

Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon

Parish Council



A Policy Statement regarding the..... **Special Landscape Area**

After the last War, Gloucester City spread out its tentacles on either side of Robinswood Hill, building along both the Stroud and Painswick roads. It was next proposed that the circuit of the hill should continue with building on the southern slope, so that eventually Tuffley and Matson would be linked. At a Public Enquiry, our Parish Council asked the Planners to stop and take note. The city had a tremendous asset in Robinswood Hill with a swathe of beautiful landscape stretching out to the '**Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**' (AONB) **i.e. The Cotswold Escarpment**. This should be preserved in its undeveloped state, allowing the people of Gloucester a breath of the countryside.

Fortunately they did take note. Development was not allowed. Robinswood Hill was designated a Country Park, and as a result the citizens of Gloucester can enjoy leisure pursuits, while wildlife flourishes thanks to this open corridor to the AONB. The Structure Plan gave extra weight by designating the area between the Hill and the Cotswolds a '**Special Landscape Area**' (SLA). Now the Local Plans have taken this up both Gloucester and Stroud have earmarked it as an area to be cherished.

At least 75% of the SLA is within the Parish of Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon and apart from a tiny triangle in the southwest corner; the entire Parish is either in the SLA or the AONB. Our first Village Appraisal, produced in 1990, underlines the fact that the people who live here value their rural status and have no aspirations towards any development in this special corridor other than on a very small scale in order to sustain the Village life. This was further reinforced by the results from the last Village Appraisal carried out for the Millennium (1999/2000).

- The importance of this **Special Landscape Area** is immeasurable.
- This is a very important part of our heritage and should remain so.
- It is readily available to all the people of Gloucester and beyond.
- It provides on the Southern side of the Hill, a welcome contrast to the bustle of the City.
- People living, working or holidaying in the area value its outstanding scenic qualities.
- The rich haven for wildlife on Robinswood Hill is dependent on countryside contact with the Cotswolds.

As chief custodians of this very special piece of countryside in cooperation with Stroud District Council, this Council believes that it has a duty to keep it intact, and preserve its undeveloped character for future generations of people and wildlife alike.