

Outlook

CPRE Northamptonshire News



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Issue 9 - Spring 2006

Does your village have its own website? Are you proud of it?

Then tell us about it! If it has information provided by local people, we will feature it on our website www.CPRENorthants.org.

It doesn't have to be beautifully designed, but it does have to be a genuine voice of the village: the 21st century equivalent of the parish pump, or the village hall notice board.

Please email info@CPRENorthants.org and tell us about it.

If your village doesn't have its own website, take a look at those we have featured on www.CPRENorthants.org/villages.htm. They might inspire you!

Peter Hopkins

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All Northamptonshire CPRE events are open to both members and non-members. Please email or telephone Sue Baylis – Sue.Baylis@cprenorthants.org or 01858 433136 – for information on any events.

15 April 2006 – Brixworth Country Park – 10.00 am – 4.00 pm – organised by volunteer Karen Patterson. An Easter Egg Hunt for members, family and friends. Please bring children of all ages to enjoy the beautiful setting at Brixworth Country Park and learn more about the local flora, fauna and wildlife. Tickets to be bought on the day - £4.00 adults and £2.00 children. A FREE EASTER EGG FOR EVERY ENTRY!!

25 April 2006 – following the success of last year's event we are repeating our Planning Road Show with an update on planning issues, guest speaker Henry Oliver, Head of Planning, CPRE National Office – 6.30 pm – Cranford Hall – by kind permission of our Chairman Lady Robinson. Members no charge – non-members £25 per delegate including refreshments.

19 May 2006 – Summer Party, South Northamptonshire – 6.30 – 8.30 pm at the home of Mr & Mrs B Fenwick, Sholebroke House, Whittlebury, Nr Towcester. Tickets £7.50

Saturday, 10 June 2006 – Garden Party in the gardens of Major Simon Cox – The Old Rectory Stable House, Farthinghoe – from 5.30 pm onwards. Tickets £10 – to include wine and canapés.

Friday, 30 June 2006 – Summer Ball to be held at Highgate House, Creton – 7.30 pm – tickets £45.00 – do please join us for another excellent summer get-together and bring friends too.

Wednesday, 5 July 2006 – West Northamptonshire AGM – Lower Catesby House, Catesby near Daventry – by kind permission of Mr Peter Ellwood – time to be confirmed.

September 2006 – An Evening at Lilford Hall – this will include a presentation/information on the house and the future proposals – gardens, etc. Should be a very interesting evening. Date to be confirmed.

Thursday, 28 September 2006 – South Northamptonshire District annual meeting to be held in the Garden Room at Little Houghton House – by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Davidge – time to be confirmed.

EMAILS

Are you receiving emails with news of what is happening in CPRE Northants? If you aren't but would like to, please send an email to info@CPRENorthants.org. You will join an ever-growing number of members in the know!

LANDSCAPES:

4 Questions for all CPRE Members in Northamptonshire

Please let us know your Answers: email info@CPRENorthants.org or write PO Box 7939, MARKET HARBOROUGH, LE16 9XW or phone 01858 433136

- Which county landscapes are most under threat from development? The area around Kettering? The area around Towcester? CPRE Members are active in both of these areas, ahead of detailed plans for the thousands of houses that are likely to be built there. Perhaps you know of other landscapes that are threatened?
- Which are the most valued landscapes in the county, irrespective of threat?
- What area of the county do you think is the most beautiful, the most sought after for walking or riding or cycling, or the most precious for wildlife?
- Which community groups are currently studying their localities? ...with a view to identifying what is most important for future generations, and therefore most worth protecting, whether in built- or the natural environment?

Send us your comments on any or all of these issues, which we will publish in the next Newsletter and on our website www.CPRENorthants.org (anonymously if you prefer)

It is now a year since the Milton Keynes & South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy document (MK&SM SRS) was published (in March 2005). It detailed the Government's intent: a substantial number of houses will be built in many areas across Northamptonshire.

So, one year on, what has happened to these proposals?

There has been considerable activity by CPRE Northants District volunteers and Technical Secretaries in responding to the numerous consultation exercises from local authorities and the two new "delivery vehicles", West Northants Development Corporation and North Northants Together. The responses took considerable effort and are very detailed; most are published in full for Volunteers on our website, www.cpre.northants.org. We have formally responded to the following initiatives:

- Joint Core Strategy for the Northampton Implementation Area, both South Northants and Daventry Districts
- Preferred Options for NNT
- Merger of Catalyst Corby & NNT
- North Northants Green infrastructure paper
- North Northants Utilities Study
- Rural North, Oundle & Thrapston Preferred Options
- Consultation on the Development Control Powers for the WNDC in the Northampton Town Centre Action Plan Area

In addition, we have been busy on a number of projects around Corby: the Priors Hall extension towards Kirby Hall (affecting the Kirby Lane, a "quiet lane"), and concerns on the sewage treatment provision at West Stanion, amongst other matters.

