

Outlook

CPRE Northamptonshire News



Campaign to Protect
Rural England

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Issue 5 - Spring 2005

CPRE Northamptonshire - Branch News - Sally Hanrahan, Development Officer

Northamptonshire is top of the league! Membership recruitment saw a growth of 22% in 2004. This growth can be attributed to the hard work of the branch's volunteers and the generosity of members enabling their homes to be used for local events.

The very generous donations of CPRE Northamptonshire members raised a total of £821.77 from the September 2004 Branch Appeal. Thank you for your support.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our many events ahead in 2005.

NEW CPRE GROUP FOR CORBY, KETTERING AND WELLINGBOROUGH

When I rather rashly offered to chair the new CPRE district group for Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough (CKW) I had little idea what I was letting myself in for! I can hardly believe that we are now nearly a year down the road from that tentative and innocent offer of help motivated by a vague notion to keep this corner of England as a "green and pleasant land". I have learned so much in that short period about the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Spatial Strategy, the planning system and the dramatic changes to it which our government has made, and Prescott's plans for this area, which at first glance seem to threaten concrete over most of England. I have also become aware of CPRE's fine reputation as a sensible, pragmatic and practical influencing group and the high esteem in which it is held by those in authority. So where are we, what progress if any has been made, and what of the future? These questions recur at every meeting of our Group and you are welcome to come, contribute your own ideas and help shape future action.

It came as something of a surprise to me that all local action and influence by CPRE comes from local volunteers who choose to join because of their concern primarily for the countryside but also for the state of our towns as places to reside. It took a while for the penny to drop with me. You see, the reason that CPRE is not concerned only with Rural England is for the simple reason that the solution to its biggest problem, that is the erosion of the countryside by relentless urban creep over greenfield sites, can only be solved by tackling the urban root cause of what is driving people to move out of town!

CPRE is indeed fortunate in having a limited supply of dedicated volunteers who besides their loyalty to the cause have a deep and in some cases professional understanding of the technical issues. However, I must warn that some of these loyal souls are themselves becoming weary at the volume of planning consultation activity and we badly need more active members to assist. Without them, our influence will undoubtedly wane. There is no requirement whatever for professional knowledge. A willingness to get stuck in and a questioning mind are however essential. Established members will do the rest to provide guidance to get you started.

So if you read this and are even remotely concerned at the threat of additional housing development near where you live in the general area of CKW, why don't you come along, get briefed, have your say and join in the action? You would be more than welcome and may regret not having tried harder when you see the outcome.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm at Cranford Hall on Tuesday 5th April.

Please phone if you want more information
Tel 01832 720687

Grainger Davies
February 2005

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All Northamptonshire CPRE events are open to both members and non-members. Please telephone **Sue Baylis - 01858 433136** - for information on any events.

12 May 2005 - Great Oakley Hall, Corby - Spring drinks and canapés - by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Hugh de Capell-Brooke from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. (No charge for this event.)

Sunday 19 June 2005 - Summer event - 11 am - 3 pm - at Thenford House - the home of Lord and Lady Heseltine. Lunch and an opportunity for a guided tour of the arboretum - botanical garden devoted to trees. Tickets £15.00

Summer Ball - Friday 15 July 2005 7.30 pm champagne reception - dinner, auction and live music - Summer Ball, Wadenhoe House - invitations included with newsletter mailing

Sunday 11 September 2005 - County Fair and Fun Day, Boughton House

**Future dates to note:
July 2005 Castle Ashby Fair**

HOW TO CONTACT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Please note local CPRE office contact telephone number has changed - currently 01858 433136

MILTON KEYNES & SOUTH MIDLANDS SUB-REGIONAL STRATEGY

Summary of CPRE's current response to the Deputy Prime Minister's proposals

1. The Strategy must include details of the likely amount and cost of the necessary infrastructure (hospitals, schools, public transport facility, roads etc.) and ensure that this is in place at the same time as the housing provision is made. We are also concerned that the housing provision should match the employment take up. To post date these provisions until after the housing completion would be disastrous for the County and lead to increased long-distance commuting.
2. Whilst the Strategy provides for monitoring on a five-yearly basis, this monitoring must also influence how the Strategy proceeds and may require it to be modified, thus laying down complete five-year reviews of the Strategy and how it is providing "sustainable development" rather than a long term "Predict and Provide".
3. We consider that it is essential that targets are set for the redevelopment of previously-developed land at a level of 60% and that the Government's commitment to the sequential test for the use of land as laid down in PPG3 before the release of Greenfield sites should be re-affirmed.
4. The Strategy needs to specify the type and quantity of affordable housing and how it is to be funded. Where a need is identified for key-worker housing this should have a priority in the development sequence which should apply to rural as well as urban areas to maintain good services throughout the County.
5. We support the ideas for regeneration of town centres and look for high quality urban development, thus making the towns attractive and secure places to live. Good quality development in that area reduces the pressures for increased development in the rural areas. In this regard the Local Authorities have a major responsibility to insist on high quality in the pattern and style of the developments they approve.

6. There is a need for much greater stress to be placed on the quality of the countryside in the Strategy, the importance of maintaining the separation of towns such as Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby, and the prevention of a wholesale incorporation of surrounding villages within adjacent urban areas. We propose that such gaps should be defined in the Local Development Documents and protected by designations such as Green Belts or green wedges. We feel that this should be extended to ensure the maintenance of the clean break between urban and rural areas that is currently a feature of the County. We look to the provision of new green infrastructure with the enhancement of existing environmental assets such as Rockingham Forest, and the understanding of the importance of Tranquil Areas and the prevention of light pollution and skyline developments which contaminate otherwise rural scenes. This aims at providing a high quality countryside for both rural residents and urban visitors.

David Edsall
Feb. 2005

CPRE PLANNING ROADSHOW EVENT

The New Planning System

A very successful Planning Roadshow Event was held on 15 February at Parsons Memorial Hall, Great Houghton. Over 50 people attended, including representatives from some 15 parish councils within Northamptonshire.

Paul Miner, CPRE National Office, made an excellent presentation on "The New Planning System" which was very interesting and informative. He also led an interactive question and answer session at the close of the event.

CPRE National Office Planning Hotline is open – Thursday each week from 2 to 5 pm Tel 0207 981 2868.

You can influence decisions made about the future of your local area so that changes protect and enhance the environment and benefit everyone – visit the CPRE website – www.cpre.org.uk/planninghelp.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FARMERS' MARKETS

... have provided this list of certified markets, the NAFM members selling produce within the recommended criteria.

BRACKLEY

Location: Market Place
3rd Saturday monthly
9.00am - 1.00pm

DAVENTRY

Location: High Street
1st Saturday monthly
9.00am - 1.30pm

HIGHAM FERRERS

Location: Market Square
Last Saunday monthly
9.00am - 2.00pm

OUNDLLE

Location: The Market Square
2nd Saturday monthly
8.30pm - 1.30pm

TOWCESTER

Location:
Richmond Road Car Park
2nd Friday monthly
9.00am - 1.30pm

WELLINGBOROUGH

Location: Market Place
Last Thursday monthly
9.00 - 1.30pm

NORTHAMPTON

Location: The Market Square 3rd Thursday monthly 9.00am - 1.30pm

Contact CPRE National Office at
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