



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

CPRE Northamptonshire News

Outlook

Number 13 – Summer 2007



In this issue

q	The Government's proposed changes on the Planning System	1
q	News Item: CKW & East Districts	1
q	Visit to Sulgrave Manor.....	2
q	Farm Shop under threat	2
q	Unlocking the landscape of Cottingham	3
q	Dates for your Diary.....	4
q	Design Awards 2007	4

CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM : ACT NOW!

Are you aware that the government has produced a White Paper on proposed changes to the planning system, which will effectively fast track major infrastructure projects such as motorways, airports, major wind farms and power stations? It will also encourage a return to out-of-town, large-scale retail developments, which in the past have threatened the viability of our historic town centres.

Although the major infrastructure projects may not yet be at our doorstep, the economic thrust of the White Paper is designed to enhance growth prospects. If the proposals in this document go ahead, we may be faced with more major development such as retail parks where there may be little scope for input into the democratic process.

I urge you to write to your MP, expressing your concerns at the loss of public participation in the planning process, which this Paper is proposing. Ask for your concerns to be raised with the new Prime Minister.

CPRE National Office will be launching a campaign in July, but it is important that we start by expressing our basic concerns to our own MPs now. Or, we may find we have lost part of our democratic right where planning matters are concerned.

Alan Mayes, Technical Secretary

DESIGN AWARDS 2007 COMPETITION

Have you nominated
your choice yet?
See page 4 for more
information

NEWS ITEM

The CPRE District covering Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough in the north of the county and that covering East Northants are being combined. There is currently a functioning committee for the CKW district but in East Northants the original officers have been unable to continue their work, for a variety of reasons. David Edsall is on the regional group committee, the Executive and has responsibility for the Milton Keynes and South Midlands RSS, and so has limited time to take on further roles. It is therefore practical to combine the groups, in order to progress work.

VISIT TO SULGRAVE MANOR THE HERB GARDEN AND LUNCH – SUNDAY JUNE 10

Members and many of their friends supported the occasion of the visit to The Herb Garden of The Herb Society based at Sulgrave Manor. The weather was perfect and Ann Key provided a delicious buffet lunch.



We were delighted to welcome Jan Greenland, a Council Member of The Herb Society as our speaker and guide for the Herb Garden at Sulgrave. She welcomed everyone and took them to see the lovely herb garden, including a variety of culinary and medicinal herbs.

This is an established National Herb Garden and within the Sulgrave gardens the Society has recreated its award winning 2003 Chelsea Flower Show garden, "A Feast of Herbs". The Herb Society is an educational charity dedicated to encouraging the appreciation and use of herbs and we were grateful for their support at this event. For more information, check www.herbsociety.org.uk

John Baylis, County Secretary

PLEASE REMEMBER US
IN YOUR WILL

If you share our beliefs about protecting our precious heritage of beautiful countryside, consider leaving a gift to CPRE Northamptonshire in your will.

Your legacy, no matter what the amount, will help us to ensure that developments are sensitive to the countryside and that housing sprawl is kept in check. With your help there will be a green, tranquil and beautiful England for all of our grandchildren to enjoy.

Thank you

John Baylis

CPRE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SUPPORTS ALL LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE:

SMITH'S FARM SHOP UNDER THREAT

Controversial plans have re-emerged for up to 1,500 new houses on a piece of open countryside. The development proposals threaten the very existence of Smith's Farm Shop; Smiths have farmed the land at Chapel Brampton, between Boughton and Whitehills, for over 50 years.

Mrs Smith pickles onions and makes jams and summer puddings from locally grown produce, which are sold in the shop. The farm produces asparagus, potatoes, beetroot, courgettes, carrots, beans, pumpkins and marrows. The farm shop also sells milk from a Northamptonshire dairy. The bread, eggs, pâté, cooked and uncooked meats all come from local sources. The trout sold in the shop is caught at Pitsford Reservoir.

All farm shop cakes are made by four ladies who live locally and work from home. The shop supports the local community by employing 15 people in both full and part-time positions.

Please support all Northamptonshire farm shops and farmers' markets.

If you are concerned at the likely loss of this very successful Northants farm shop, please write to:

The Planning Officer
Daventry District Council
Lodge Road
Daventry
NN11 4FP

UNLOCKING THE LANDSCAPE OF COTTINGHAM

Cottingham is an attractive village built on the slopes of the Welland valley, between Corby and Market Harborough. Karen Edwards of the Rockingham Forest Trust organised a novel event there that focused on the built and natural environment of Cottingham and its surrounding villages. The event - on June 13 - was part of the Community Planning Network, funded by the RFT and others. Karen took the photographs in this page.



Michel Kerrou, formerly of Northants County Council and now a consultant on the historic environment, led a walk around the village. Later, in the Methodist Church Hall, I presented the CPRE's campaign entitled "Unlocking the Landscape".