Water issues that will be exacerbated by the proposed development continue to cause us some anxiety. Our concerns have been communicated to the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and NNT. The MK&SM SRS assumes that there will be a 25% reduction in domestic water consumption, but none of the bodies involved has taken responsibility for ensuring that this happens. And, at the time of writing, hosepipe bans again appear to be imminent. Anglian is making some effort to repair leaking mains, but this will not be a quick fix.

Perhaps the new housing developments will be provided with village pumps.

There is insufficient sewage treatment infrastructure for the MK&SM planned development, and no funds have been allocated to build more before 2010. Houses are likely to be built in flood plains. We are lobbying hard to ensure that these unpleasant facts remain in focus.

Of general concern is the **dash for growth** called for on the MK&SM SRS. We have no clear view at the present time just who is responsible for what, and how the infrastructure cost will be financed. Many services are already deficient; unless these matters are resolved first and the infrastructure built, the quality of life will deteriorate alarmingly.

It is important that all our Members, private or Parish, question their County, Borough or District Councillors closely on these matters - and get answers!

Technical Secretaries Committee

REMINDER GOLDEN JUBILEE DESIGN AWARDS

Northamptonshire CPRE is sponsoring, for the first time, a countywide design award scheme to celebrate the Branch's 50th year. Enclosed with this Newsletter is a nomination form. Could you please support this award scheme by letting us know what you consider would merit such an award.

Alan Mayes
CPRE Northamptonshire

The Regional Assembly has now prioritised **road projects** in the East Midlands Region.

A long-standing plan for a very large Highways Agency project to improve the A46 from Newark to Widmerpool, costed at £269.5 million (almost the whole regional transport allocation for 3 years), will be carried out in two phases beginning in the period 2010 – 2015. Another huge regional project is the by-pass east of Lincoln, £111.5 million.

More modest important projects in this county are: -

A43 Corby Link Road	2008/9	£13.2m	provisionally approved
A509 Isham By-Pass	2008/9	£15.7m	provisionally approved
A509 Isham – Wellingborough	2010/11	£18.7m	

The only other scheme in the county is the Highways Agency project to dual the A45 from Stanwick to Thrapston during 2010 – 2015. This of course leaves the whole question of congestion on the A14 around Kettering: we look forward to the Highways Agency report, due in the summer.

No funds have been allocated by the EMRA for a Towcester by-pass.

Bill Driver

SHEILA WALKER, VICE PRESIDENT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BRANCH OF CPRE

Sheila Walker who was known to many CPRE members in her role as County Vice President, sadly passed away in December last year. Her long life was remembered with esteem and affection as her family and friends gathered to fill the Church of St Dionysius, Market Harborough on 5 January for the memorial service. Various tributes were paid to her long and remarkable life and this was an inspiration for us all.

As a young lady staying in London during the blitz she survived the ordeal of being buried alive when the house in which she was staying received a direct hit; she went on to a life dedicated in many forms of service to others.

After a significant career in the Guiding movement - holding the post of Chief Commissioner in 1975 - she was appointed CBE in 1981. Sheila and her husband moved to Northamptonshire and she was soon invited to join the CPRE Executive. Her love of animals and the English countryside soon became apparent and she was welcomed into the ranks of CPRE at both local and national level, where she eventually took on the role of National Vice Chairman. Sheila had the gift of communicating with all types of people and valuing their contribution to a situation, however small it might be, and she soon gained the respect of the staff at CPRE headquarters.

At County level Sheila hardly ever missed an Executive meeting, for many years acting as Membership Secretary before taking the role of Vice President. Her greatest skill however was in organising CPRE social events, and many will recall her beautiful handwriting on summer party invites. The success of the many summer parties held at country houses up and down the county, including events at her own garden at Dingley Hall, was due to Sheila's careful planning and organisational skills.

Sheila was honoured by CPRE, when on her retirement as Membership Secretary she was awarded the first CPRE long service medal in Northamptonshire. I recall the occasion in the garden of Pytchley House when after receiving the award from our President, Lady Juliet Townsend, Sheila said to me "but why have I been given this?"

We give thanks for all that Sheila Walker did for the CPRE and offer our sympathy to her husband, Owen, and to all her family.

Alan Mayes
CPRE Northamptonshire

HOW TO CONTACT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Local CPRE office contact telephone number 01858 433136