

OUTLOOK

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Autumn 2012

Online www.CPRENorthants.org.uk

The planning system and wind farms

These are two of the issues that most concern us this autumn

On planning reform and the practical implications of localism, David Montagu-Smith writes:

There is evidence that the new relationship between the parishes and districts is not well understood and that, specifically, there may be an incorrect assumption that **Neighbourhood Plans** prepared by PCs will in some way override planning at district level. There is a growing risk that, as the resources available to District Councils to formulate and implement Local Plans are curtailed, the ability to oversee complex planning applications is likely to be compromised. At parish level there will never be adequate resource or expertise to fill the gap. A planning free-for-all in the countryside may well ensue as economic activity begins to renew. District Councils must have implemented Local Plans by 2013 if the default provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are not to apply to county planning. Neighbourhood Plans may inform Local Plans but cannot conflict or supersede them. We must encourage District Councils to expedite the completion of their Local Plans.



On the **Joint Core Strategy**

document, for which the North Northants JPU consultation has just ended, David Charlton-Jones writes:

We feel that the document provides good ground rules for planning decisions with an emphasis on green living, regenerated settlements with good connectivity and safe, healthy, affordable and attractive areas. These include a re-invigorated Rockingham Forest and new and restored habitats in the Nene and Ise valleys.

However, we question how realistic or relevant this is in the current economic climate and the tendency for major planning decisions to be made by central government. We have serious concerns over the projected housing figures through to 2031 and the fear that large areas that have received planning permission will lie untouched for years. Of the current "sustainable urban extensions" that are planned, only Priors Hall has been started.

More specific area of concern are: the dangers of sequential development from presently approved sites, the need to complete existing sites before granting more applications, to have tighter rules regarding 106 sections and to have infrastructure improvements, particularly roads, agreed and funded before new large constructions are started.

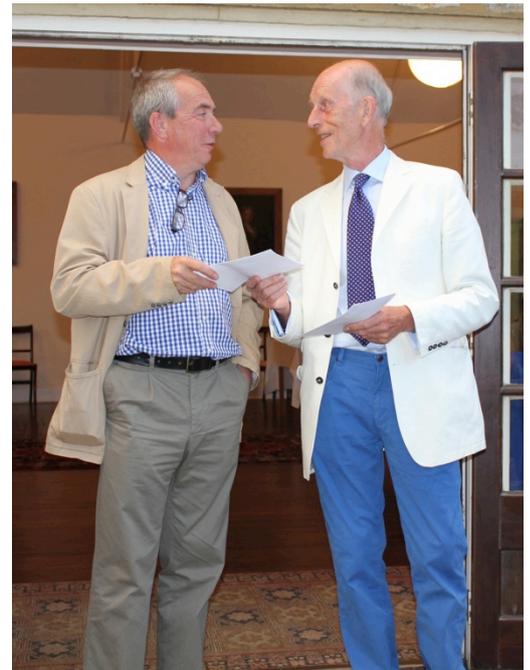
Which way is the wind blowing now?

In our summer edition you read of the change in the national CPRE policy on wind energy. In Northamptonshire we see it is an immediate priority for District Councils to prepare a Supplementary Policy Document (SPD) that encapsulates the key elements of our policy, and that this is appended to Local Plans. We have written to the county's District Councils to urge them to consider immediately drawing up such an SPD on wind energy, which will carry weight at planning appeals.



CPRE Northamptonshire's 2012 Litter Heroes Awards were presented by chairman Sir Paul Hayter at an event in Cranford Hall, near Kettering in August.

The first prize of £500 was collected (top right) by Sarah Rodger of Nassington Parish Council, who has been working on litter problems with McDonalds franchisee Matt Jarrett. The three runner up prizes were collected by Andrew Stockton



(right) of PAL - Potterspurty Against Litter, Sue Haddaway (left) of Tansor and Vicky Smith of Mears Ashby (top left). All of the prize-winning villages showed good organisation and community involvement in the battle against litter, on which their prize money will be spent. For further information, contact Sally.Hanrahan@CPRENorthants.org.uk.