Michel has an extensive knowledge of the development of building designs and technologies through the centuries, and had researched well Cottingham's limestone and ironstone cottages and grander houses, its early English church and the Flemish and English bond brickwork of its 1878 and 1808 chapel buildings. Both locals and those not so familiar with the village agreed: he enabled everyone to appreciate the streetscapes through new eyes.

Some Cottingham architecture is typical of the county – the unparapeted octagonal spire on the square tower of St Mary Magdalene, for example. This beautiful old church is 13th century and later, but with some Norman features. Its nearby 17th century rectory is roofed with traditional Collyweston stone tiles.

Other styles were seen that are unusual in Northamptonshire: the apparently cruck-framed cottage in Water Lane, dating it as 16th century or earlier. A surprise to almost everyone – including Michel – was the secluded 18th century dovecote; a larder from the time when food-miles were measured in yards. In fact the social aspects of the buildings were as fascinating as their architecture: where the Home Guard met during WW II, how its previous life as a Post Office dictated the design details of another cottage, where and why the village had a reading room, and so on.

Everyone wisely brought an umbrella. Despite the forecast thunderstorms, which almost but not quite materialised, attendance was high. We avoided both heavy rain and boy racers and learned a lot.



Inside the hall, I had a drier, quieter and safer environment in which to talk about Unlocking the Landscape. This CPRE campaign encourages those who care about the landscapes in their community to document them: to record exactly how the different sections of the community value them, and why – and to ensure that the resulting documentation influences planning authorities. Those who participate derive great enjoyment from the process, especially when the outcome is seen to make a real difference.

FARMERS' MARKETS IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

BRACKLEY Market Place
3rd Saturday of each month
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

DAVENTRY High Street
Town: Daventry
1st Saturday of each month
9:00 am to 1:30 pm

HIGHAM FERRERS
Market Square
Last Saturday Monthly
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

KETTERING Wicksteed Park
3rd Sunday of each month
8:30 am to 1:30pm

OUNDLÉ The Market Place
2nd Saturday of each month
8:30 am to 1:30pm

TOWCESTER
Richmond Road car park
2nd Friday of each month
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

WELLINGBOROUGH
Market Place
Last Thursday of each month
9:00 am to 1:30 pm

The topic generated lively discussion; the Welland valley is highly valued by local people, many of whom are frustrated by the actions of Corby District planners.

Would you like to join a walk around your village, guided by an expert in local building design and history?

If so, please email your interest to Sally.Hanrahan@CPRENorthants.org.

Peter Hopkins

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 8 July 2007 - Our traditional stall will be at Castle Ashby Summer fair, held at Brafield-on-the Green, just east of Kettering.

Thursday 26 July 2007 at 6.30 pm - Tour of 78 Derngate, Northampton.

Friday 28 September 2007 at 7.00 pm - Wine Tasting by kind permission of Mr & Mrs C Davidge, Great Houghton.

The wine tasting event will be led by Sophie Rudge BA, an Associate of the Institute of Wine and Spirits. Sophie has worked in France and the USA gaining wine knowledge and now holds the Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET) Diploma. She is also a recommended tutor for the WSET. This should be a very enjoyable occasion.

All CPRE Northants events are open to both members and non-members.

Please email or telephone Sue Baylis for information on any events: 01858 433136, Sue.Baylis@cprenorthants.org

Saturday, 10 November 2007 at 7.30 pm - Annual Ball, Highgate House, Creton. This year our guest speaker is Tom Oliver, CPRE National Office.

Thursday, 29 November 2007 at 7.30 pm - 2007 - Design Awards Presentation and Christmas celebrations with Northamptonshire choir at Cranford Hall, Kettering.

CPRE NORTHANTS DESIGN AWARDS 2007

In the last issue of Outlook we launched our 2007 Design Awards. This article introduced the 2007 competition:

Have you nominated your choice yet?

Entry forms are on the home page of our website www.CPRENorthants.org, or please call 01858 433136

Last year saw the launch of the CPRE Design Awards in Northamptonshire, as part of our Golden Jubilee celebrations. As you will no doubt be aware this proved to be very successful, with over twenty entries and four stunning winners, which CPRE was pleased to be able to recognise and who now proudly display the CPRE plaque.

Why should CPRE recognise good design in this way?

As guardians of the environment, both natural and built, good design in whatever form is at the heart of our message to the wider public. CPRE is not an organisation that always responds negatively but one that encourages, supports and advises all those engaged in matters of design that will affect everyone. Therefore we should take every opportunity to promote and recognise good design and management of our environment for everyone to enjoy.

Please give careful thought to something in your area that has been completed in the past five years that you would like to put forward as an entry. The categories are wide ranging as set out on the form and as highlighted by the range of last years winners: a private house in Warmington, a race course stand at Towcester, environmental improvements in Brackley and the restoration of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh house in Northampton.

Let's aim to double the number of entries for 2007!

Alan Mayes

Help always wanted!

Our volunteers are always looking for help to spread the load, just a little.

If you could give some time in any role, in any part of the county, please call 01858 433136 or email info@CPRENorthants.org

