester's share would be 5,250 of which 2,000 would be in the Green Belt. Sites are to be identified at a later stage with consultation in early 2013.

The Council argues Green Belt land would be needed to accommodate part of the housing growth required in Chester.

The Parish Council has already submitted a representation that the Green Belt in the parish works well and successfully. The Parish Plan seeks to protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development.

Chester MP Stephen Mosley believes the Green Belt proposal does not meet new Government planning policies and has welcomed a statement by the Secretary of State reaffirming the Government's commitment to protecting Green Belt land. Mr Mosley says he will be campaigning to ensure the policy is upheld in Chester and the Green Belt is protected.

Concerns have also been raised by the CPRE whose leaflet appears in the centre of this newsletter. (It can be viewed full size on the CPRE Cheshire web site and on the parish council web site).

A 'Save Chester's Green Belt' campaign, which also has a web site, argues other land is available in Cheshire West for housing including brownfield.

The Parish Council will respond to the consultation shortly. The Clerk's advice, which has yet to be debated, is that given national and local planning policies, no development in the parish is not a realistic option. But any modest growth should have the support of the community, must not harm the Green Belt or the character of the village and must provide a housing mix, perhaps affordable one year, followed by three bed market homes the next (these are the most popular type of house) followed by retirement bungalows, for example.

If you have views about future development in the parish or concerns about the Green Belt, please respond to the consultation and copy your comments to the ward councillors for Guilden Sutton and the MP along with the Parish Council. Contact details appear later in this newsletter.

Parliamentary constituency boundaries

A national review is under way of parliamentary constituency boundaries with a view to reducing the number of constituencies and ensuring each has roughly the same number of electors.

Importantly, so far as Guilden Sutton is concerned, the review was required by the Government to take account of the former County Council Gowy ward boundaries which are out of date as they have been superseded by the new Chester Villages ward boundaries which are smaller.

The initial proposal was the village should move from the City of Chester constituency to a new seat called Winsford. This was opposed by the Parish Council and by residents due to the close ties between the village and Chester. It was also pointed out that Mickle Trafford, which is also part of Chester Villages ward and with which the Parish Council works closely, would move into the Chester constituency from Ellesmere Port and Neston.

A similar review five years ago had found 'the case had not begun to be made', to move Guilden Sutton out of Chester, the Parish Council argued.

The Boundary Commission has highlighted the difficulty it had in reaching a decision about Chester Villages but has decided that on the basis there are insufficient exceptional circumstances to split the Gowy ward, which is not otherwise allowed by the rules, Guilden Sutton should move to the new constituency although this will be named Eddisbury.

The Parish Council will oppose this recommendation in the next round of consultations. If you wish to comment, contact details appear beneath. The Council will happily provide a copy of its case on request.

Consultations – contact details.

Green Belt.

For full details of Cheshire West and Chester Council's Local Plan Preferred Policy Directions and how to respond use this link
http://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/portal/cwc_ldf/cwc_lp/

or search for LDF on www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

or contact spatialplanning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

The CPRE is at www.cprecheshire.org.uk

Save Chester's Green Belt is on www.chestergreenbelt.com

Ward councillors – margaret.parker@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk,
stuart.parker@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

MP: Stephen Mosley on stephen@chestemp.com

The Parish Council contacts are beneath.

Parliamentary boundaries.

Details of the proposals and how to respond can be found by searching for consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/

No computer? If you wish to comment on either of these consultations and do not have access to a computer, please contact any of the councillors listed beneath or the Clerk.

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Information. The Council's e mail address is info@guildensutton.org.uk and its web site is at www.guildensutton.org.uk. The web site includes a blog of current issues. The Council has also opened a Twitter account.

Future meetings:

Future meetings of the Council are due to be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Mondays 5 November and 3 December 2012.

All meetings include public speaking time and residents are welcome to attend and address the Council. A monthly surgery is also held, normally on the first Saturday, at the Summerfield Road shops at 10am.

Contacts

Councillors Derek Hughes, (Chairman), 300185, Imogen Brown 300812, Alan Davis 303022, Danny Fisher 301398, Jane Hughes 300863, Bill Moulton (Vice Chairman) 348473, Trisha Paterson 300307 and Mike Roberts 300684. The clerk is David Norbury, 1 Orchard Croft, Guilden Sutton, CHESTER, CH3 7SL, 300783.

Mr Brian Lewin 301501 is the Rights of Way Warden. The Parish Tree Wardens are Cllr Brown 300812 and Mr Alan Young, 301558. Cllr Jane Hughes 300863 deals with recycling issues. Cllr Moulton 348473 is the Local Bus User Contact.