Witches' knickers

You have to agree that Bill Bryson knows how to write a pithy phrase. In support of CPRE's Break the Bag Habit campaign for 5p charge on all single-use carrier bags, he wrote:

"You've no doubt seen them many times before. Bedraggled but defiant, snagged at lofty heights, their unnatural livery of garish hues jarring against the sky. They are the flags of mindless consumption; the pennants of profligacy.

"I am, of course, talking about the littered carrier bag which, when it's not choking wildlife or failing to degrade in landfill, can often be seen caught in trees – a vision described mysteriously but evocatively as witches' knickers."

Bill believes that the phrase is Irish. *"In the Republic of Ireland a scheme was introduced in 2002 and now incidents of carrier bag litter are negligible. Northern Ireland will follow suit in 2013. The term witches' knickers is thought to be of Irish origin so perhaps this explains why they've been so sensible."*



A walk in the country

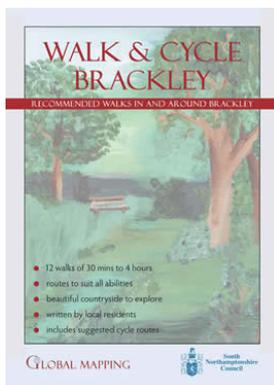
You are reading this because you are - or you know somebody who is - a member of CPRE. So there is a good chance that you like walking in the countryside.

One advantage of being in the country, as against the town, is that the changing of the seasons is a much more evident part of life. Each time of year has its delights, but there is something really rewarding about being surrounded by trees and fields in the autumn. Foliage this year seems to have an unBritish variety of colour, and although we have seen the good old mists and mellow fruitfulness, we have also had a few days of sparkling blue skies. All the senses are delightfully bombarded during an autumnal walk, but the smells of damp woodland are particularly exhilarating. The other seasons do not come close.



Maybe you have your favourite walking routes; observing the seasonal changes in familiar territory can be very satisfying. But when was the last time that you followed a local but previously untried route? Many towns and villages - and other larger organisations - have published local walking maps, online if not in print. Northamptonshire County Council's website has a series of over forty Short Walks leaflets, covering villages and landscapes all over this beautiful county. Go to www.northamptonshire.gov.uk and type **walks** into the search box. Or visit the websites of your own and neighbouring towns and villages. You can download the routes to your phone, or print them to take with you.

While many of the routes shown will be oh-so-familiar, there will undoubtedly be a few tracks that have never seen your walking boots. Be an autumn pioneer!



Lyveden New Field forest walk

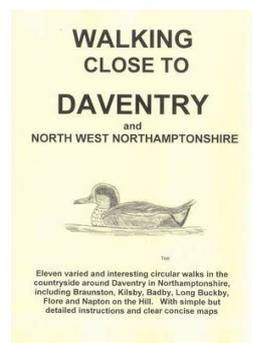
Leaflet title: Lyveden New Field forest walk

Leaflet description: Sir Thomas Tresham's designed Lyveden New Field is a unique landscape garden and parkland, a masterpiece of the English Renaissance. The walk follows the path of the river Great Ouse through the parkland, past the Lyveden New Field Farm, the Lyveden New Field Farmhouse and the Lyveden New Field Farmhouse.

Leaflet details:
 Length: 1.5 miles (2.5km)
 Time: 30 minutes to 1 hour
 Difficulty: Easy
 Terrain: Tarmac, grass and gravel surfaced footpaths, which can become waterlogged and muddy after wet weather. Clear or dark surfaces throughout. Please wear long shoes and long socks.
 Things to see: Lyveden New Field Farmhouse, Lyveden New Field Farmhouse, Lyveden New Field Farmhouse.

Leaflet images: Lyveden New Field Farmhouse, Lyveden New Field Farmhouse, Lyveden New Field Farmhouse.

You will find hundreds of these booklets on the Internet. Just type the titles - perhaps substituting the place names with your choices - into your search engine. These examples are from (l to r) Global Mapping, the National Trust and the Book Depository



50/50: summer prizewinners

July: David Banner of Upper Heyford, Helen Garton of Hulcote, Sue Baylis of Market Harborough
August: Jane Wincott of Church Stowe, Brian Skittrall of Bozeat, Clare Pollak of Sulgrave
September: Helen Garton of Hulcote, Christopher Hart of Cotterstock, Paul Hayter of Charlton

Make sure that you and your family are stakeholders when the next draw takes place at the end of November. Visit www.CPRENorthants.org.uk or phone 01858 433136. Remember, half of each stake goes to the prizewinners, half to protecting the Northamptonshire countryside.

Working with the Wildlife Trust

Since holding our AGM at Lings Wood Environmental Centre in Northampton in the summer, we have been looking at ways of establishing mutual cooperation with the Wildlife Trust in the county. One possible area for this is the Nene Valley NIA. We asked **Heather Ball** the Nene project manager to tell us about it:

The Nene Valley has been chosen as one of 12 flagship Nature Improvement Areas (NIA) for England that will receive Government funding to make it better for wildlife, people and the economy. The Nene Valley NIA covers an area of 41,000 hectares running through the heart of Northamptonshire and skirting the edge of Huntingdonshire to the eastern fringes of Peterborough. It includes the River Nene and its tributaries, gravel pits, reservoirs and much of the floodplain. The NIA will deliver a step change in nature conservation, where local organisations have come together with a shared vision for the natural environment. This partnership will plan and deliver significant improvements for wildlife and people through the sustainable use of natural resources, restoring and creating wildlife habitats, connecting local sites and joining up local action.

It presents a landmark in nature conservation for Northamptonshire and Peterborough, recognising the importance of the valley for wildlife and the strong partnership between private, public and voluntary sector organisations. The Nene Valley NIA project, which has been operational since April this year, will receive significant Government funding over three years and is being delivered by a partnership which includes over 20 organisations.

Introducing Lawrence Batchlor

Since he started volunteering for CPRE Northants a couple of months ago, Lawrence has been getting to grips with planning matters. He will be joining our team of Technical Secretaries, the first we have had based in Northampton Borough. Lawrence has long supported English Heritage and the National Trust, but sees that to defend the countryside that he loves he has to get involved with planning.



Grow your Tenner campaign



We are participating in the Localgiving.com campaign, which encourages charitable giving on a local scale. Thanks to match funding that is currently in place, **every £10 donated to help the work of CPRE Northants will be matched by a further £10.** You can of course give more, but only £10 will be matched. When Gift Aid is added too, your donation really stretches to help us.

The link to <http://localgiving.com/charity/cprenorthants> is on our home page. Please read about it there and then give it a try! The match funding is limited, so please act sooner rather than later.

Planning Roadshow

This is again at Great Houghton Village Hall, this year on November 20 at 6.00 for 6.30 pm.

Part 1 will be **Neighbourhood Plans and their place in the Planning System**, presented by John Hoad, Head of Planning at CPRE's National Office and previously Director of Planning at a neighbouring LPA.

Part 2 will be **Making a meaningful response to Planning Applications**, presented by Gill Pawson, a widely respected local planning and environmental consultant. As usual, these and other experts will be on hand for a Q&A session.

There is no charge for up to two delegates from member Parishes, but for catering purposes please contact us to reserve your places. Delegates from non-member Parishes are very welcome: up to two people may attend at a charge of £29.00 per parish, which is convertible to an annual subscription to CPRE for that parish. Again, please contact us to reserve your places. Individual CPRE members are also welcome, subject to space availability.

Reservations are through Sue.Baylis@CPRENorthants.org.uk. Our address for cheques is CPRE, PO Box 7939, Market Harborough LE16 9XW. (Please note that this PO Box is not checked daily, so do contact us by email first to order tickets.)

Winter dates for your calendar

Events: Sue.Baylis@CPRENorthants.org.uk or 01858 433136

Tuesday November 20

Planning Roadshow at Great Houghton Village Hall, 6.00 for 6.30 pm start.

Wednesday December 12

Christmas Carols by Candlelight at Cranford Hall, by kind permission of Sir John and Lady Robinson. Tickets £20, including supper

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